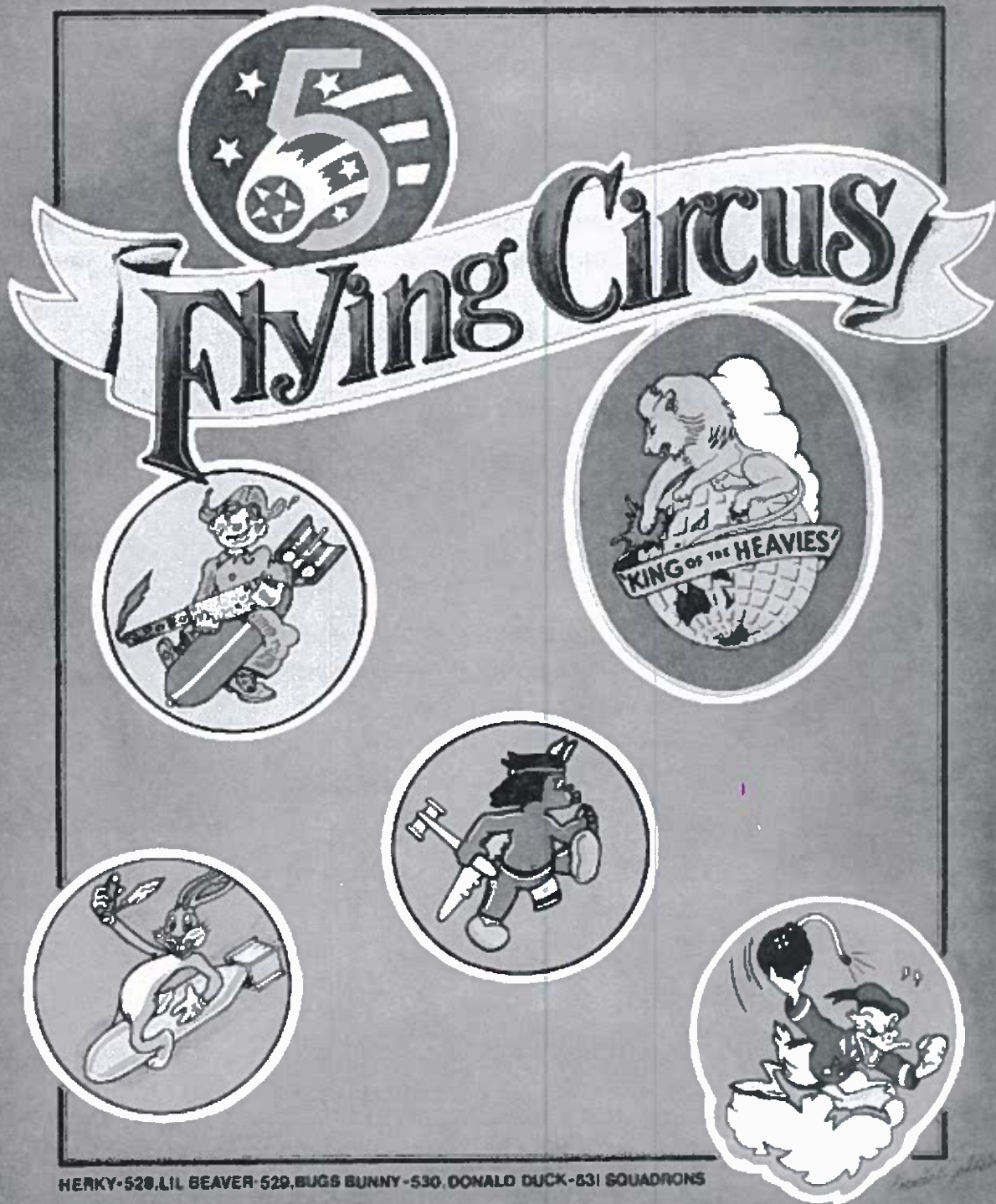


# 380<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP



*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 (Ted) 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*

*and to*

*Thomas (Tom) M. Hunt*

*for his support, guidance and commitment to the 380th Bomb Group Association during his lifetime.*

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



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

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

# The Flying Circus

**NEWSLETTER #41**

**Winter 2010**

*Contents of this Issue*

2010 Reunion

2009 Reunion Photos

Reunion Photos Album webpage:

<http://380th.org/REUNION/2009Reunion/09Photos.htm>

Featured Crews:

Bever (530th)

Allen (531st)

Mail Call

Photo Gallery

Stories:

Rivalry Trumped by Love

Dream Time #11

TAPS

Address Changes

Keep Them in Your Prayers

Web Links

**HISTORIANS**

Bob Alford

Glenn R. Horton, Jr.

