



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

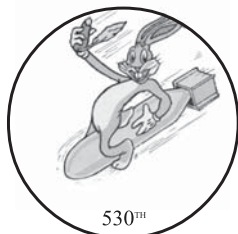
AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

## The Flying Circus



NEWSLETTER #50

Spring 2012



### *Contents of this Issue*

2012 Reunion

Shady Lady Documentary Update

Hopi Code Talker Day - April 23, 2012



Mail Call

Photos from

TAPS

Address Changes

#### HISTORIANS

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

#### HISTORY PROJECT

Theodore J. Williams

#### 2012 REUNION COORDINATOR

Barb Gotham  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**  
**10/31 - 11/4/2012**

#### NEWSLETTERS –

#### WEBPAGES – FINANCIAL

Barbara J. Gotham  
Phone: 765/463-5390  
Email: 380th.ww2@gmail.com

#### **2012 Reunion Links:**

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome:

<http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/reservation/roomrate>  
(Group Code BGA)

Airport Shuttle: [www.airportshuttleneworleans.com](http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com)

Airport Limousine: <http://www.airportlimousineneworleans.com/>

Next issue: Summer 2012 (to be mailed in July/August 2012)

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## *2012 REUNION - THE "FIRST OF THE LAST HURRAHS"*

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The location for the 2012 380th Reunion is the ***Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome, New Orleans.***

***Reunion dates: October 31 - November 4, 2012***

**Hotel registration information: in this issue.  
Event registration will be in the Summer 2012 issue.**

We will have our memorial service at the National WW2 Museum on Friday, November 2 - we will also have lunch there, museum tours, and see their 4D movie narrated by Tom Hanks.

***Here's a rough outline of the reunion schedule:***

10/31, Wednesday - early arrivals; optional group activity (such as Mardi Gras World or Swamp Tour); registration/hospitality room afternoon/evening

11/1, Thursday - more arrivals; optional group activity (City/Katrina Tour); registrations in hospitality room; welcome reception/dinner in evening at hotel

11/2, Friday - National WW2 Museum: Memorial Service, luncheon, tours, film; dinner on own

11/3, Saturday - morning member meeting; afternoon on own; evening banquet/music/dancing at hotel

11/4, Sunday - departures

### ***REUNION EVENTS UPDATE:***

We are trying to get a private showing of the "Shady Lady" documentary at a theatre in New Orleans during our reunion. Once I find out if that can be arranged, I may need to adjust the rest of the schedule to accommodate that event. I plan on having a final schedule for the Summer Newsletter (#51) and online at that time.

In the meantime, here are estimated costs for events, so if needed you can plan your travel

budget with these in mind. Please note these are *estimates only and subject to change.*

### ***Registration fees:***

Adults, \$20/per person

Children <18, \$10/pp

***Hospitality Room fees*** (daily continental breakfast, snacks, refreshments, drinks):

\$20/per person

***Welcome Buffet*** (Thurs evening): \$35/pp

***Memorial Service, Lunch, Film and Tours at the National World War II Museum (Friday):***

Bus transport: \$15/pp (round trip)

Luncheon: \$15/pp

Museum (includes film and tour):

WWII vets: free

Seniors 65+ and wives of vets: \$15/pp

Adults: \$20/pp

Students: \$10/pp

***Banquet*** (Sat evening): \$35/pp

***Optional tours*** (these options may change, depending on availability and interest):

*Wednesday afternoon:*

Option 1: Mardi Gras World (tour and transport)

Seniors (65+): \$25/pp

All Others: \$30/pp

Option 2: 3.5 hour Swamp Tour: \$40/pp

These two Wednesday options could both be offered at the same time; if so, you would pick only one.

*Thursday:*

3-4 hour City/Katrina tour: \$35/pp

If we are able to arrange the "Shady Lady" film showing, there may be additional costs for that - I can only guess that there would be some fee for transportation to the theatre and possibly admission charge - perhaps \$20-25/person??

