

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



## Flying Circus



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

*Francis Penstone*

*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 Bom-  
bardment 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 #4**

September 2000

Compatriots and Friends,

The B-24 Liberator Memorial Restoration Fund, Inc., in Werribee, Victoria, Australia, "rolled out" its renovated B-24 on Tuesday, August 15, 2000, the 55th Anniversary of the end of WWII. I had the pleasure of attending and representing the 380th Bomb Group and our Association there. This was a tremendous event with over 1,400 Australian Air Force veterans and their families present. See our story herein. I was very pleased to see the interest there in the 380th and the gratitude for the service we gave in WWII in Northern Territory, Australia.

As you can see from Pat Carnevale's numbers and comments, our reunion arrangements and plans are proceeding famously. We're sure all of you signed up will have a very happy time renewing old friendships and recalling memories of long ago. Those of you who haven't yet signed up, please do so to join us in our reminiscing with old friends.

We look forward eagerly to seeing you all again in San Antonio in November.

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

To preserve the memory of the 380th.

**HISTORIANS**

Glenn R. Horton, Jr.  
Gary L. Horton

**HISTORIAN, AUSTRALIA**

Bob Alford

**EDITORS, HISTORY PROJECTS  
AND QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

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<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 black ink that reads "Ted".

Theodore J. (Ted) Williams



**Tom Hunt**  
**5000 Thanksgiving Tower**  
**Dallas, Texas 75201**

Office: (214) 922-1050  
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August 21, 2000

Dear Flying Circus Members,

In less than eighty days we shall be gathering in San Antonio for our reunion. Where has the time gone since Tucson? Any of you who have had too much rain and/or cool weather, please bring it to Texas with you!!

Looking at the reservations list that Pat Carnevale sent pleases me since it shows how many of you are still interested. I was glad to see that Niles Grover of the 531<sup>st</sup> was on the list. Haven't seen him since early 1945. If any of the other squadrons have men to be recognized please let Pat Carnevale or Ted Williams know so all of us can give them a "Flying Circus" welcome.

Last week I was in central Louisiana visiting operations and read the local weekly paper. If a local reporter can make an interesting story out of a visit of country cousins to Jena (2000 population) and subsequent shopping at Wal-Mart, you or the ladies can write some interesting letters to Ted Williams for the newsletter. Am I going to need a letter writing contest to get Ted a backlog of things he can use?? Trying to save you from my thoughts!

I know that Pat Carnevale and Ted have an interesting program planned for this reunion and think you will find the memorial service to be most appropriate. Too, if any of you have suggestions for reunion locations, get the information to Pat so she will have it on her list.

Looking forward to seeing you in "The Alamo City."

Sincerely,



Tom Hunt

TH/dlw

**380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION  
MENGER HOTEL — SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
November 8-12, 2000**

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday & Wednesday<br>November 7 & 8 | Golf — please call Dexter Baxter if interested<br>(524) 868-5749   |
| Wednesday - Nov. 8                    | 9:00 a.m. — Official Check-in — Hospitality Room<br>Optional Tours - San Antonio<br>Be sure to visit The Alamo and Riverwalk   |
| Thursday - Nov. 9                     | 7:30 - 7:45 a.m. — Board buses for Lackland AFB<br>9:00 am — Lackland Graduation Parade<br>9:45 a.m. — Museum tour<br>12:15 p.m. — Arrive back at hotel<br>Free time for tours, sightseeing<br>6:00 pm — Get-Acquainted dinner at hotel<br>1:00 - 11:00 p.m. — Hospitality Room open   |
| Friday - Nov. 10                      | 8:45 - 9:15 a.m. — Board buses for Randolph AFB<br>10:00 am — Memorial Service at Randolph AFB<br>11:00 am — Lunch at Randolph Field Officers Club<br>1:15 p.m. — Arrive back at hotel<br>On your own for afternoon sightseeing and dinner<br>1:30 - 11:00 p.m. — Hospitality Room open  |
| Saturday - Nov. 11                    | <b>VETERAN'S DAY!!</b><br>9:00 - 9:15 a.m. — Board buses for Fort Sam Houston<br>10:00 am — Memorial Service, National Cemetery<br>at Fort Sam Houston<br>12:00 noon — Arrive back at hotel<br>2:30 - 4:30 pm — Members Meeting at the hotel in the Patio Room<br><br>6:00 pm — Cocktail Hour - Cash Bar<br>7:00 pm — Dinner/Dance at hotel<br><b>MUSIC BY ROYALAIRES!</b> |
| Sunday - Nov. 12                      | Continental Breakfast in Hospitality Room — Departure Day  |
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**SPECIAL NOTES:** As of August 3, 2000 — 299 members have registered with Carnevale & Associates and all rooms in our block of 150 have been reserved at the Menger Hotel for the November reunion; additional rooms are available at The Crockett, across the street from The Menger, at the same rate as at The Menger. *If you haven't signed up yet — it's not too late!*