Gary L. Horton

**HISTORY PROJECT**

Theodore J. Williams

**2010 REUNION COORDINATOR**

Barb Gotham

**NEWSLETTERS -**

**WEBPAGES - FINANCIAL**

Barbara J. Gotham

Phone: 765/463-5390

Email: [bjgotham@gmail.com](mailto:bjgotham@gmail.com)

Next issue: Spring 2010  
(to be mailed in April 2010)

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## 2010 REUNION INFORMATION

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Barb Gotham has begun to make arrangements for the 2010 Reunion in Branson, Missouri.

Dates: November 3-7, 2010  
Branson Grand Plaza Hotel  
245 N. Wildwood Dr, Branson MO 65616, 417-336-6646, 800-850-6646

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Hotel is providing us with free hot breakfast buffet (see below for the breakfast menu) and hospitality room

Hotel amenities: indoor corridors and elevators; game room; fitness center; indoor pool; free parking; restaurant and lounge; complimentary wireless internet; guest coin laundry; ticket and gift shop

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### *Tentative schedule:*

Wednesday 11/3: arrivals, registrations, optional show, dinner on own

Thursday 11/4: arrivals, registrations, welcome/dinner show (possibly Dixie Stampede)

Friday 11/5: morning memorial service (looking at the Chapel at the College of the Ozarks), lunch at the hotel, afternoon museum tours (Veterans Memorial Museum) and/or show, dinner on own

Saturday 11/6: morning meeting, afternoon on own, dinner banquet at hotel

Sunday 11/7: departures

*Looking forward to a fun time in Branson! Hope to see you there!*

### *Helpful links:*

*Branson Tourism Center*  
<http://www.branson.com/>

*Branson Shows*  
<http://www.bransongroups.com/shows>

*Branson Grand Plaza Hotel*  
<http://www.bransongrandplaza.com/>

*Veterans Memorial Museum*  
<http://www.veteransmemorialbranson.com/>

*Show Suggestions? Contact Barb with your ideas!  
bjgotham@gmail.com or send note to  
130 Colony Road, W Lafayette IN 47906-1209*

Event and Hotel Registration forms will appear in the Summer and Fall newsletters.

They will also be online on our website at:

<http://380th.org/REUNION/2010Reunion/Reunion.htm>

Also planned is an early summer mailing to all members containing Reunion information and forms.



### **FREE Full Breakfast**

Served Daily 7:00 am - 10:00 am

Assorted Fresh Juices	Milk
Fresh Fruit of the Day	Toast
Hot Breakfast Buffet:	Danish
- Sausage or Ham	Fresh baked muffins
- Scrambled Eggs	English Muffins
- Biscuits & Gravy	Mini Muffins
- Oatmeal	Freshly Brewed Coffee
- Fried Potatoes	Waffles
Assorted Cold Cereals	Cappuccino
	Hot Tea

# 2009 REUNION PHOTOS

Savannah/Pooler, Georgia  
October 14-18, 2009

"Waving Girl" statue



Fort Pulaski



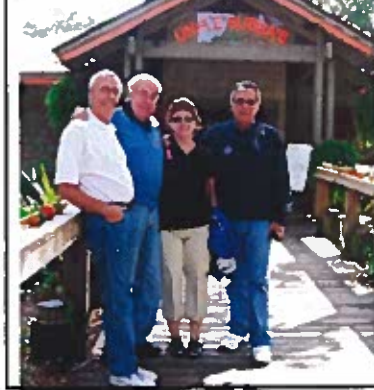
Paula Deen Tour, Thurs morning



Lunch at "Uncle Bubba's" -part of the Paula Deen Tour



Greg Baker, Dexter Baker, Barb Gotham, Dexter Baker Jr



Memorial Service  
Friday morning  
Chapel of the Fallen Eagles  
8th AF Museum



**2009 REUNION PHOTOS (continued)**

**Friday luncheon, Art Gallery - 8th AF Museum**



**Friday Tours of the 8th AF Museum**

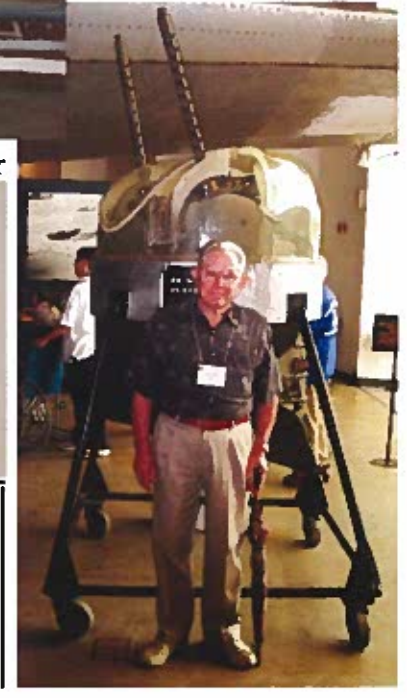


**Irene Lanners and Jean Cator**

**Hugh Cornwell**



**George Poy (Jr) Phil Shaw, Greg Baker**



**Pete LaLena and Loyd Oakes**



**Greg Baker, Dexter Baker, Gwen Horton**



**Nettie Burdi, Clara Sears, Barbara Walford, Gail Pantone (Nettie's daughter), Marian Hritz**

**Carlo Burdi, Lyle Sears, John Annesser, Dexter Baker, Ed Walford**



**2009 REUNION PHOTOS (continued)**

Saturday morning meeting and presentations



George Poy's jacket



Hospitality Room

Lloyd Fry,  
Walter Allen



Wayne  
Olson



Joe Wells, Diane Whetstine



Peter LaLena, Melinda (hotel bartender), Steve LaLena, Neil Williams (Pete's nephew), Pete LaLena