Questions? Contact Barb Gotham! (317-463-5390 or 765-412-5370 - Eastern time zone)

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## 2012 REUNION - NEW ORLEANS

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### LOUIS ARMSTRONG NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

#### AIRLINES:

AirCanada: 1-888-247-2262

AirTran: 1-800-247-8726

American Airlines: 1-800-433-7300

Continental Airlines: 1-800-525-0280

Delta: 1-800-221-1212

Frontier: 1-800-432-1359

JetBlue: 1-800-538-2583

Southwest: 1-800-435-9792

United: 1-800-241-6522

US Airways: 1-800-428-4322

#### GROUND TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS:

##### Taxicabs:

A cab ride costs \$33.00 from the airport to the Central Business District (CBD) for one or two persons and \$14.00 (per passenger) for three or more passengers. Pick-up is on the lower level, outside the baggage claim area. There may be an additional charge for extra baggage. Taxis are required to offer a credit card payment option.

##### Airport Shuttle:

Shuttle service is available from the airport to the hotels in the CBD for \$20.00 (per person, one-way) or \$38.00 (per person, round-trip). Three bags per person. Call 1-866-596-2699 or (504) 522-3500 for more details or to make a reservation. Advance reservations are required 48 hours prior to travel for all ADA accessible transfers. Please call in advance of your travel date for the specially-equipped shuttle to be reserved. For group reservations of 50 or more people please dial 1-866-596-2699. Ticket booths are located on the lower level in the baggage claim area. [www.airportshuttleneworleans.com](http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com).

##### Airport Limousines:

Airport Limousine is the official limousine service for Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Convenient kiosks are located in the baggage claim area and no hassle curbside pickups are available. Rates begin at \$58 for 1 or 2 passengers. Visit their web site for more information/reservations.

#### LODGING RESERVATIONS:



Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome  
330 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana

**Rates:** \$129+ tax for 1 king bed non-smoking or 2 double beds non-smoking.

Thank you for selecting the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome to host the overnight accommodations for your event scheduled from 31-Oct-2012 to 04-Nov-2012. Your group rates are valid for booking from 19-Jan-2012 through 03-Sep-2012.

As an added benefit for selecting our hotel, we are pleased to offer you a convenient electronic booking (e-booking) link to share with your guests. Clicking on the link below will take you to the hotel's reservation web page that will pre-populate with your special group code. Your guests will enjoy the convenience of confirming their room reservations online, at the group-negotiated rate - 24 hours a day. The e-booking link is:

<http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/reservation/roomrate>

Your Group Code is BGA

If you or your attendees wish to extend your stay outside of these dates, you will need to book a separate reservation on the website or contact us directly at Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome (+1) (504) 581-1600 Ext: 4212. Your rate will also be available 2 days before and 2 days after reunion dates.

Please advise your guests to make their reservations as soon as possible. The rate will be valid as long as we have rooms available, up to and including 03-Sep-2012.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact:

Jessica Van Deventer  
Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome (MSYDT)  
(+1) (504) 5811600 Ext: 4212  
[jvande@hi-neworleans.com](mailto:jvande@hi-neworleans.com)

ROOM RESERVATIONS MADE AFTER 03-SEPT-2012 ARE  
SUBJECT TO ROOM AVAILABILITY.

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## *THE MILITARY FAMILY RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY*

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On a recent tour of two new facilities at Purdue University, Barb Gotham learned about the Military Family Research Institute (MFRI).

### MISSION

Through research and outreach, the Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) works closely with collaborators to improve the lives of service members and their families in Indiana and across the country. More than 2 million military service members have been deployed since Sept. 11, 2001, many serving multiple tours in combat zones thousands of miles from home. Their families serve too, managing challenges and opportunities unique to the military lifestyle. At MFRI, we work every day as a “force multiplier” for the support of military families in and beyond Indiana. Our efforts and leadership are helping to enhance our state’s reputation in military circles, and have caused us to be sought out by local, state and national decision makers for advice and collaboration.