## **FURTHER REUNION INFORMATION**

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**REGISTRATION FEES:** Please turn in your registration form and fees so that we know how many people will be attending each event. This is very important for us to be able to schedule the correct number of buses for the three trips planned. A copy of the form is enclosed in this newsletter.

**AIRPORT TO HOTEL:** Shuttle service from the airport to The Menger Hotel is provided by SATRANS at the cost of \$8 one way or \$14 round trip per person. The average taxi fare is \$15.00 each way. Parking for the hotel is \$10 (self-park) and \$14 (valet) per day.

**TRAVEL:** Carnevale & Associates has discounts on Southwest Airlines for the November reunion. 10% off lowest fare including senior discounted fares. Call Carnevale Travel at (800) 659-8808 to get the special fares.

**SAN ANTONIO WEATHER:** According to the information released by the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau, the average daily maximum temperature in November is 71.9 and the average minimum temperature is 48.8. Bring a jacket for chilly evenings.

**HOSPITALITY ROOM:** After arriving at the hotel and getting settled into your room, be sure to visit the Presidential Suite which will serve as the Hospitality Room for this reunion. Your welcome packet will be waiting for you. The hospitality room will be open at 9:00 a.m. each morning starting on Wednesday, November 8. Seating charts for both dinners will be available in the hospitality room. Please reserve your table early. There will be tables of 10 (8 if wheelchairs are necessary).

**SERVICE CAPS:** Johnny Johnston has called our attention to the fact that Veterans Organization Caps (VFW, DAV, American Legion, etc.) are considered "uniforms." The wearers can salute military fashion at ceremonies and not put one hand over heart in the civilian fashion.

**MEMBERS MEETING:** Note change of time of the Members Meeting from Thursday afternoon to Saturday afternoon. This provides more time for sightseeing earlier in the week and solves our space problem.

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP:** If you are not yet signed up as a member, please see a copy of the earlier Newsletters for the Membership Registration form, or visit our website on your computer at: <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/IIES/PLAIC/380/380.html>

**VOTING:** Don't forget to vote on November 7th! Be sure to get an absentee ballot if necessary.

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# CARNEVALE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

P.O. Box 1230, Sonoita, AZ 85637

(800) 659-8808

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## 380th BOMB GROUP – REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

November 8 - 11, 2000  
Menger Hotel -- San Antonio, Texas

			No.	
Registration Fees:	Members	\$10.00 each	x _____	= \$ _____
	Spouses & Guests	\$5.00 each	x _____	= \$ _____
Thursday Get-Acquainted Dinner		\$25.00 each	x _____	= \$ _____
Thursday Lackland Graduation Parade and Museum at Lackland AFB (transportation included)		\$8.00 each	x _____	= \$ _____
Friday Memorial Service at Randolph Field, with Lunch at Officers Club (includes transportation)		\$18.00 each	x _____	= \$ _____
Saturday Memorial Service, Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery (transportation included) Special Veterans Day Ceremony		\$8.00 each	x _____	= \$ _____
Saturday Evening Dinner/Dance		\$35.00 each	x _____	= \$ _____
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

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Member Name

Squadron/Hdqtrs

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Member Name (for name tag)

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Guest/Spouse (name tag listing)

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Other guests (name tag names needed)

REFUNDS: Refunds will be made if cancellation occurs on or before Tuesday, November 3. Please call (800) 659-8808.

