



THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION 5th AF - RAAF

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

The Flying Circus

NEWSLETTER #44

Fall 2010

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Theodore J. Williams

2010 REUNION COORDINATOR

Barb Gotham

Branson, Missouri

November 3-7, 2010

NEWSLETTERS –

WEBPAGES – FINANCIAL

Barbara J. Gotham

Phone: 765/463-5390

Email: bjgotham@gmail.com



WWII Posters such as this appear throughout this edition

Next issue: Winter 2010 (to be mailed January 2011)

380th Bomb Group Association, 130 Colony Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209 USA

<http://380th.org/>

bjgotham@gmail.com

2010 REUNION

Branson, Missouri

November 3-7, 2010

AGENDA OVERVIEW

Hotel: Grand Plaza Hotel, 245 N Wildwood Dr, Branson, (800) 850-6646, (417) 337-5535,
www.bransongrandplaza.com

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

THE HOTEL DOES NOT OFFER SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM THE LOCAL AIRPORTS. SEE NOTE ON SEPARATE PAGE ABOUT GROUND TRANSPORTATION.

Hospitality: **Wednesday in Wildwood Room** (9th floor)
Starting Thursday, the Montclair Room (2nd floor) will be our hospitality room

Breakfast: Hotel has complimentary full breakfast buffet daily – 7-10 AM

EVENTS:

Wednesday, November 3 –

Registration – 1:00-5:00 PM – Wildwood Room (9th floor)

Hospitality – 1:00-10:00 PM – Wildwood Room

Thursday, November 4 –

Optional morning musical show: Pre-registration required
Approx 9:15 AM – Buses depart hotel for morning musical show
10:00 AM-Noon – *Red, Hot & Blue* Christmas Show, Americana Theatre
12:30 PM – Return to hotel – lunch on own

Registration – 9:00 AM-3:00 PM – Montclair Room (2nd floor)

Hospitality Room – 9:00 AM-11:00 PM – Montclair Room (closed during supper show, 4-7:30 PM)

Welcome Supper Show at the Circle B Chuckwagon Pre-registration required
4:15 PM – Popcorn and watch Old B/W western movies
5:00-5:45 PM – Supper & watch old B/W movie. (Seconds are served!)
5:45-7:00 PM – Live Stage Show begins. *Old-time cowboy show tunes, once sung by Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, as well as pre-and post-Civil War music performed on dulcimer, banjo, fiddle, bass fiddle, rollicking humor and comedy!*

No transport - Since the Circle B is next door to the Grand Plaza Hotel, no bus transportation is being provided.
However, if you need a ride, let us know so one of us with a vehicle can drive you there and back!

Friday, November 5 –

Approx 9:30 AM – Buses depart hotel for Memorial Service Pre-registration required

10:30 AM – Memorial Service at Williams Memorial Chapel at the College of the Ozarks
Joe Wells, Chaplain
Color guard/sound technician/bugler/organist provided by the College of the Ozarks

11:30 AM – Buses return to hotel for luncheon

Event and Hotel Registration forms are in this issue and are also on our website at:
<http://380th.org/REUNION/2010Reunion/>

2010 REUNION

Branson, Missouri

November 3-7, 2010

AGENDA OVERVIEW (continued)

Noon – Luncheon (with cash bar) – Grand Plaza Hotel, Sunset Room Pre-registration required

1:00 – Buses depart for museum

1:30 – 5:00 PM – Veterans Memorial Museum, Branson Pre-registration required

5:00 PM – Buses return to hotel

Dinner on own

Hospitality – 1:00-11:30 PM – Montclair Room

Saturday, November 6 –

9:00 AM – Group meeting/presentations – Montclair Room

Hospitality – 8:00 AM-4:00 PM – Montclair Room

Afternoon on own

Reception – 5:00 PM – Sunset Room (top floor)

Banquet – Sunset Room Pre-registration required

5:30 PM – Program starts

Cash bar

6:00 PM – Dinner served

7:00-10:00 PM – Music/Dancing

Sunday, November 7 – Departures

REGISTRANTS as of September 19, 2010

Marie Johnson-Anderson & Doris Mitchell
Lyle & Clara Sears
Jim & Jeanne Meredith
Cecelia & Scott Meade
John Morrison
Diane Whetstine
Keith & Joy Honegger and family
Dean & Peggy Vance Baker
Loyd Oakes & Bill Randall
Gus Cameron (Australia)
Ted & Isabel Williams
Elizabeth McPherson
Barb & Doug Gotham
Carl Borgstrom and family
Warren Goodrich and family
Wayne Olson
Larry & Jeanne Farnum

If you are unable to attend, but would like to support the reunion, you can help by sending a donation to our Reunion Fund. Please make your checks to "380th Bomb Group Association," and mail to: Barb Gotham, 130 Colony Road, West Lafayette IN 47906-1209

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR DONATIONS TO THE RE-UNION FUND as of September 19, 2010

Ralph Figueroa
Jim & Annabelle Scalese
Peggy Isaack in memory of her husband, Tom Isaack
Keith Henderson in memory of his father, Ralph A. Henderson
George McKay
Bill Shek

2010 REUNION INFORMATION

FLYING TO BRANSON

Branson Airport is 10 miles south of the Branson Strip. There are auto-rental services on-site, as well as taxi and shuttle service into Branson. **AirTran Airways, Frontier Airlines, Sun Country Airlines** are providing flights to Branson from Atlanta, Denver and Minneapolis-St. Paul, hubs that connect Branson with most major U.S. cities. There also are non-stop regional flights to a number of destinations, including Orlando, Florida.

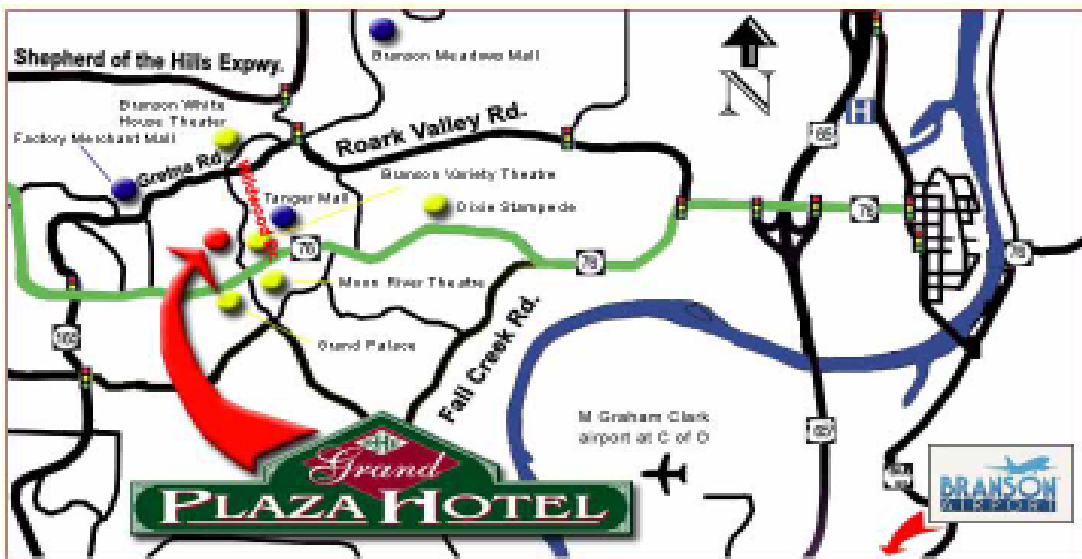
Springfield-Branson National Airport opened its new terminal in 2009. Accessibility has been improved as well: flyers can walk from their car to their airplane without climbing a single stair. **Allegiant Air** and **American Airlines** are among the carriers providing low-cost flights to the airport. Springfield-Branson National Airport is roughly 50 miles north of Branson.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