### GOALS

MFRI is guided by five strategic goals:

1. Support the military infrastructure that supports families.
2. Strengthen the motivation and capacity of civilian communities to support military families.
3. Generate important new knowledge about military families.
4. Influence policies, programs, and practices supporting military families.
5. Create and sustain a vibrant learning organization.

### OPERATION DIPLOMA

MFRI created an education and employment initiative, Operation Diploma, to work specifically with Indiana’s post-secondary institutions and student veterans’ organizations. Operation Diploma has awarded nearly \$2.5 million to help create supportive programs and services for student service members and veterans. By helping to strengthen campus and workforce support, Operation Diploma assists these students in their pursuit of their academic and employment goals.

### OUTREACH

The Outreach team helps to design and administer programs that apply research findings to real world situations. Some of our initiatives supplement programs provided by branches of the Armed Forces to help service members through reintegration. Others work independently to help communities better serve and embrace the military families in their midst. Partnerships with researchers and practitioners from the military and civilian communities enable us to design and execute activities to assist military families throughout Indiana and beyond.

### RESEARCH

MFRI’s Research team conducts and analyzes studies that provide insight into the experiences of military members and their families. Partners include Sesame Street Workshop, ZERO TO THREE, the Indiana National Guard and The National Healthy Marriage Resource Center. Projects include Coming Together Around Military Families, Life After Deployment and Family Journeys.

### Sources of Support

The Military Family Research Institute is funded through a variety of sources. These include:

- Gifts and grants from major foundations
- Grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements from federal funders
- Contributions from MFRI advocates and other supporting individuals and organizations
- Non-profit organizations who seek us as partners

If you would like to become an advocate or provide support on any level for the efforts of MFRI to improve the lives of military families in Indiana and across the country, please contact:

Martina Sternberg, Assistant Director -- [msternbe@purdue.edu](mailto:msternbe@purdue.edu)

Military Family Research Institute  
Hanley Hall Room 210  
1202 W. State Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2055  
<http://www.cfs.purdue.edu/mfri/>

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## *SHADY LADY DOCUMENTARY UPDATE*

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Fact Not Fiction Films Ltd  
Business Resource Centre  
Mile Stone House  
86 Hurst Road  
Horsham  
West Sussex  
RH12 2DT

**FACT NOT FICTION FILMS**

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Fax: 01403 733150 (Int'l + 44 1403 733150)

VAT Number: 895 7375 56 Company Number: 5962244  
Registered office address: 55 Worthing Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1TD

See other photos and clips from filming on SHADY LADY Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Shady-Lady/167694323310763>



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## HOPI CODE TALKER EVENT - APRIL 23, 2012

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Bob and Ruth Beelman represented the 380th (and the 90th) at the Hopi Code Talker Recognition Day on April 23 at Kykotsmovi, Arizona. Ruth is the sister of John W. Jackson, 531st Squadron.

Here is Bob's account and photos from the event.

### HOPI CODE TALKER DAY

We are back and I have had a bit of time to think. We feel the focus should be on Rex Pooyouma (pronounced POO YAMA), his role in the 380th, his family, the Hopi Tribe and their tribute. As little as possible about us and our attendance. It was quite an experience.

We drove the 60 miles or so into the reservation to the Kykotsmovi Veterans Memorial Center, near Kykotsmovi, AZ. It is a very large, relatively new building. We arrived about 9:20 AM. There were many dignitaries, from the state government, Chairman (Chief) of the Pawnee, Cherokee, and other tribes. A Color Guard drove up from Fort Huachuca to march in and present the colors. Major General Beck, Commander of the 81st Regional Support Command, gave an excellent speech. The Chairman of the Hopi Tribe gave a talk and I gave most of the speech I had prepared.

Then the Plaques were presented. Rex Pooyouma's wife and family were there and said it good they finally recognized his service as a code talker.