Ed Walford,  
Peter LaLena,  
Lloyd Fry,  
Walter Allen

Saturday dinner



Phil Shaw, Dex Baker



Barb & Doug Gotham



Marian Hritz & John Annesser



Al Busedu



Bill Bever & Joe Wells

## 2009 REUNION PHOTOS (continued)



Doris Mitchell, Marie Johnson-Anderson, Cecelia Meade

George and Jessie Poy



Clara and Lyle Sears



Ted & Isabel Williams, Joe Wells



Plaque presented by Joe Wells to John Annesser, Barb Gotham, Glenn Horton, Ted Williams, and Bill Shek



Back, L/R: Ted Williams, Pete LaLena, Hugh Cornwell, Loyd Oakes, Lyle Sears, Walter Allen, John Annesser, Wayne Olson, Al Busedu, Al Jansen, George Poy

Front, L/R: Walter Davis, Ed Walford, Carlo Burdi, Joe Wells, Dexter Baker, Lloyd Fry  
Phil Shaw was not able to stay for the Saturday dinner

Photo Credits: Bill Bever, Barb Gotham, Scott Mead, Bill Shek

More photos on the Reunion Photos Album webpage: <http://380th.org/REUNION/2009Reunion/09Photos.htm>



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## FEATURED CREWS

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### Bevers Crew (530th)

Back, L-R: Aaron Paul Bevers (A/C Cmdr), Jack W. Owen (Bombardier), William C. Blagg (Navigator), John G. Johnson (Pilot, served with both Bevers and Johnson Crews), Russell E. Petit (Gunner)

Front, L-R: Edward J. Jaeschke (Flt Engr), Jack M. Wood (Gunner), John W. Bogden (Gunner), Herbert R. Tucker (Radio Opr), Earl E. Zody (Asst Flt Engr/Gunner)

Photo thanks to: Ben Bevers (Paul's nephew) - Here's a couple of items from his email:

Just an interesting note to add regarding the Philippines. Paul's Dad - my Grandfather - served with the U.S. Volunteers, 40th Regiment from 7th of October 1899 to June of 1901. During his enlistment he fought in the Philippines. His Regiment was mustered out at the Presidio, San Francisco, CA.

PS My uncle wouldn't talk about the war with anyone but his brother, my Father, and then it was very little. One story Paul related to my Dad was of a mission they were on and experienced heavy resistance and upon their return to base there were over 200 holes in their aircraft.

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### Allen Crew (531st)

Kneeling L-R: Walter H. Allen, Pilot;  
George H. Brown, Jr., Co-Pilot;  
Thomas H. Davidson, Bombardier

Back L-R: William A. Pillar, Nose  
Gunner; Grant F. Birdsall, Crew Chief;  
William Hardin, Upper Gunner; Phil  
Martin, Tail Gunner; George Heist,  
Radio; Ed Fertin, Belly Gunner  
Absent: Frank G. Terrel, Navigator

Photo taken at March Field, CA,  
November 1944

Thanks to W. Hack Allen for the photo!



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## MAIL CALL

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from: Jonathan Mercer <jmercer@pobox.com>  
Tue, Sep 29, 2009 at 11:44 PM  
subjectRe: TAPS submission

My father, Bernard "Yorkie" Meyerson, 32342874, passed away on the 6th of Aug, '09, in White Creek, NY. He was a ball turret/waist gunner with the 530th, and after being wounded in action, worked in Headquarters.

My dad went overseas as a welder with the ground crew, but after the terrible losses the aircrews suffered, and no replacements, the CO offered a promotion to Staff Sgt. and a pay raise to anyone who volunteered for aircrew. My dad flew 6 missions, one of which was a raid on Balikpapan. His ship was hit by ground fire and lost an engine. They tried to land on an emergency jungle strip, and stalled on final. One of the men (the top-turret gunner I think) was pinned in the wreckage and my dad and the Captain were unable to pry him out. He burned to death, and my dad had nightmares about that crash night after night, right up until his death. [I did a little digging: he was shot down on a mission over Timor.] He spent 2 months in a field hospital for back and knee injuries.

I don't remember who he flew with (he didn't like to talk about a lot of what happened over there), but I know that as a ball-turret gunner, he took that fantastic photo of the fully loaded B-24 in a vertical spin. They were the only ones to ever pull out of a dive like that.