The hotel currently has no shuttle service. You can rent a car at either airport, or there is shuttle, limo, and taxi service to Branson. It is suggested that you make reservations in advance for transport to the hotel. Branson Coach services the Springfield airport. Round trip for 1-2 people is \$160. They do not pick up at the Branson airport, although they can drop you off there (1-2 people drop off is \$20). Grayline Shuttle from the Branson Airport is \$27 one way for 1-2 people, and \$10 for each additional person. It is \$47 round trip (1-2 people), with \$10 for each additional person.

FOR A LIST OF TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, PLEASE START WITH THIS WEBSITE:

<http://www.explorebranson.com/transportation/>



HOTEL RESERVATIONS should be made by
OCTOBER 4 - rooms after this date will be
provided on a space available basis

EVENT REGISTRATIONS due by October 29

380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION – 2010 REUNION
November 3-7, 2010 – Branson, Missouri

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Branson Grand Plaza Hotel, 245 N Wildwood Dr, Branson MO 65616

<http://www.bransongrandplaza.com/> (for hotel information)

417-336-6646 – 1-800-850-6646 Fax: 417-337-5535

Because there is a 10% charge for online group reservations, you will be unable to make lodging reservations by that method to get the group rates listed below.

You can call the front desk of the hotel (numbers above) to make your own reservations.

Or if you prefer that I make your reservations for you, please fill out this form:

Name _____

Spouse or Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Number of rooms required: _____

Number of adults per room: _____ Number of children per room: _____

Room Type: (All rooms are non-smoking, with coffee makers, ironing boards/irons, radio alarm clocks, hairdryers, free wireless internet)

___ Standard queen (2 queen beds)	\$87.00 plus 11.6% room tax
___ Mini suite (1 bedroom w/ king bed, and parlor with sleeper sofa)	\$97.00 plus 11.6% room tax
___ King feature (king bed, whirlpool, mini fridge, microwave)	\$117.00 plus 11.6% room tax
___ Family suite (2 bedrooms each with king beds, 2 baths, mini fridge, MW)	\$147.00 plus 11.6% room tax
___ Executive suite (1 bedroom w/ king bed, parlor, whirlpool, mini fridge, MW)	\$147.00 plus 11.6% room tax

Special Needs: _____ (Handicap accessible standard king and standard queen rooms are available)

Guarantee by credit card # _____ exp date (Mo/Yr) _____

Circle type of card: MasterCard, Visa, Discover

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.
- Cancel policy for this event: 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid penalty.
- Same rates apply 3 days prior and 3 days after our event (10/31/10 – 11/10/10).
- Complimentary parking.
- Check-in time is 4:00 PM, check-out time is 11:00 AM.
- All rooms are non-smoking at this hotel.

Reservations due before **October 4. Reservations after this date will be provided on a space available basis.**

Please mail or fax reservation form to: Barbara Gotham, 130 Colony Road, West Lafayette IN 47906-1209

Fax: 765-494-6298

Email: bjgotham@gmail.com

380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION – 2010 REUNION

November 3-7, 2010 – Branson, Missouri

EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

Registration fees are collected from all attending, to defray misc costs of Reunion (like registration packets, room rental and setup fees, etc.)

Registration Fees:

Adults	\$20.00 per person	x _____	=	\$ _____
Children <18	\$10.00 per person	x _____	=	\$ _____

Sign up for events below - pick and choose what works best for your schedule, interests, and budget!

November 4 - Thursday –

– 10:00 AM-Noon: Optional show: "Red Hot and Blue" – Americana Theatre (includes transportation)

Adults	\$26.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____
Children 4-12	\$20.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____

– Welcome Supper & Show: Circle B Chuckwagon (no transportation, next door to Grand Plaza)

4:15-5:00 pm: preshow (popcorn & movies) ~ 5:00-5:45: supper ~ 5:45-7:00: live stage show

Adults	\$30.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____
Children 4-12	\$16.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____

November 5 - Friday –

– 10:30 AM: Memorial Service, Chapel at College of the Ozarks (cost is for bus transportation)

	\$7.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____
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– Noon: Lunch at the Grand Plaza Hotel \$14.00 pp x _____ = \$ _____

– 1:30-5:00 PM: Veterans Memorial Museum (includes transportation)

Adults	\$15.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____
Children 4-12	\$8.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____
Children 13-17	\$13.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____

November 6 - Saturday –

– Banquet: Grand Plaza Hotel

5:00-5:30 pm: reception ~ 5:30: dinner program ~ 6:00: dinner served ~ 7:00-10:00: music/dancing

Adults	\$20.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____
Children 4-10	\$10.00 pp	x _____	=	\$ _____

Choose one entrée per person in party:

Grilled chicken w/rice	x _____
Ham steak w/raisin sauce	x _____
Prime Rib	x _____

TOTAL DUE FOR ALL EVENTS: = \$ _____

PRINT NAMES FOR NAME BADGES ON THE LINES BELOW:

Additional guest names can be written on a separate sheet or on the back of this sheet

Indicate Squadron Number here _____

Refunds: No refunds will be made if cancellation occurs **after 5:00 PM EDT, Friday, October 29, 2010**

Please make checks payable to: **380th Bomb Group Association**

Mail form with payment to: Barbara Gotham, 130 Colony Road, West Lafayette IN 47906-1209

To order show/attraction tickets other than those listed above: <http://www.bransongrandplaza.com/default1.php?source=shows>

Email: gphgiftshop@hotmail.com Phone: 800-850-6646 (ask for Gift Shop) Fax: 417-334-8792

Questions? Call Barb at 765/463-5390 (home) or 765/412-5370 (cell) – or send email to bigotham@gmail.com