After the ceremony we had a buffet catered lunch. There were a couple hundred people. After lunch two Hopi dance groups danced to the beat of the drums and chanters. The General and his staff of about 5, another couple, and us were put in SUVs and we drove to First Mesa. Ruth and I were with the daughter of Oliver Wadsworth (Maxine Wadsworth). She is an assistant to the Hopi Chairman. Also in the car was the wife of the Assistant Chairman. She is the expert on Tribal customs. They filled us in on Hopi life and beliefs. Pointed out places of interest. It is a matriarch society. Women own all property and land. Men are brought up to work hard to take care of the women. The men, when they marry, become a member of the wife's clan and go live in her village.

We stopped at First Mesa where the oldest villages are. They are very high up on a mesa with sheer walls. The sheer walls protected them from attack by Apache, Pawnee, Navajo, the Spanish, and others. There are 3 villages up there. The oldest village, about 900 AD, requires a guide, no pictures, and many ceremonies are held in Kivas there. These are underground rooms. They pray and dance to the Katsinas (Kachinas) for rain and good corn crops. Their lives, in many ways, revolve around the growing of corn. They grow dry corn crops, with special seed they have developed over the years.

We then went on the second mesa, and later the third mesa for a pot luck dinner. After the dinner, the General, each member of his staff, and Ruth and I were given Kachinas for our help in their celebration. A sidelight is to remember who really runs the Tribe: the women. On the General's staff was a young female sergeant. They gave her a large, beautiful painting, and a child Kachina.

We learned much more than I can write here about family life, beliefs, and ceremonies. They took us back to our car about 7:15 PM. We drove the hour+ back to the hotel. A long and wonderful day.

It was a privilege to participate in the recognition of these Hopi Code Talkers.

BOB, RUTH AND POOYOUNA FAMILY



Bob and Ruth Beelman Receiving Commemorative Plaque for the 380<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association, from, Vice Chairman, Herman Honanie, The Hopi Tribe.





# HOPI CODE TALKER EVENT - APRIL 23, 2012

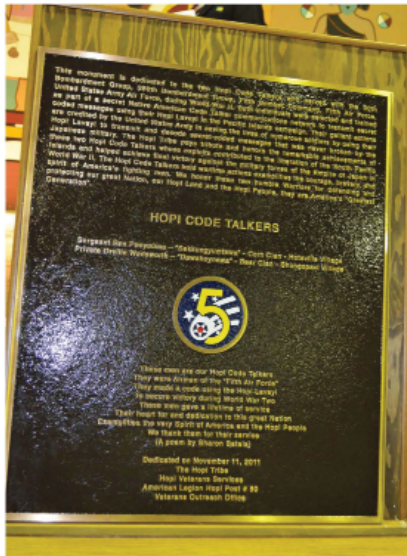


Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe, Herman Honanie giving plaque to Major General Gill P. Beck, Commanding General 81<sup>st</sup> Regional Support Command.

POOYOUA FAMILY, BOB, RUTH WITH FIFTH AIR FORCE PLAQUE.



When the Fifth Air Force Code Talkers were identified a new LARGE Plaque for the Fifth Air Force Hopi Code Talkers was created for this event.



A third, new large Plaque, showing all 10 Hopi Code Talkers was also created, with their pictures, and the logo of both the 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force and the 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division.



Miniature Plaques of the large 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry, and, Fifth Air Force plaques, were created for presentation to the families, the 380<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association, and the 90<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association. This is what we received. It is about 12" by 14", and is very nice.



This is the plaque that the Beelmans accepted on behalf of the 380th. Barb Gotham now has it and will bring to the New Orleans Reunion.



Walpi Village, First Mesa. 900 AD. Earliest and most sacred village

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## HOPI CODE TALKER EVENT - APRIL 23, 2012

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### FROM A HANDOUT AT THE HOPI CODE TALKERS CEREMONY

Rex Pooyouma was identified as a ninth Hopi Code Talker who assigned to the 380th Bombardment Group. Later in October 2010, Orville Wadsworth was also identified as the 10th Hopi Code Talker who was assigned to the 90th Bombardment Group. Both individuals were selected and trained as part of a secret Native American Code Talker communications network to transmit secret coded messages using their Hopi Lavayil in the Pacific campaign with the Fifth Bomber command, Fifth Air Force, United States Army Air Force. Their heroic actions are credited by the United States Army in saving the lives of numerous soldiers by using their Hopi language to communicate messages in combat which contributed to the final victory in the Pacific and eventually to the successful end of WWII.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

All other Code Talkers, OF ANY TRIBE, have the rank of Private First Class. The Army had no path for promotion of Code talkers. Rex Pooyouma is the only one found who was a sergeant. It is surmised that he had a commander who saw his worth, and gave him other duties that would allow for promotion.