Bernard Meyerson's TAPS was listed in the last newsletter (#40)

Jonathan

Photo: My dad is the guitar player on the left. The caption on the photo reads: "Just out of the hospital, and still skinny"



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from: Andrew Bock  
Mon, Jun 15, 2009 at 11:44 PM

You may already know about this or your researchers might, but I have discovered that there are some original documents on the National Archives of Australia website that are freely available to the public that relate to the 380th. Most of the content on the site can be accessed for a fee per document but if someone has already requested a scan of any docs, they put them up for anyone to access.

I have just come across a memo, for instance, in a folder that contains details of RAAF personnel killed in USAAF accidents, some of which of course involve A/C from the 380th.

If this is of any interest to you, please let me know and I'll send you the details about how to search. I was thinking that there may be family members of those who may have been involved who might like to get some further detail about what may have happened to an aircraft.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Andrew Bock  
Andrew Bock Architecture  
PO Box 2152  
Noosa Heads QLD 4567, Australia  
P: (07) 5455 4840 M: 0412 116686  
F: (07) 5449 2947 E: bockarch@optusnet.com.au  
Web: <http://tinyurl.com/6874bn>

The National Archives of Australia has offices in Canberra, each state capital and Darwin. Their website is:

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

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## MAIL CALL

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Thu, Oct 8, 2009 at 9:44 AM

Re: A Godforsaken Spot

To All Members of the 380th

Living at Adelaide River in the NT and just 37 miles from Fenton and many other old WW2 sites around the district is one great experience, and a huge learning one at that. I have visited Fenton on quite a few occasions and will continue to do so - it has a sense of mystery and history mixed which keeps me going back. Each time my friend in Darwin and I go camping or just for a day visit, we always visit the crash site of the RAAF B-24 S/n A72-88. Our next target is the hard-to-find the crash site of USAAF "Nothing Sacred."

I would also like to thank Roger W. Caputo for his wonderful continuing story about Australia in "Dream Time - A War Story" and to William Bever for his friendship over the Internet and emails.

Phillip Hoare is trying to gather information about Fenton and Long Airstrips and Camp areas so he can put all your information into a long, long overdue book about these Airstrips, where young Americans and Australians endured the hardships of the Australian Outback. The young ones of today have it so easy compared to what you servicemen had back then, and they still have no idea at all. Even I was only a few months old when all hell broke loose to our North but as for this country around here, I can almost get the picture of what it must have been like in the wet season with millions of insects and mozzies [mosquitos], with no fly and insect repellants in a handy pressure pack back then! So C'mon you blokes, get your memories out and tell Phillip what you saw, the hardships and joys (if there was any) you felt, and participate in a book about you. [See Newsletter #40, "A Godforsaken Spot" for a message from Phillip about his book.]

And while on the subject of our harsh Outback, I have read the book called "Savage Wilderness" about the crew of a B-24 "Little Eva" of the 90th BG that was stationed at Iron Range on Cape York and unbelievable survival of Gaston Grady. I have been up there around Burketown, easy these days in a 4x4, but then he and the other crew members were walking .... in that country in 1942/43, just plain unimaginable hardship.

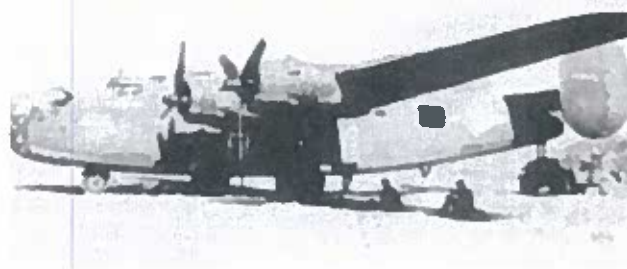
Doug Tilley  
Adelaide River, NT  
dtalley5@bigpond.com

And a guest member of the 380th BG and I feel proud and privileged



"Little Eva" Source: <http://www.b24bestweb.com/>

"Nothing Sacred"



## PHOTO GALLERY

These photos (among several) are from the Estate of William H. Lee, Dover, MA. Lee served with the 380th Group Intelligence (Topographer) in 1944.

Thanks to Paul H. Tedesco, Professor Emeritus, Northeastern University, who found them during a recent estate sale.



Man on the right is Sgt Bill Lee

“Morbid Moe” - 530th - May 1944



“Silver Lady” - Sept 1944



529th Aircraft - Aug 1944



Tovarez Crew, 530th



“Ruptured Falcon”



“The K.O. Kid” - John Gentle - Darwin - Nov 1944



“Dauntless Dottie” - Jun 1944  
(If anyone has any photos of this aircraft in your collection, PLEASE contact Bill Shek at [filmxtra@netzero.net](mailto:filmxtra@netzero.net) or contact Barb Gotham.)