Please make checks payable to: **Carnevale & Associates, Inc.**  
Mail form to: **PO Box 1230**  
**Sonoita AZ 85637**

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NEED HELP WITH TRAVEL PLANS? - Complete request below or phone (800) 659-8808

Travel Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Departure City \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Frequent Flyer # \_\_\_\_\_

Seat Preference \_\_\_Aisle \_\_\_ Window Need Rental Car \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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P.O. Box 1230, Sonoita, AZ 85637

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**380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION  
HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM**

Crockett Hotel\*  
San Antonio - Texas  
November 8 - 12, 2000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Guarantee by credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ exp date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

P O Box 1230

Sonoita AZ 85637

Fax (520) 455-5866 Phone (800) 659-8808

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\* The Menger is sold out, but rooms are available across the street at The Crockett, with the same rates as The Menger.



**380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION  
MENGER HOTEL — SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
November 8 - 12, 2000**

**ADDITIONAL REUNION ATTENDEES\***

NAME	SHARE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
LUTE ALLISON	ELEANOR ALLISON	11/8/00	11/12/00
GREGORY BAKER	CRYSTAL BAKER	11/6/00	11/12/00
CHARLES BALCH	JAN CAMPBELL-BALCH	11/9/00	11/12/00
JOHN BEILSTEIN	CYNDI BEILSTEIN	11/7/00	11/22/00
PAUL N. BEILSTEIN	BARBARA BEILSTEIN	11/7/00	11/12/00
TILFORD L. BRUNNER	NAOMI BRUNNER	11/8/00	11/12/00
JOSEPH E. BURDICK	CLYDE PACKER	11/8/00	11/12/00
AL BUSEDU		11/5/00	11/12/00
WILLIAM S. BUTTS MD	KATHLEEN BUTTS	11/8/00	11/12/00
KENNETH CAMPBELL		11/10/00	11/12/00
THOMAS L. CASEY	BILL CASSELBERRY	11/8/00	11/12/00
BRIAN CLEMENTS	KATHLEEN CLEMENTS	11/8/00	11/12/00
LESLIE F. COLEMAN	BETTY COLEMAN	11/9/00	11/12/00
JOHN COREY	SHEILA COREY	11/8/00	11/12/00
MARSHALL F. COREY	ESTHER COREY	11/8/00	11/12/00
JAMES E. ELAM	GRACE KILLION	11/8/00	11/11/00
CLYDE L. ERIKSEN	BERNICE ERKISEN	11/6/00	11/12/00
R.H. FORTENBERRY		11/8/00	11/12/00
LAWRENCE D. GARDNER	LANA GARDNER	11/8/00	11/12/00
MARVIN GARDNER		11/8/00	11/12/00
MARVIN A. GARDNER	BEVERLY GARDNER	11/8/00	11/12/00
ANTHONY GIOIA	DONNA GIOIA	11/8/00	11/12/00
FRED GIROD	DAPHNE GIROD	11/10/00	11/15/00
WILLIAM GORDON	SYLVIA GORDON	11/8/00	11/12/00
NILES L. GROVER	CHRIS GROVER	11/8/00	11/12/00
WALTER L. HILL	LOIS HILL	11/8/00	11/12/00
ROSCOE W. INGLE		11/8/00	11/12/00
JONELL KALAMAR	DAVID KALAMAR	11/9/00	11/12/00
L. KELLY		11/8/00	11/12/00
WILLIAM E. LAFLECH	SHARON LAFLECH	11/8/00	11/12/00
MICHAEL L. MARESCA		11/8/00	11/12/00
CHARLES MCGARTH	KATHERINE MCGARTH	11/8/00	11/12/00
BYRON MOORE	ELMA MOORE	11/8/00	11/12/00
DAWSON MORRISON	SHARON MORRISON	11/8/00	11/12/00
SYLVESTER P. NEMCEK	ALICE NEMCEK	11/7/00	11/12/00
DONALD OATMAN	MRS. OATMAN	11/8/00	11/12/00
WILLIAM OFFERLE	JUNE OFFERLE	11/6/00	11/12/00
KENNETH D. QUIMBY	DORTHA QUIMBY	11/8/00	11/12/00
LYLE SEARS	CLARA SEARS	11/8/00	11/12/00
ROBERT G. SMITH	MARJORIE SMITH	11/7/00	11/12/00
EMIL SMOLEK	DOROTHY	11/7/00	11/12/00
EUSEBIERUS R. SPENCER	PEGGY SPENCER	11/9/00	11/12/00
HELEN THOMPSON		11/6/00	11/12/00
DEAN WADDELL	ANN WADDELL	11/9/00	11/12/00
AMELIA WASSNER		11/9/00	11/15/00
STEPHEN WASSNER	KAREN WASSNER	11/9/00	11/12/00
RICHARD L. ZAPF	MARIA JULIA ZAPF	11/8/00	11/12/00