2010 REUNION

Branson, Missouri- November 3-7, 2010

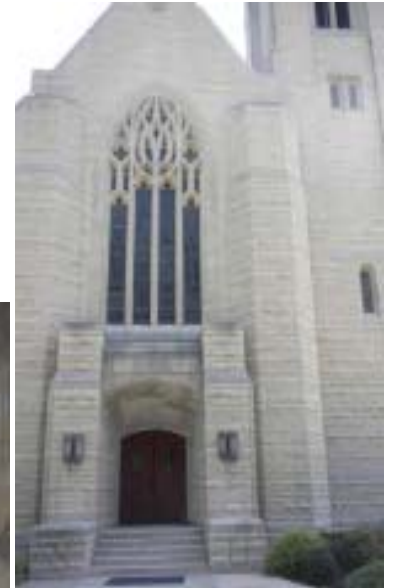
Here are a few photos from my July 31 - August 3 visit to Branson!
Barb Gotham



Local scenery



College of the Ozarks



Williams Chapel, College of the Ozarks



Sight & Sound Theatre



On a street corner,
Downtown Historic
Branson



Veterans Museum



Shoji Tabuchi
Theatre



2010 REUNION

Branson, Missouri- November 3-7, 2010

Here are a few photos from my July 31 - August 3 visit to Branson!
Barb Gotham



Circle B show



Walking the short incline between the Circle B and the Grand Plaza



Circle B - serving up supper



View of the Circle B from the Grand Plaza



Water and pyro show, Historic Downtown Branson (on the riverfront)

Acrobats of China Show



Dixie Stampede



MAIL CALL

from: Bill Shek <filmxtra@att.net / wshek64@gmail.com>
July 2010
subject: Dick Ebbeson art?

I have several b/w photos in my father's collection from Fenton of the 528th BS bar "Herky's Hangout." In the background, pinned up behind the bar, are several pieces of artwork that were done by, I think, Dick Ebbeson. They are of various noseart pinups he did for the squadron. Dad saved the "Dauntless Dottie" painting shown in one photo and I have it. It's an original painting on either board or paper. I'd like to put a photo or two of the bar in the newsletter and ask if anyone has any of those originals. If so, I'd dearly love to get a photo or scan of the piece(s) if any still exist. Thanks.

Here are 2 photos of the 528th BS bar, "Herky's Hangout" at Fenton. #1 is a photo from my father's collection; #2 is a scan from a 380th book I have ("The Flying Circus, 380th Bomb Group," by Fain, Bergman, Cannon, Kiser, Howard, and Gruendyke, copyright date not listed, but sometime after VJ Day).



I am very interested in the artwork pinned up behind the bar. I'm pretty sure most of it was done by Dick Ebbeson of the 528th BS -- especially the nose-art pinups (the diamond-shaped pieces). I have the original painting of "Dauntless Dottie" that is shown in #2 (on the right, at the top of the group of 4 above the aluminum pot) and have included a scan of that original (Dad saved it!!).

If anyone still has any of those original pieces, or any other artwork by Ebbeson, or any information about those artworks, please contact me directly or through the Association. If possible, I would like to get a photo or a scan of the work(s).

Thanks very much and cheers to all the vets and families!

Bill Shek (Jr)



From: William Bever <williambever@sbcglobal.net>
Thu, Jun 10, 2010 at 3:45 PM
Fw: B-24J Hull panel

How would you like a desk like this in your office?

Check out this website to see more!

http://www.fightingcolors.com/Companyimages/b-24j_desk.htm

MAIL CALL

from: Bruce Carlage <hoosiers@charter.net>
Aug 16, 2010

Hello Barbara:

My father, Fred Carlage, receives your newsletter as a member of the 380th Bomb Group. He is residing in a rest home and really enjoys the letter.

He was asking me if I could find out anything about two of his best friends while in the Air Force during WW11. If you have any information he and I would greatly appreciate it. Ed Silver was also in the 380th and went to Bombardier and Navigation training with my father who claims that Ed went on to receive a law degree from Georgetown University and was one of the prosecuting attorneys during the Watergate impeachment trials.

The second was Vincent Barger who I don't believe was a member of the 380th. He resided in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and went thru training with my father.

Keep up the good work and thanks again, Bruce Carlage

If anyone knows the whereabouts of any of these fellows, please let me/Bruce know! ... Barb

from: W Russell <wfr9493@embarqmail.com>
Jul 17, 2010

TAPS-Name=Major Charles H Russell
TAPS-Date=01/09/1963
TAPS-City_State=Maynard MA
TAPS-Duties=Pilot

I am trying to find out information about my Father. I have an 8 1/2" x 11" jacket patch that has a Lion on the globe with "Flying Circus King of the Heavies that belonged to my father.

My father died when I was 13 years old and I haven't had much luck finding any information about him. If anybody has any information I would appreciate hearing from them.

Bill Russell

August 2, 2010

Thank you for inviting me to the Reunion in Branson, Missouri and also for honoring my husband (Charles Parrott) at the Memorial Service on November 5th. Regretfully I will be unable to attend.

Charles, as well as myself, enjoyed the reunions so much and looked forward to them annually. When he was able I think we attended every one for 25 years. He was so proud of the group.

Hello to everyone and have fun. I will be thinking of you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Parrott
1720 60th Ave Unit 208
Greeley CO 80634

from: Rick Gronkowski <RICK.GRONKOWSKI@FAIRCHILD.AF.MIL>

TAPS-Name=LEONARD B. GRONKOWSKI
TAPS-Date=10 AUGUST 2010
TAPS-City_State=NANTICOKE, PA.
TAPS-Duties=NOSE GUNNER-ROUGH NIGHT-KREUGERS CREW

MY DAD PASSED AWAY ON THE 10TH OF AUGUST 2010 AND HOPE THAT SOME OF YOU THAT I MET AT THE 2008 TUSCON REUNION WILL READ THIS. HE SPOKE OFTEN AND HIGHLY ABOUT ALL OF YOU. HE WAS VERY PROUD OF THE 380TH AND HIS SQUADRON, THE 530TH. I RETIRED FROM THE AIR FORCE IN 1986 AFTER SERVING FOR 22 YEARS AND TOURS IN VIETNAM. WE ARE A PROUD FAMILY AND IT WAS AN HONOR TO MEET AND BECOME FRIENDS WITH MANY OF YOU AND YOUR SPOUSES. I WAS NAMED AFTER RICHARD (DICK) MONTZ WHO WAS THE FLIGHT ENGINEER ON HIS CREW. I KNEW DICK AND HE WAS AT MY PARENTS 50TH ANNIVERSARY. WE LISTNED TO A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT FENTON AIRFIELD AND THE BOMB RUNS. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE 380TH WILL EVER GET A SPOT AT THE PEMA MUSEUM AS WE WOULD LOAN MY DADS 530TH ITEMS FOR DISPLAY. THANK YOU ALL,RICK WATCH YOUR 6!