## PHOTO GALLERY

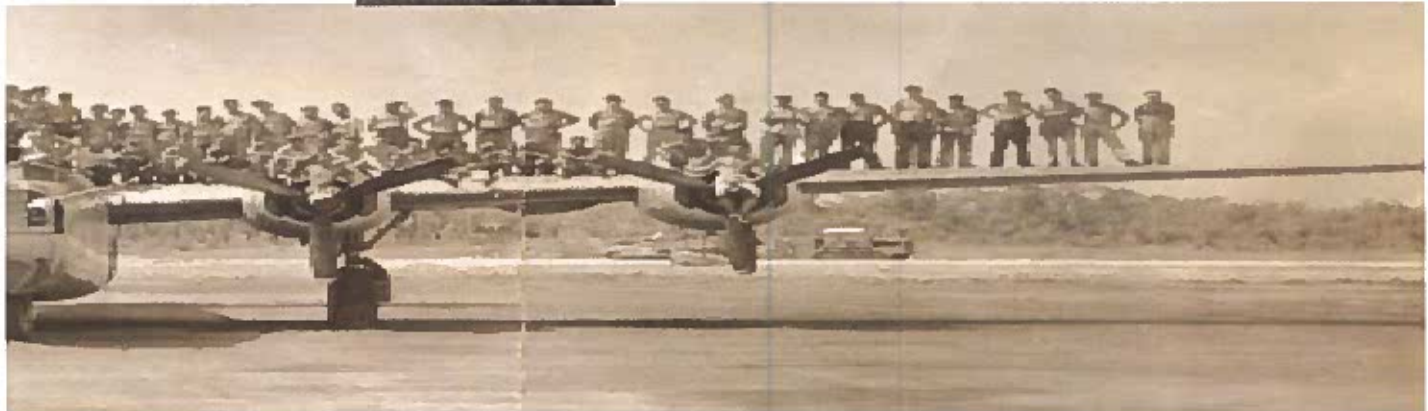
These photos were sent by Gene Brake, son of Edwin "Boots" Brake (Ground Staff, 529th)

Edwin "Boots" Brake, passed away on 6-24-1966 at the age of 52 and we lived in Porter, TX at the time.

If as result of the printing of the photos or listing anyone contacts you by chance or you hear of someone who knew him, I would very much like to speak to them if possible. My father passed when I was 10, so I have few memories of my father and never had the opportunity to speak with him about his years in the military. It's something I've always wondered about.

Thank you,

Gene Brake  
<genebrake@yahoo.com>



### 529th Squadron:

#### L-R Standing

- |                |                 |                |                   |                    |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Puccio      | 20. Kramer      | 41. Fernald    | 61. McNeil        | 82. Capt. Farnum   |
| 2. Brake       | 21. Gardner     | 42. Thomas     | 62. Keller        | 83. Horvath        |
| 3. Hagar       | 22. Intneld     | 43. Kyle       | 63. Cairns        | 84. Askins         |
| 4. Mungia      | 23. Swinson     | 44. Kilgore    | 64. Shrader       | 85. Rasher         |
| 5. Hamilton    | 24. Payne       | 45. Honsden    | 65. Maurer        | 86. Touchstone     |
| 6. McSweeney   | 25. Joiner      | 46. Fry        | 66. Kestrewski    | 87. Piland         |
| 7. Gebo        | 26. Bennett     | 47. Killian    | 67. Brown H.A.    | 88. Howell         |
| 8. Spencer     | 27. Mutz        | 48. Abbot      | 68. McGovern      | 89. Healy          |
| 9. Maiberger   | 28. Jenkins     | 49. Huck       | 69. Davis         | 90. Howe           |
| 10. McCord     | 29. Alonzo      | 50. Brown V.S. | 70. Beck          | 91. Hauser         |
| 11. Pohlman    | 30. Lt. Schimph | 51. Wagner     | 71. Lee           | 92. Jacob          |
| 12. Wonzer     | 31. Zimmerman   | 52. Reagor     | 72. Yohn          | 93. Hughes         |
| 13. Honeygosky | 32. Conners     | 53. Kavenough  | 73. Murdock       | 94. Kirkpatrick    |
| 14. Heck       | 33. Quigg       | 54. Brewster   | 74. Libengood     | 95. Orozco         |
| 15. Baker      | 34. Jensen      | 55. Clifford   | 75. Kane          | 96. Sonsteng       |
| 16. Hunt       | 35. Dorman      | 56. Langston   | 76. Jobst         | 97. Bambino        |
| 17. Miller     | 36. Jones H.L.  | 57. Busch      | 77. Powell        | 98. Angney         |
| 18. Grose      | 37. McClosky    | 58. Loe        | 78. Campbell F.N. | 99. Lawler         |
| 19. Jones E.E. | 38. Baldwin     | 59. Delaney    | 79. Keckley       | 100. Campbell J.D. |
|                | 39. Ulichny     | 60. Gregg      | 80. Knapp         |                    |
|                | 40. Lindsay     |                | 81. Ramer         |                    |

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## RIVALRY TRUMPED BY LOVE

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### Yankees fan's widow to take mound for him

By Peter DeMarco, Globe Correspondent | This story originally appeared in the Boston Globe, August 10, 2009  
(reproduced here with permission of Mr. DeMarco)

Sara and Jim Bejoian of Watertown were married one week shy of 54 years, but their home was always divided. She rooted fiercely for the Red Sox, and he was a diehard Yankees fan.