The following people are registered for the Reunion, but are not staying at The Menger:

LEONARD KROES                      RICHARD SMITH                      GEORGE STEVENSON                      PHYLLIS WELLS

The following people have cancelled their reservations for the Reunion:

ROBERT ENGLISH                      LARRY FARNUM                      EUGENE FIORI (deceased, see Taps)  
STEPHEN RANKIN                      JAMES TEMPLE                      HOWARD THOMASON

\* For the remainder of the attendees, see lists in the March and June Newsletters.

## NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

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### A PHOENIX ARISES\*

#### PROGRAM OF A SERVICE OF DEDICATION OF B-24 LIBERATOR A72-176

Tuesday, August 15, 2000  
Renovation Hangar, Werribee, Victoria

Australian National Anthem, RAAF Band  
Introduction and Master of Ceremonies, F/Lt Peter Meehan  
"The Importance and Legacy of the B-24," Kevin Swain, RAAF Veteran  
Hymn, "I Vow to Thee My Country"  
"The History and Accomplishments of the Restoration," Colin Grey, Coordinator  
Hymn, "What Service Shall We Render Thee"  
"The Future Work and Needs for the Restoration," John Temby, President  
*History of B-24 in RAAF and Importance of the Restoration, Air Vice Marshal Smith,  
Vice Commander, RAAF*  
Dedication Service, Air Commodore Royce Thompson, Director General, Chaplains, RAAF  
Anthem, "Swallow Your Fear," Scott Cargill, Sung by Janette Obuch  
Hymn, "God Save the Queen"

\* Title of an Australian Broadcasting Company TV program on the restoration.

A72-176, the B-24M Liberator renovated by the B-24 Liberator Memorial Restoration Fund, Inc., represents 10 years of effort by a group of Australian WWII Air Force Veterans and their younger compatriots. This plane has grown from a pile of corroded parts to a complete, recognizable aircraft. However, much work still remains to be done, since the group vows to produce an aircraft that could be flyable, but at the same time, promise it never will be flown because of its historical value.

While externally relatively complete, the plane is a shell, i.e., there are effectively no internal furnishings (equipment, hydraulics, controls, internal electrical wiring, etc.). Much of the necessary equipment is on-hand, and industrial firms have promised to supply the electrical wiring and hydraulic systems. Thus an additional two years is forecast before a truly complete aircraft has been obtained.

In addition, the Fund will soon lose its current home, the old hangar at Werribee. Plans are in place to build a new hangar at Avalon Airport nearby. Upon completion, this hangar will become a museum housing A72-176 and other B-24 related artifacts. Approximately \$1,000,000.00 in new funding is needed to complete the task (build the hangar and finish the plane).

The Anthem for the Dedication Ceremony -- see next page -- was universally acclaimed by the audience and promoted as the theme song for the Liberator Squadrons of Australia organization. We have a copy of the relevant music.

# ***SWALLOW YOUR FEAR***

A Poem by Scott Cargill

Set to music by John Temby

First sung at the Dedication of B24 Liberator A72-176

By Janette Obuch and Chorus accompanied by the Australian Air Force Band

15 August 2000

Nineteen forty four and the second world war  
Has drifted down south to Australia's back door,  
There's a line drawn from Brisbane across our top end,  
Said we'll give it away it's too hard to defend.  
But the men and their bombers they took to the air  
In the pale moonlight, on a wing and a prayer.  
Check your guns, check your fuel, watch our shores disappear,  
Cross your heart, cross your fingers, and swallow your fear.