MAIL CALL



HARRY BLUM'S 531st CREW

Standing, L to R: Ozzie Schoenemann-R/O, Woodrow Ward-ENG/WG, Blum-P, Emmett Stanley-TAIL, ukn-PHOTO, Don Grieb-NAV, Zura Cruthers-CP. Kneeling: Braxton Raybon-TOP, ukn-GUN, Bob Winters-NOSE, Tony DiNardo-BOMB. Robert Winters Collection

from: Matthew Ulrich
<foreverburnmusic@gmail.com>
Wed, Aug 18, 2010 at 1:30 PM
subject: B24 Male Call

In photo malecall12.jpg it shows Blum's Crew. My grandfather Ray W. Colie Jr. served on Blum's crew and he is one of the 2 unknowns in the picture. Since I can't see the faces clearly I am not sure which one of the unknowns is him, but I believe it to be the 2nd person in the row of gentlemen that are kneeling. I'll include a picture of him from around that time.

This is a link to the page that I'm talking about, and I'll attach a picture of him to this email.
<http://380th.org/HISTORY/PARTV/MaleCall.htm#Photos>

SYRACUSE HERALD-JOURNAL, Friday, October 5, 1945

Sgt. Colie Gets AAF Discharge

S/Sgt. Ray Colie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Colie, 200 Bellevue av., has received his discharge from the Army after 18 months service in the South Pacific.

He was attached to the 380th Bomb Group, and served as an armorer gunner aboard a Liberator. He completed 40 missions and saw action in seven campaigns which include China, Formosa, Okinawa, New Guinea, Australia and the East Indies.



S/Sgt. Colie

A member of the crew of the famous Liberator "Male Call," which successfully completed 100 missions in the Pacific, Colie is

now playing host to Victor E. Altruda of New York City, a crew companion on the same plane. Both were discharged at Fort Dix Sept. 22. Among the decorations awarded to Colie are three air medals, the Presidential Citation, and seven campaign stars.



MAIL CALL

Letter from Bill Casselberry, 528th, July 10, 2010

I am sending you some History on the Group that has been missed. I think it is very important. Hope to see you in Branson in November. May 17 I turned 92 years. Give my regards and love to all. Bill

380th Bomb Group
Biggs Field, El Paso, Texas
August 1942

On this day in August 1942 a test flight was ordered because of a problem on flight reports for the B24. The problem was being able to change the prop pitch at 32,000 feet.

We were scheduled to go to England as all of the training missions were above 20,000 feet. The order was to check the prop trouble and then take the B24 as high as we could.

Crew

Pilot Capt. Geddes
Co-Pilot Lt. Sherman
Radio Operator Sgt Shine
Flight Engineer M/Sgt Casselberry

The test flight left Biggs about 9 a.m. As we headed over New Mexico and reached 18,000 feet, I started the engine check every 1,000 feet - rpm, temperature, oil pressure and manifold pressure. To have something to do, Sgt. Shine made the same records about 10 minutes after I made each of my checks. We had dual records which came in handy.

At 32,000 feet we had no problems. Capt. Geddes also ran all the checks with no problems. We feathered and unfeathered each engine and again had no problems. At this point we started out climb and as I wrote 37,500 on my record the cockpit filled with a white substance so heavy we could not see the dash or see each other. It lasted about 20 seconds, then cleared. Our right wing was dropping. Capt. Geddes and Lt. Sherman both had their hands on the controls to keep the wing up. A quick check out radio operator window #3 showed the engine was losing oil. I feathered the engine before it lost all oil. Another check and engine #2 was vibrating and it had to be feathered. Using a long oxygen hose, I went to waist window for a check and found that engine #4 super charger had run away. On my way back to my previous position, I noticed several holes in the bomb bay doors. A check of the batteries proved that they had been destroyed. I turned off all engine regulators. As I made a report to Capt. Geddes and Lt. Sherman, Sgt. Shine made a report (word for word) to the control tower. The #4 super charger had run away and a bucket had hit #3 engine oil tank. Also, a bucket went under our feet and cut the #2 engine prop. At 18,000 feet I cranked the landing gear down and checked to make sure it was locked. Then, I had to get the nose gear down. When I got in the crawlspace I could see that part of the aircraft was blown out and I figured out that the extinguisher CO2 cylinders had been hit by a bucket and exploded the cylinders. I got the gear down and reported to Capt. Geddes and Lt. Sherman. Sgt. Shine reported this find to the control tower. When we landed at Biggs Field, the group had already gotten in touch with the factory.

As our crew walked around the aircraft, we found 97 holes in the B24. All holes were below the flight deck. Based on this inspection, I reported that this aircraft was not ready for combat because a bullet or ack ack could hit a super charger and this aircraft could bring itself down. If bombs were on board it could be blown up. Both pilots agreed.

The following morning the factory had their engineers there to assess the damage. Three changes were made to the B24: (1) a half moon deflector ring was installed at each turbo wheel to deflect buckets from the aircraft fuselage; (2) all engine fire extinguisher equipment was removed from all B24s; and (3) all aircraft nose personnel will be on the flight deck at take off.

The B24 didn't require any other modifications during the duration of the war.

This one test flight and the information that we gained from it may have saved numerous combat crews and planes during the war. The 380th Bomb Group had a great part in giving all a safer aircraft. Without these modifications, this aircraft would not have been safe for combat.

William Casselberry

MAIL CALL

from: Richard Kee <famkee@verizon.net>
Tue, Aug 17, 2010 at 12:30 AM
subject: Darwin/Fenton Recent Pictures and History Thread

Ted, Barbara,

Trust this message finds you well. I'm the gentleman that brought the nose art to your San Diego reunion several years ago. I assure you, all members of the 380th Association will find the information at the below link to be of interest.

<http://warrelics.eu/forum/battlefield-archeology/darwin-area-23423-2/>

If required, I urge you to take a few minutes to join the War Relics Forum. There is no cost and you won't get junk mail, then go to the above link. Absolutely great, recent pictures of Fenton and the Darwin area.

I'm posting your website address on the forum at this site as soon as I hit send on this message.

Cheers,
Rick

from: Don Hickey <donhickey@msn.com>
Mon, Aug 23, 2010 at 1:20 AM
subject: The Yank Down Under

Barbara,

As an Air Force retiree, I really enjoyed reading about the 380th Bomb Group. Similar to Joyce McDonald, I also found copies of The Yank Down Under - I bought my uncle's house and was cleaning out the garage for remodeling and found a very dusty brown paper sack - being naturally nosy I looked in and found about half a dozen of the papers - still in good shape.

I emailed (I think it was) the Historical Society in New Zealand to see if they would like to have them but never received a response.