To say things were a bit uneven during the first half-century of their relationship would be an understatement. As of their golden anniversary in August 2004, the Yankees had won 10 world championships. No one needs reminding of the number the Sox had won by then.

How did the Bejoians manage to survive all those years with such divided loyalties?

"One Christmas we bought a Yankees ornament to put in the back of the Christmas tree. Never in the front of it, though," Sara Bejoian said. "We always had bets going. It would be a nickel. But we never paid them off. We had this running banter the whole way."

On Thursday [8/13/09], though, for the first time in her life, Sara is going to step into Jim's shoes. She's going to honor her husband, who died of cancer last year, in the best way imaginable: by throwing a baseball in his memory.

Jim Bejoian's passion for the sport extended to the Oldtime Baseball Game, an annual charity game held at St. Peter's Field in Cambridge in which local amateurs dress in uniforms from bygone teams and swing wooden bats in the gloaming of a late-summer night. Bejoian was a dedicated volunteer, working the concession stand, selling raffle tickets, and printing thousands of game programs at his Belmont print shop from the start of the game's 15-year run.

Last year, in appreciation for his work, Bejoian was asked to throw out the first pitch. But he never got the chance; his long battle against cancer ended the very morning of the game. At this year's contest, scheduled for Thursday, a banner in Jim Bejoian's memory will be unfurled along the outfield fence. And his wife will stand on the mound to throw the first pitch.



She's been practicing with her grandson, Benjamin, whom she wants to join her on the field.

"He's been telling me, 'Jamma' - that's what Benjamin calls me - 'you have to practice how to throw a ball. You have to pick your leg up when you throw,'" said Bejoian, who is a spry 80. "So we've been practicing. It's a joy having a 6-year-old telling you what to do."

Bejoian knows that no matter where the ball lands, her throw to home plate will be the easy part. Taking her husband's place in front of hundreds, if not thousands, of fans who knew him exactly one year after he died - that will be the daunting part.

Banner that now hangs in the outfield honoring Jim for all his philanthropic work the various charities the Oldtime Baseball Game supported

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## RIVALRY TRUMPED BY LOVE (continued)

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With the game so bittersweet, Sara did not wish at first to participate. But organizer Steve Buckley kept on asking, and a few weeks ago, she finally warmed to the idea.

"My husband was a Yankees fan, and I was a Red Sox fan. We went through 50 years of arguing about everything," she said. "The Oldtime Baseball Game kind of brought us together. It really means a lot."

How Jim, a Worcester native who grew up in Needham, came to be a Yankees fan was forever a mystery to Sara. He said the Yankees were better managed than the Red Sox, but she never quite understood his reasoning.

They started dating while Sara was at Boston University in the early 1950s. Jim, who flew 34 bombing missions over the South Pacific in World War II, would get them box seats at Fenway. It was the era of Sox greats Ted Williams and Jackie Jensen, but the Yankees, led by Mickey Mantle, were always better.

Jim never rubbed it in too badly, Sara said. But that didn't make losing any better. "My husband and I would not speak for a week" if the Sox lost to the Yankees, she said. And when Bucky Dent hit his infamous homer in 1978: "I just made dinner and we ate in silence and I put the dishes away."

But her baseball wounds healed quickly. And in 2004, the year the Bejoians celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, Sara finally got to say her team was the better one.

"Oh, 2004 and 2007 were the biggest years of our lives. Well, my life, anyhow," she said.

After the first Sox championship, Sara enlarged a photo of the trophy and stuck it on the front door of their mom-and-pop business, ALBA Press printing of Belmont.

"Every time I answered the phone that day I'd say 'This is Red Sox nation' and he'd have a fit," she said. "I said I was proud of it, and he said, 'All right. I'll give you a week. Then forget about it.' "

Through all the years, Sara said she was never tempted to root for her husband's team. Their three children, daughters Lynne and Laurie, and son J.C., who helped organize the first Oldtime game in 1994, are all Sox fans. Nor did Jim ever give an inch to the Sox. When he was laid to rest, a Yankees cap was in his casket.

As Yankees fans go, Bejoian said, she couldn't have loved a better one.