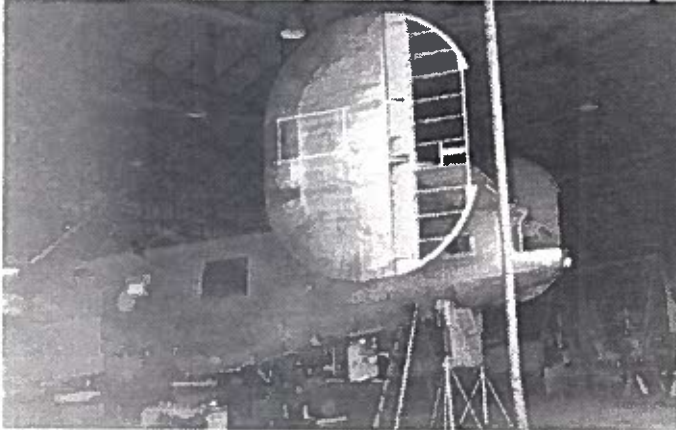
From Darwin to Hedland protecting our coast,  
Dawn raids into Java they don't like to boast,  
Across southeast Asia they took up the fight,  
To keep our land free they flew into the night  
In a thirty ton bird that the men called their kite,  
On a wing and prayer in the pale moonlight.  
Check your guns, check your fuel, watch our shores disappear,  
Cross your heart, cross your fingers, and swallow your fear.

Up to seven long hours they would spend in their kites  
With fingers on triggers, sharp eyes on their sights,  
Then onto the target, two minutes of hell,  
If they got out alive they still knew just as well  
There's still seven long hours to make it back home.  
Sometimes shot to pieces, sometimes on their own.  
Check your guns, check your fuel, hold your trembling hands,  
Cross your heart, cross your fingers, and pray she still lands.

Not all of the men and their bombers returned,  
But all of the libs have been sold, scrapped and burned.  
Now the twenty first squadron are tired old men  
Who know that they'll ever go flying again.  
But their love for the aircraft that brought them back home  
Is building a new one, so let it be known  
That the ghosts and their bombers are flying tonight  
On a wing and a prayer in the pale moonlight  
Check your guns, check your fuel, watch our shores disappear,  
Cross your heart, cross your fingers, and swallow your fear.

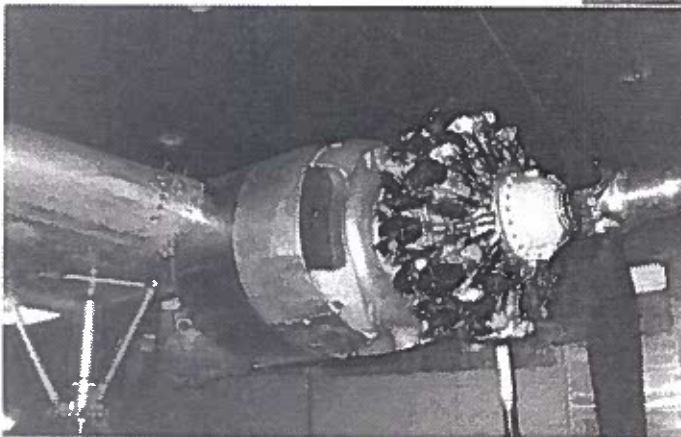
## ***SOME PICTURES OF THE PLANE***

My camera's flash was too weak to catch a complete dark airplane in a dark hangar. Thus available pictures are only closeups of sections of the plane.



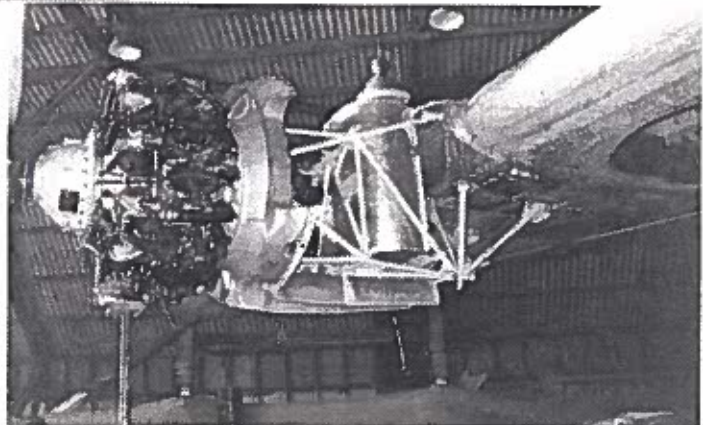
The tail section showing right rudder completed but left still needing fabric covering. The tail turret is completed but still needs glazing and mounting.