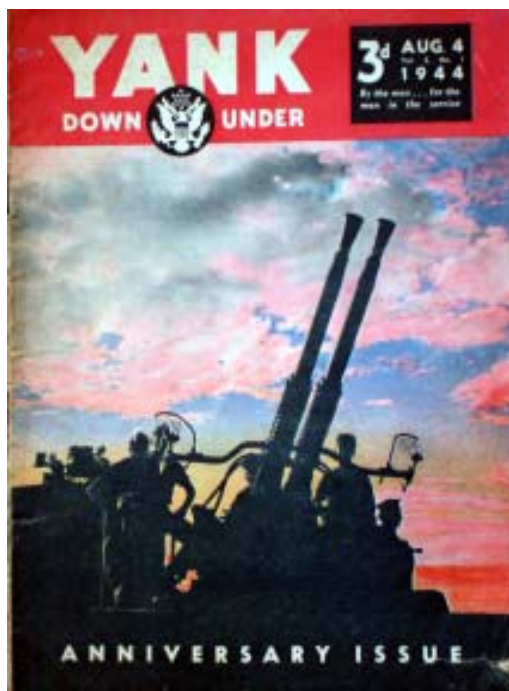
If you would be interested in having them, let me know. All I ask is that they be used for historical purposes and not to make money.

Don Hickey

I received these copies of The YANK DOWN UNDER from Don a few weeks ago - what a treasure! I appreciate Don's thinking of the 380th!

I hope to be able to use articles from these newspapers in future newsletters! (Though the pages are a bit fragile!)

.... Barb



<http://yankmagazine.blogspot.com/2009/08/cover-4-aug-1944-down-under-edition.html>

MAIL CALL



Aug 23, 2010

From: Bob Livingstone <ev982@netspace.net.au>

Barb,

These photos were list as 380th BG on eBay. I know nothing of them, but you may be able to find out something.

Bob

If anyone recognizes any of these fellows, please let me know! ... Barb

from: Doug Tilley <dtilley5@bigpond.com>
Tue, Sep 14, 2010 at 12:22 AM
subject : Keith M. Baker

I would just like to write a few words about Keith M. Baker, A.S.N. 16189609 [530th, after reading his story in the newsletter for Spring 2010.

Keith, I read your short but very interesting story about your time in the 380th BG, I would like you to know the 5th is not forgotten. I was just a baby when you brave airmen were fighting a war, and now that I live in the Northern Territory just South of Darwin and a few short miles from Fenton, I have learnt so much about the 380th BG and it's operations here in Australia, not only fighting the enemy for your country but mine too. I don't know if you served at Fenton but I have been there many times, and each time I remember the and think about just why Fenton was made and it's purpose, After viewing many movies on the internet about the B24s, I can stand on Fenton Runway and my thoughts go back in time and try to imagine the hustle and bustle , the sounds and the the smells of B24s coming and going, and the anxious moments waiting for the Missions to return. Keith, it is truly a magic place to visit, but now it's all silent, but it's still there, the revetments , taxiways, the runway, and the old concrete slabs where Base Camp was. No, Keith, you are not forgotten, I thank you ! Oh and I hope you learned your lesson about eating too many Aussie Plums.

Doug Tilley
Mt Bundy Station, Adelaide River,
Northern Territory, Australia

from: Molly Casas
June/July, 2010

Hi Barbara,

I won't be able to make it to the reunion this year, I'm going to have to wait until next year's reunion.

If possible, I would love to hear from anyone who knew my father [Julian (aka Julius) L. Casas], I would love to know more about my dad when he was in the military.

Here's my dad's war dairies, it was typed from his original dairies.

Molly F. Casas
Address: 10000 E. Imperial Hwy - C106
Downey, California 90242
Proud WWII Army daughter of Julian (aka Julius) L. Casas

[Excerpt from Julian Casas's journal follows]



Julian and his buddies (he's on the far right side)

EXCERPT FROM JOURNAL OF JULIAN L. CASAS

EXCERPT FROM JOURNAL OF JULIAN LOZOYA CASAS

January 15, 1943

WWII Service USAF

Our 380th history records only show that Julius L. Casas (aka Julian), 19087711, was with Group Headquarters, ground staff. It appears from this narrative that although he was assigned to the 380th, he served with the 315th (20th AF) and 310th Bomb Wings (5th AF).

Left the States Jan. 15, 1943 on Troop Ship USS Montecello and no trouble coming over. Took 18 days before we arrived to our destination. - Feb 3rd 1944 we arrived in Milne Bay, British New Guinea.

Processed in Milne Bay for almost two months and in the meantime took in the sights which isn't worth bragging about.

March 11 - Boarded Dutch Merchant ship. Left Milne Bay same day. This ship formerly used to transport Jap POW's and it stinks like hell.

March 14 - Went ashore at Buna Beach and proceeded to Lae on DUKW. Same day we left Lae and went to Hadzab by truck convoy arriving at 1300 hours. This was most advanced base but we saw no and encountered enemy. So far we have been lucky.

April 27, 1943 - Invasion of Hollandia Dutch New Guinea. Same day I was assigned to 380th Bomb Group, 5th Air Force and put on D.S. with 315th Bomb Wing. - I flew one mission. Bombed installations at Sentani Strip. Wrecked parked planes. Our crew accounted for five planes destroyed on the ground.

April 30 - I was sent to 92nd Airdrome.

May 2 - Am back with the outfit 310th B.W.

May 15 - Invasion of Wakde - We give support to ground troops.

May 14 - I flew in C-47 to Wakde Island. Arrived on DX2. That night we have very heavy raid. Japs destroyed about ten of our planes and gasoline dump. Slight casualties.

May 18 - I dig my fox hole. At night we have raid. An ammunition dump is hit. I'm beginning to think Japs are pretty good bombers. No casualties.

May 19 - Today I am assigned with 2 infantry men of the 24 div, to seal cave entrance with satchel charges. That night Japs somehow dig their selves out. With a force of 51 men they raid our mess hall and destroy whatever they can find. We are caught with our pants down. They go down the road towards the 303rd Airdrome Sq. The sq. puts up a good fight and every Jap is killed. The 303rd lost 6 men. Among them is my best buddie, Earl Kapstafer.

May 20, 21, 22 - We have raids on the 20th and 22nd.

May 23 - Enemy planes again. This night I'm not fast enough getting in my fox hole. Bomb explodes 10 feet away from me. Am knocked almost unconscious. I fall in fox hole and scratch my back pretty bad on the coral rock. Blood oozing from my nose and mouth from concussion. Nothing very serious.

May 25 - Had raid last night and one today at 3 Pm

May 26 - Raid very bad today. All bombs dropped were daisy cutters, zap anti personnel bombs. Killed 16 men of the 100th Service Sqn.

May 27 - Good day today. No raids.

May 28 - Six of our men killed by booby trap. Raid also.

May 29 June 1 to July 15 - We were bombed almost constantly. Many of our men sent back to states. Bomb happy. (shell shocked)

July 19 - Have had no raids for about 15 days. I don't miss them.

July 23 1944 - Left Wakde Island. Arrived at Hollandia same day. Hollandia very good rest place for me. Had no raids all the time I was there. Had one alert but no plane showed up.