"But I think, deep down, he wanted the Red Sox to win," she said. "He was in the hospital [during the 2004 playoffs] and at like 1 o'clock in the morning he called me. 'Are you watching the game?' he said. 'Put it on. I think Papi is going to hit a home run.' "

"Sure enough, as soon as the words were out of his mouth, he hit one, and we won," she said. "And I told him, 'Thanks for calling me.' "



Jim, Sara, and Benjamin (photo thanks go to JC Bejoian)

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## DREAM TIME - A WAR STORY

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### Installment #11 by Roger W. Caputo



*This is a story of one person's experience in World War II and the title grows out of the time served on the Continent of Australia (the term "Dream Time" is borrowed from the Australian Aborigine use of the term to describe the distant past of mankind). The writing was done because of the urgings of one family member and was completed in 1995. 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 tell Roger's story in various installments, in succeeding issues of THE FLYING CIRCUS Quarterly, as page space permits.*

*Roger Caputo was an NCO who was assigned to Group Headquarters, Administrative Section, in Intelligence.*

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An enlisted men's club was finally built by the men, most of whom had no access to lighting or a table after dark. They could read or write in some semblance of civilization. The aircrews laid their lives on the line on every mission and the airplane mechanics worked almost 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, keeping the airplanes flyable. The cooks prepared the meals

three times per day and made an honest effort to make the food appetizing. The officers ate the same chow as the enlisted men, but

on the other side of the fence. The social structure had to be maintained!

John K. Warren was a tall lanky boy from Mississippi. He too was a T/Sgt and the Colonel's aid-

secretary. John had a Southern drawl out of this world and a perfect gentleman-in-waiting for the Colonel. We all stayed as close to

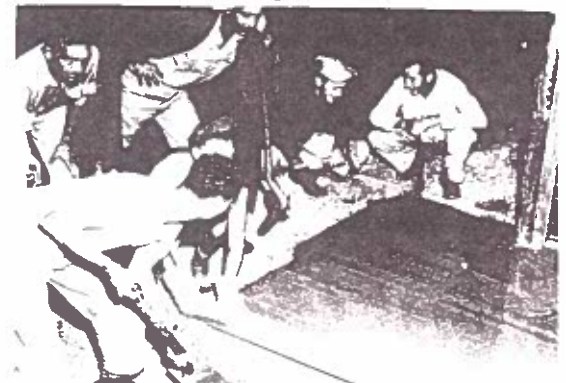
John as we could, because he was on the inside as to what was going on and could keep us informed. To not be informed on the latest was unacceptable!

When things got really dull, we had to find an excuse or occasion to celebrate; translated .... get drunk! One ingenious party-lover came up with the perfect excuse that fit all occasions. It was called "Abo New Year," meaning the New Year as celebrated by the Aborigines. Of course, there was absolutely no connection at all; it was just a by-word that fit any and all occasions. Very clever!

Colonel William H. Miller, our Group Commander, was in Command from the inception of the Group. He supervised the forming of the Group; directed it through training; and led us overseas and into combat. The Colonel was from



EM Tent Area



Building the Enlisted Men's Club



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## *DREAM TIME - A WAR STORY (continued)*

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central Missouri and learned to fly in 1924 at Lambert Field in St. Louis. He was a member of the Missouri Air National Guard, a weekend warrior, and he was a Lindbergh Era flyer. He started flying for American Airlines almost from the beginning and had time in the old Curtiss Condor bi-plane air transport of the late 1920s. When the War started, he was a Captain for American Airlines, flying the then-new Douglas DC-3, the airplane that put the airlines in business. I expect, being a member of the Guard, he was called up early to serve in the Army Airforce. In 1982, at the first formal Unit Reunion of the 380<sup>th</sup> Group in Dayton, he was present and I had the opportunity to talk with him. Since we were both from the St. Louis area, this served as a basis for exchanges of experiences and historical data. He was then in his early 80s and was suffering from a heart condition. Six weeks after the reunion, he died while visiting his sister in his central Missouri home area. I phoned his sister and offered her my sympathies, explaining how I knew the Colonel, as I was a total stranger to her. After the War, the Colonel helped John K. Warren get a position with American Airlines where they both worked until retirement. The Colonel retired to Southern California as did John (much later) and John looked after the aging couple.

Bomber Command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Army Airforce needed experienced help and Colonel Miller was relieved of his Command of the 380<sup>th</sup> and transferred to Bomber Command. Soon thereafter the Colonel called upon John to join him and we were never to see them again until after the war.

The Colonel recommended that his successor be a Major Forrest L. Brissey, then commanding one of the Squadrons. Forrest was promoted to Lt. Colonel and assumed command. He was a good choice. He did not have the aviation background of Miller (few did), but he was a gentleman; scholar; even tempered; responsible; and capable of exercising command responsibilities. Col. Brissey could not have been much older than 30, if that, whereas Col. Miller was probably in his early 40s. We younger people could identify with Brissey easier than Miller and as a result the atmosphere grew a bit more relaxed, but we respected Brissey and he was the Boss. Another factor came into play and it could be characterized as Civilian vs. Military. Although Miller was first a civilian, he was also a soldier because of his National Guard background. Brissey had no such military background and that in turn affected his approach to command. We were all just a bunch of civilians, working to military rules, trying to get a nasty job done as soon as possible and go home. Brissey, like many of us, had a sense of the lighter side of life and liked to do things just for fun. Somehow there was a British primary trainer available; it was the Classic Tiger Moth, used by all the British Empire as the standard trainer. It was a two-place open cockpit bi-plane of some 90 hp and a fun plane to fly. A few of them still exist among those who collect antiques. For reasons unknown, Brissey had to try his hand with the Tiger Moth and something went wrong; it crashed and he suffered a broken leg. It was a very embarrassing circumstance for Brissey and it was all very quietly sorta hushed up. I can remember thinking, "I'm a pilot and the Tiger Moth would have been just right for me and here goes a Colonel busting it up!"