The nose turret is complete, but must be reglazed and mounted. The bombardier's enclosure also must be fabricated.



The engines are mounted but all accessories and controls must be added. Two engines must still be overhauled. One of these is seized. Cowlings need to be fabricated.

Note installation of oil tank. As shown here, nacelles and cowling need to be added as well as all internal accessories and controls.



## WHAT DO WE DO IN 2001?

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The past year has shown us that the 380<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association has indeed proven its viability. We therefore must plan for our future – including our coming reunions after San Antonio.

In continuing the theme of our current reunion at San Antonio, we would suggest consideration of the following sites for their sightseeing and military reunion possibilities:

1. Williamsburg, VA, with the Memorial Service to be held at Langley AFB. Other attractions beyond Colonial Williamsburg would include the Virginia Air and Space Center at Hampton (which has 1/2 of a B-24) and perhaps a Navy visit.
2. Salt Lake City, UT, with the Memorial Service to be held at Hill AFB in Ogden. The Hill Aerospace Museum is renovating a B-24D, which crashed in the Aleutians. A trip to Wendover where many of our people plus the Atomic Bomb Project trained would be interesting as well as Salt Lake, the Wasatch Range, and other sightseeing in the area.
3. Rapid City, SD, with the Memorial Service at Ellsworth AFB. Attractions would be the “Faces”; Deadwood, Lead and other Wild West Mining Towns; the Buffalo Herd at Wind Cave National Park; the Bad Lands, etc.
4. Colorado Springs, CO, with the Memorial Service at the AF Academy. We should try for a home game football weekend and attendance at the game. The 380th has a memorial plaque on the Memorial Walk. A trip to the B-24 Memorial Museum in Pueblo may be possible.
5. Fort Walton Beach, FL, with the Memorial Service at Eglin AFB. The Air Force Armament Museum would be an important attraction, and maybe a Firepower Demonstration, which Eglin holds periodically, plus, of course, the beach.

During discussions of our future at the Tucson reunion last year, the following additional sites were suggested:

6. St. Louis, MO, with the Memorial Service to be held at Scott AFB. St. Louis has many attractions with the Arch, the Gateway to the West Museum, Forest Park with its Museums, Zoo, and Botanical Gardens.
7. Dayton, OH, with Memorial Services at Wright-Patterson AFB. The attraction here is the Air Force Museum, the largest and best in the world. We have a plaque in their memorial park.

Please think about your preferences and discuss them with your associates at San Antonio. This will be the major topic of discussion at the Members Meeting on Saturday afternoon, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at San Antonio. Other potential sites can be discussed as well.



## TAPS

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

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



## LEST WE FORGET



- 528th **Bousfield, Walter D.** (aircraft commander/  
pilot, Bousfield's Crew (6)), Rancho  
Cordova, California, DOD 5/2/00, re-  
ported by his daughter, Susan K.  
Hamerlund
- 529th **Janssen, Leonard** (aircraft commander/  
pilot, Janssen's Crew), DOD 7/22/00, by  
Les Ladman
- 529th **Sweany, Joseph (Joe)** (radio operator on  
Daffer's Crew), Laguna Beach, CA, DOD  
7/18/00, by Joe Maloney
- 530th **Ranck, Althea** (wife of Vernon Ranck),  
Lititz, Pennsylvania, DOD 8/7/00, by  
Del Haggas and Gene Lysaker
- 530th **Kehrer, Fred** (navigator, Harkins' Crew),  
Columbus, Ohio, DOD 8/24/00, by Jim  
Johnston
- 531st **Fiori, Eugene** (gunner, Low's Crew),  
Colgate, Wisconsin, DOD 6/21/00, by  
John W. Otto and Stephen W. Rankin
- 531st **Sanders, James E.** (clerk in Administra-  
tion), Jasper, Alabama, DOD 7/8/00 from  
complications of knee replacement sur-  
gery, by Franklyn Schroeder