Sept 15 - Invasion of Morotai Island, one of the Halmahera islands in the Moluccas group belonging to the Netherlands East Indies. We board the U.S.S. L.S.T.613 on Sept 10 1944. Left Hollandia Sept 13 1944. Arrived in Morotai D + 3. First night on the beach we had raid. This is getting to be a habit.

Sept 16, 17, 18, 19 - During daytime everything OK at night we hit the fox holes. We have a few casualties during this time.

Sept 20 1944 - Our camp area was given the alert for ground invasion. We were threatened by a force of 3000 Japs from the South of Morotai on Gila Point. We were prepared for them and were equipped with regular infantry gear. Tonight we are all too scared stiff to talk. No enemy showed up. Our Torpedo boats kept a few enemy landing craft away although a few succeeded in landing troops to the North.

Sept 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 - Had raids the first five nights. Next two were quiet.

Oct 7 - A day raid today. No harm to personnel or installations.

Oct 8 - Made my second mission. Hit the main island of Halmahera. Met little fighter opposition. I took a shot at Zero. Missed. They're too fast. Very heavy flak. We lose 7 planes. My knees are shaking. Probably stage fright.

Nothing happened Oct 9 & 10.

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Oct 11 - Third mission. We bombed installations at Balikpapan in Borneo. Met heavy flak and fighter opposition. Enemy fighters climbed up to 1000 feet and let drop phosphorous bombs. We lost 11 of our planes. We destroyed 21 fighter planes but I still can't claim any kills for myself.

Oct 12, 13 - Went to show tonight. What a stinker!

Oct 14 - One light raid. No damage done.

Oct 15 - Made my fourth mission but was not completed. On our way to bomb Borneo. We climbed to 30,000 ft. My oxygen mask broke and so did the navigator's. Our bomber turns back to base, mission unaccomplished. I am not in such a bad shape compared to navigator. I think he lost one of his lungs. I froze my left lung. Doc says it's heal up but I'll have to be grounded permanently. A very bad piece of news but I guess its for my own good. Stayed in hospital 10 days (Very heavy raid at last day in Morotai)

Oct 20 - The invasion of the Philippine Islands. First assault wave lands at Blue Beach in Dulag, Leyte. Island of Samar occupied same day without opposition. We were quite late in going in the Philippines.

Nov 9, 1944 - Board the U.S.S. Biddle - Merchant ship.

Nov 10 - Everything unusually quiet at sea.

Nov 11 - We rendezvous in the Philippine Sea. Convoy now 40 ships. 28 transport ships. 12 L.S.T.'s-not counting 1 aircraft carrier 1 heavy & 1 light cruiser. 10 destroyers and 4 escort carriers.

Nov 12 - 72 miles from Leyte in the Philippines. At 1500 hours 7 jap planes sighted, headed toward our convoy. Planes identified as torpedo bombers. At 1510 hrs ack-ack on all ships start firing at planes. One plane is hit and he joins Davey. A second one starts diving at a destroyer. Lets a torpedo go and he is hit at the same time. Torpedo keeps coming. Misses the destroyer, comes within 50 yards of our ship and keeps on going out to sea. Remaining jap craft head back to their bases. No damage or casualties on our side. - We are now 60 miles from Leyte Island. P38, & P47's gives us air cover the rest of the way. - We are now in Leyte on Blue Beach in the vicinity of Dulag. We pitch temporary camp on the beach. No raid tonight, I hope.

Nov 13 - We move up to San Roque, 7 miles North of Dulag. At 0700 hrs, 7 enemy craft come in unexpectedly. Everything is thrown up at them. Six planes knocked out and last on take off.

Nov 14, 15, 16 & 17 - We have raids 24 hrs a day. Enemy craft show up at all hours of the day.

Nov 18, 19, 20 to last day of month, with exception of the 22nd we have continuous raids.

Dec 1 - We move to a new area. Barauan. Thirty miles North east of Tailaban. Here are many dead japs and we have to dig graves for them which I didn't mind doing. The more graves dug for japs the better not to mention Filipinos.

Dec 2, 3, 4 - Raids in Taelaban and pretty quiet here.

Dec 5 - Everything OK so far. - 2000PM We are told Jap parachutists have landed in the Vaanits at Barauen. All roads are blocked by MP's. - It's 2230 hrs and still nothing happens. All we have is a raid. A lot of flak goes up and plenty of planes come down. Beginning to think this is false alarm.

Dec 6 - This morning, at 0620 hrs we are awakened by gun fire. Sounds like a jap woodpecker is raising hell. - At 0616 hrs a runner tells us japs have infiltrated and a force of 150 parachutists are having it out with a signal outfit and Negro engineer camp. Heavy casualties are inflicted on the two service outfits. Japs headed toward our way. I think we're going to do a lot of fighting before this thing is over.

It's 1800 hrs now and japs can be seen crawling down below. Fortunately for us. Two days ago we moved up to the hill. We were down in the valley where the japs are now. The hill gives us a great opportunity.

1835 hrs. Japs bombarded us with knee mortars. Did damage to the area but personnel is still intact.

1840 hrs. A message is sent to us that two companies of infantry men from the 11th airborne and two squads of the 960th combat engr. are on their way to give us help. Very good news because by this time my pants need washing in the rear end.

1850 hrs japs tried a banzai charge with an estimated 25 men. Twelve are killed and the rest go back to think it over. I think I hit one because I was in the first trench of the perimeter. It was kind of dark to see but whatever was coming at me didn't get up again.

1923 hrs. Nothing has happened yet. Everyone on edge with nerves.

2005 hrs. Still nothing happens. No word has been heard from the infantry or the Engrs. Two men from an artillery outfit, 2 from ours and one from special service volunteer to go out and try to contact the em. They don't get very far because a woodpecker cuts them down. Two of the men come back.

2040 hrs. I don't know what goes on in the other side of the perimeter because we are too busy bringing in our casualties. So far we know one of our men has been killed and 7 wounded in the first night.

Dec 7 at 0713 hrs - No fire has been heard from either side. Thinking everything is OK three of our men volunteer to be litter bearers and bring back the dead and wounded. They start down the hill and before they get down a woodpecker cuts loose. Kills two of our men and one is hit bad. He dies later on. Almost out of ammunition. 3 more men, this time from an ack ack outfit volunteer to go down and get ammo. They succeed in grabbing a few boxes but a woodpecker goes off again. One man is wounded an two make it back alright. 8 more men volunteer to act as rescue party. Five from our outfit and three from an ack ack outfit. By this time the japs are getting impatient. They open fire as a rescue party reaches level ground. We are given orders to start firing. Japs probably get scared

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because they quit firing so we cease too. Save ammo. Out of the rescue party 3 more men are killed. Sgt. Carmine, our first Sgt being one of them. Again these deaths are caused by the woodpecker. - Lt. Col. H.R. Imbt our communications officer finally silences the woodpecker with four well placed grenades. 2937 hrs. Still no word from 11th Airborne & Engrs.