De Havilland Tiger Moth



<http://www.sydneytigermoth.com.au/history.htm>

*More to come in future issues!*

# TAPS

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

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



**LEST WE FORGET**

**529th, Norma Clark**, widow of Byron W. Clark, DOD June 8, 2009, reported by her son, Alan Clark

**529th, Walter S. McElhannon**, Tail Gunner, Sinnott Crew, DOD September 2009, Georgia, reported by Alan Clark

**530th, Reginald Archibald III**, Bombardier, Lewis Crew, DOD March 9, 2009, California, reported by Gene Stadler

**530th, William G Kufus**, Pilot/Aircraft Cmdr, McDaniel and Kufus Crews/Transportation Officer, DOD October 6, 2008, Portland, Texas, reported by his granddaughter, Debbie Woods

**531st, Therence Theodore Bryant, Jr.**, Flight Engineer, Olearczk Crew, DOD January 6, 2010, Dothan, Georgia, reported by his widow, Katherine, and George Gerards

**531st, Margaret (Peg) Palmer**, Widow of Joseph H. Palmer, DOD December 2, 2009, Lincoln RI, reported by returned correspondence



**531st, John W. Otto, Jr.**, Navigator, Low's Crew (109), DOD September 26, 2009, Needville, Texas, reported by Steve Rankin

**531st, Edward A. Westlund, Jr.**, Radio Operator, Winston Crew (107), DOD January 16, 2010, Newbury Park, California, reported by his daughter, Kim Westlund

**531st, Clyde Odell Whetstine**, Ground Staff, DOD January 30, 2010, Kings Mountain, North Carolina, reported by his niece, Diane Whetstine

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Adelaide River War Graves website:

<http://www.adelaideriverwargraves.com/>

Adelaide River is a township lying 113 km south of Darwin, on the Stuart Highway, the main north-south road from Darwin to Alice Springs. During WW2, Adelaide River was the headquarters of a large base and the war cemetery was created especially for the burial of service personnel who died in this part of Australia.

380th Member buried in this cemetery:

**RAAF/531st, Charles David Parry-Okenden**, Bombardier, Straus Crew (89), DOD March 23, 1945, Vansittart Bay, Northern Territory, Australia, reported by Doug Tilley

<http://www.adelaideriverwargraves.com/parry-okenden.htm>

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## WEB LINKS

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A 7-Part History of the Liberator  
[http://www.doug-and-dusty.id.au/b24\\_history.htm](http://www.doug-and-dusty.id.au/b24_history.htm)

National Archives of Australia  
<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

U.S. National Archives and Records Admin.  
<http://www.archives.gov/>

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De Havilland DH 82A Tiger Moth  
<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?fsID=354&page=3>

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### 380TH NOSE ARTISTS

Richard "Dick" Ebbeson was an aircraft armorer and the squadron artist for the 528th Bomb Squadron.  
<http://www.usaaf-noseart.co.uk/ebbeson-dick.htm>

Annette Robin, known as "Toni" to her friends, was formerly a commercial artist in New York City before joining the American Red Cross.  
<http://www.usaaf-noseart.co.uk/robin-toni.htm>

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## KEEP EM IN YOUR PRAYERS

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### Update on Maurice "Slim" Powers:

He's now in a nursing home/rehab center in Barstow, CA, only half-hour drive from his home in Boron. He's getting better care now (they keep him busy with physical therapy and activities most of each day) and his wife Jean says he has improved a lot. He still gets confused, but knows who he is and where he is and remembers people a lot better now. His sense of humor is still intact. Let's hope the improvement continues!

He sends his regards to everyone. If you'd like to send a card or letter to him, send to his wife, Jean Power

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### BRANSON

Branson Tourism Center  
<http://www.branson.com/>

Branson Shows  
<http://www.bransongroups.com/shows>

Branson Grand Plaza Hotel  
<http://www.bransongrandplaza.com/>

Veterans Memorial Museum  
<http://www.veteransmemorialbranson.com/>

### REQUEST FOR DAUNTLESS DOTTIE PICS

If any of you vets or family members have any photos that include B-24 "Dauntless Dottie" (the one with the cowgirl on the nose), PLEASE, PLEASE email a copy to Bill Shek Jr.  
or mail to Barb Gotham  
W Lafayette IN 47906-1209

Please send address changes and other membership info updates to:

Barbara Gotham  
130 Colony Road  
West Lafayette IN 47906-1209  
Phone: 765/463-5390  
Email: [bjgotham@gmail.com](mailto:bjgotham@gmail.com)