1100 hrs. Got message from 11th Airborne that they had to mop up a jap artillery position that's the reason for the delay.

1407. We send message to our artillery to help. They throw up an artillery barrage but the shells land in our area. Gen. Crabb our Commanding Gen. is pretty well mad about it. We radio back and soon the shells land on the jap's side. We get another message that 400 more jap infantry are on their way here from the West of Barauen. That's bad. Our casualties are high now and we're low on ammunition.

1620 hrs. We eat chow. Pretty good.

1533 hrs. Another message comes in saying Filipino guerrillas and a few American Inf. Men of the 37th Div. have ambushed the 400 japs that are headed this way.

1703 hrs. We can see more men coming up from the Valley from the South of Barauen. The CO has just told us those men coming up the Valley are the men from the Engineers. That's music to every body's ears. Now things will start breaking loose WE have just received word to start firing so as to attract the jap's attention to us. Now the japs are firing back at us. Their fire is too close for comfort. The japs that are left are estimated at 115 men but by the fire they are throwing at us it sounds like 200. We are 155 strong. Our casualties today are four killed and twenty four wounded. The dough boys have signaled us to hold our fire till dawn. We quit firing and everything is quiet again. Japs haven't spotted our infantry yet.

1919 hrs. All is quiet but by the sounds below the japs are bringing mortars.

1925 hrs. Two japs infiltrated just 20 ft from our left flank. They threw grenades. One man was wounded in his fox hole and another in his tent. This brings total up to 26 wounded. The two nips escaped.

2000 hrs. Knee mortars start firing at us. This goes on for 2 strait hrs but no casualties are inflicted although our mess hall is wrecked. Will have to heat K-rations tomorrow.

Dec 8 - At 0635 hrs. Real battle for Baraven starts. Inf. & Engrs start advancing on japs from the West. In a moment we will be given orders to start firing again to attract attention.

0638 hrs. We are given the order to fire. We start firing and we pour plenty of lead in the jap lines. I think I fired 100 rounds in 10 minutes and my rifle is almost too hot to handle. - Now the inf is within range and we quit firing. Now the inf is firing but I am too far down in my fox hole to notice whats gong on. All I know is the japs are caught in a cross fire and if any of them come out alive they're plenty lucky.

0111 Battle has been going on for almost two hours. We fire down occasionally to keep japs away from our positions. 1100 hrs Firing has ceased now and everything is quiet. Men are coming out of their holes to see what's happened. By the looks of it I think the battle has ended. I think it is over because an infantry officer is talking with our CO.

1110 hrs The fighting is over and the casualties are coming out. From our outfit 4 men killed, 24 wounded seriously, 3 wounded slightly, 9 men missing. The Inf. lost 7 men killed, 30 wounded, 3 or 4 missing. From other Units: 960th Engrs: 12 men wounded, none killed; AAA BTTY 5 men killed, none wounded. Altogether 16 men killed, 69 wounded, 13 missing.

Dec 10 - Orders have been given us that we are going in on an invasion. We start packing up and about 12 midnight everything is loaded on the LST, we shove off at 0430 Dec 11, 1945. LST 612 - On this convoy we have over 200 ships with 6 aircraft carriers, 4 battleships, 60 destroyers, and 20 destroyer escorts. The purpose of this invasion is to act as decoys. To center the enemy's attention on us. Reenforcements would probably be flown from Luzon and it would weaken that island for the second invasion.

Dec 11 - Everything is quiet. We are in the Visayan Sea.

Dec 12 - 0700 hrs. We are passing Negros Island. Jap shore batteries are opening up on our convoy but we are at least 1/2 mile out of their range. We keep on going.

Dec 14 - Nothing has happened this day. We are in the Sulu Sea now between Panay Island and Negros.

Dec 14 - I am woken up at 0430 hrs to go on KP. I come out on deck and to the port side I see a big fire. A sailor tells me that a jap tanker got in the way so they just threw a few shells at it.

11:30 - There's a commotion on deck and I rush out just in time to see a plane dive head-on into a heavy cruiser. Here come two more planes. One attempts a dive on the same cruiser but misses. Two more planes are coming from the north. I think they're all around us. The sky is full of black smoke from ack ack. A plane drops a few bombs on a destroyer but misses. There goes one plane, into the drink.

1145 hrs. Things are quieting down now. Six planes were shot down, but not from Navy gun. We hear later on that P-38's did the work. The cruiser is still smoking but the fire is under control. The name of the cruiser is Tennessee.

1200 We're all at chow and once again, everything is quiet.

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Dec 15 - We have sighted the Island of Mindoro now. It is 0600 hrs and everyone is on deck. At 0616 the Navy starts firing on the beaches. Rockets and up to 16 inch guns are fired. On the LCI's the first assault is lining up. The Navy is pounding the shore harder. Two assault waves are on their way to the beaches.

0700 hrs. The first wave 24th Inf. Div. lands at White Beach. Twenty minutes later the second wave hits Red Beach at San Jose. The remaining 3rd and 4th waves are landing at other points.

0145 hrs. Planes have just been sighted in the horizon. They must be enemy planes. Gun crews are getting ready. They are enemy planes. They're coming in from every direction. One is circling above over LST and coming down. Hits LST 673. Another plane takes a dive on the same LST. For sure that ship is doomed. I can see soldier and sailors jumping off. - There must be about 30 planes. Almost every ship is firing up at the planes. The sky is dotted with flak smoke. There goes another plane headed for LST - 710 - It crashed and LST 710 is also hit and burning. So far our LST has been fortunate. More planes coming. Everything is being thrown at them. One plane is circling in front of us. This ship is firing at it. Now the plane climbs for altitude and is heading right straight for our ship and its time I get ready to jump in the water. I tried to get under the forward 40MM gun for protection from strafing, but other guys beat me to it. All I can do now is wait. It seems like 20 minutes - that this one plane has been diving at us. He is strafing now and I'm praying as hard as I can - The plane is headed for our ships midsection. Every shot these sailors fire into it seems to be hitting but still the plane keeps coming. its ready to crash on us. These sailors are damn good gunners. - There's more planes hitting the water. We have experienced a show by the famous Kamikaze corps.

Its 0830 now and all is almost quiet. The rest of the Jap plans have turned tail. - We are pulling up to shore now ready to land. Two hours after the Inf on D-Day 0900 hrs - Our LST has beached and we are already unloading. The Inf patrols are watching for snipers while we bring in supplies. So far this invasion has gone smooth. Hardly any Jap Inf opposition has been encountered but plenty of air opposition. We lost 3 LSTs and one destroyer sunk today by the Kamikaze corps. Two hundred & 26 air corps personnel killed in this action. 107 wounded, 30 missing. Our unit lost 6 men killed and two wounded.

1000 hrs. We are still unloading and a lone jap recon plane has passed over. Dropped a couple bombs but did no damage. Plane got away.

1200 hrs. We're on our way inland going to Truck. We have to follow bulldozers to pave a road. Camp site is only 20 miles from first beach but it takes us all day to get there.

1800 hrs. Start pitching camp for the night. Our radar isn't working so we have to be on lookout for enemy planes.

2200 hrs. In the sack. Everything OK so far.

Dec 16 - 0200. Planes come in. Go over our area. Drop a few daisy cutters and head for the ships anchored. Can't see what goes on from where we are but it looks bad. Phosphorous bombs are dropping everywhere. - We are kept awake all night.

0700 hrs. Eating chow where all of a sudden a "Tony" drops in on us unexpectedly. We hit the dirt. The A A (Ack Ack) batteries shoot him down. Now everything is quiet again. 1600 - Nothing new, went out on patrol.

1700 hrs. Looks like we all have another busy night. Planes are starting to come in again. They give us a busy job and doing so three are knocked down by A.A. The rest are going. Will probably be back later.

2100 hrs. Planes are back and this time not one is shot down but they bomb hell out of our camp. No casualties. — Went to bed at 0300 hrs Dec 17.

Dec 17 - Japs are getting bolder. They payed us a visit this morning while we were having chow. Nine Came in and three went back. P38's from Leyte gave us help. They shot down 5 planes & AA accounted for one.

0900 hrs. Half our outfit moved to new location. We are to follow later the next day.

Dec 18. We moved today.

Notes (Source: Wikipedia):

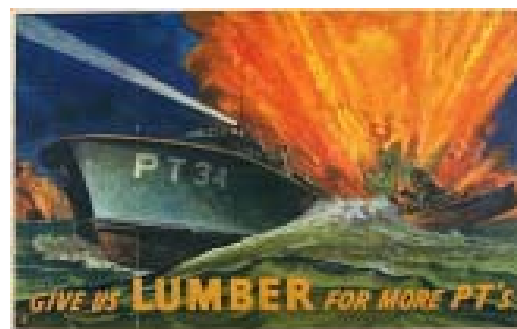
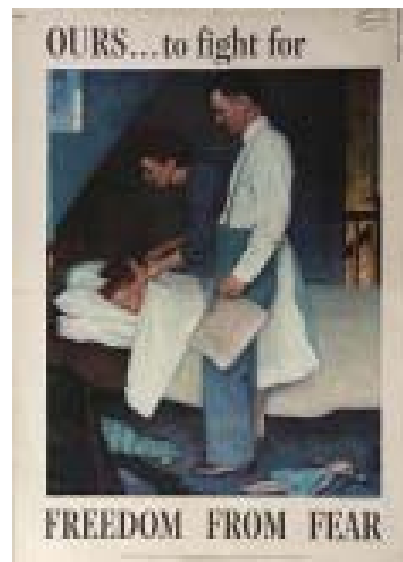
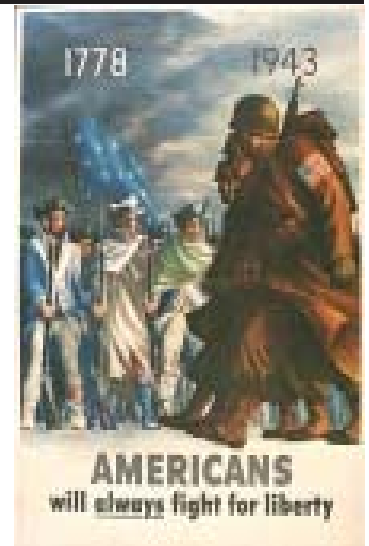
The **315th Bombardment Wing** (315th BW) was part of the 20th Air Force. The 315th BW engaged in very heavy bombardment B-29 Superfortress operations against Japan.

The **310 Bombardment Wing, Medium** was a command and control echelon of 5th in the Southwest Pacific theater, controlling numerous fighter and bomber groups and squadrons until the Japanese surrender in 1945. Its attached units flew missions against Japanese shipping, coastal installations, gun positions, airdromes, and troop concentrations. Fighting in New Guinea and later the Philippine Islands, attached fighter units flew escort for bombing, supply, and reconnaissance missions. Inactivated in Japan during early 1946.

Landing Ship, Tank (LST) was the military designation for naval vessels created during WWII to support amphibious operations by carrying significant quantities of vehicles, cargo, and landing troops directly onto an unimproved shore.

White phosphorus (WP) is a material made from a common allotrope of the chemical element phosphorus that is used in smoke, tracer, illumination and incendiary munitions. As an incendiary weapon, WP burns fiercely and can set cloth, fuel, ammunition and other combustibles on fire. Since WWII, it has been extensively used as a weapon, capable of causing serious burns or death. White phosphorus is used in bombs, artillery, and mortars, short-range missiles which burst into burning flakes of phosphorus upon impact.

WWII POSTERS



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, Navran, Stephen S., Sr., Pilot/Aircraft Commander, Navran Crew (7), DOD August 15, 2010, Scottsdale, Arizona, reported by his son, Stephen Navran, Jr.

529th, Keefe (O'Keefe), William E., Navigator, Deaner Crew (51), DOD September 2010, Albuquerque, New Mexico, reported by Al Busedu

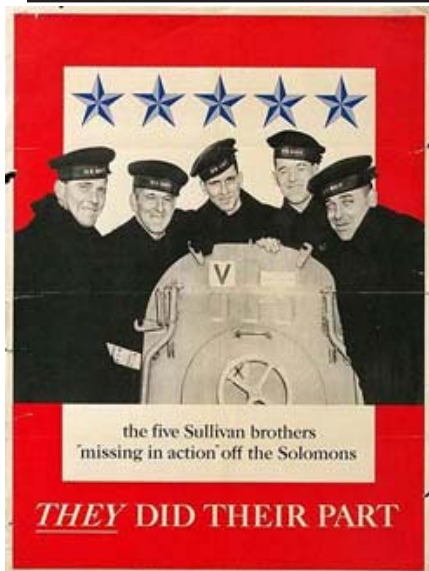
530th, Gronkowski, Leonard B., Gunner, Ross/Handorf Crew (57) and Krueger Crew (64), DOD August 10, 2010, Cheney, Washington, reported by his son, Rick, and grandson, Michael

530th, Heywood, Ralph E., Bombardier, Dougherty Crew (79), September 2006, Westfield, Massachusetts, reported by his daughter, Dawna Heywood Edmonds

530th/RAAF, Horswood, Gordon William (Bill), Flight Engineer, Lister Crew (71A), DOD February 12, 2010, Marochy Dore, Queensland, Australia, reported by his grandson, Justin Horswood

530th, Russell, Charles H., Pilot, Forest Crew (80), DOD January 09, 1963, Maynard, Massachusetts, reported by his son, Bill Russell

531st/Group, Colie, Ray W., Jr., 53st/Gunner, Blum Crew (91), Group/Gunnery Instructor, January 21, 1993, Dayton, Ohio, reported by his grandson, Matthew Ulrich



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