Three years ago the Hopi Tribe discovered they had eight Hopi Code Talkers in the 81st Infantry Division in the Pacific. They had a pivotal role in direct combat during the invasion of several Islands. This was extremely important to the Hopi Tribe and they were honored in ceremonies. A very large plaque was created and displayed in their Veterans Hall. Finding out, later, they had two more in the Fifth Air Force was icing on the cake. A new large plaque for the two in the Fifth Air Force was presented at this year's ceremony. The plaque given to the 380th is a miniature of that plaque.

To learn more about The Hopi Tribe, please see:

<http://www.hopi-nsn.gov/Home/tabid/59/Default.aspx>

<http://www.hopi-nsn.gov/TribalGovernment/tabid/64/Default.aspx>

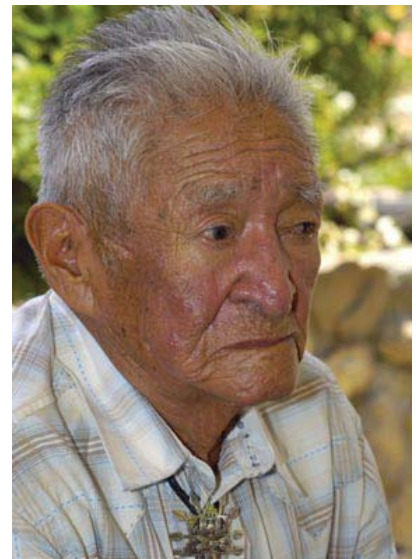
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hopi>

Please see this article about the 2012 Hopi Code Talker event:  
<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/05/24/hopi-code-talkers-honored-35469>



On the plaque, and in the brochure, Rex Pooyouma is identified as: Sergeant Rex Pooyouma – “Sekyoung’yum’tewa” – Corn Clan – Hoteville Village

Rex Pooyouma was the only code talker on the 380th Headquarters staff and conducted all secret communications. This saved lives, not only among air crew, but on the ground, due to the success of the missions. Casualties were high, but, would have been much higher.



<http://www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1086&ArticleID=106247>

Rex Pooyouma, shown here during the 2007 Prescott Indian Market at Sharlot Hall Museum. Pooyouma and other Hopis were honored recently at the first official Hopi Code Talker Memorial.



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## OLD ENEMIES BECOME FRIENDS IN SUYE MURA, JAPAN

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As a wireless operator/air gunner in the RAAF in World War II, I flew on many bombing missions over the Japanese bases in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia).

In 1966 my job was Senior Tutor in Geography at the University of Sydney. I'd been invited to read a paper at the Pacific Science Congress to be held in Tokyo in August. I did some checking on articles about Japan, and found and read the book by anthropologist John Embree, on Suye Mura, written in 1936. I decided to take extra leave and undertake a time-lapse study on that same village in Kyushu.

At the Congress, I was able to talk a Japanese geographer into accompanying me as interpreter. We duly arrived at Hitoyoshi, the nearest small town to Suye Mura, where we hired push-bikes. We would ride the 5 miles out to the village each morning to walk around, talk to people, take photographs, etc., before returning at night to Hitoyoshi.

After two or three days of this, the village headman [soncho] of Suye Mura invited us, as we were doing work that would benefit his village, to come and stay at his home. This invitation was gladly accepted, and we stayed for five or six days with him -- a most interesting experience for me, of course, but would have been better if I'd had some Japanese language.

Anyway, after a couple of days, one night after the evening meal, and after we had been summing each other up, the Soncho, Genro Morinaga by name, asked me, "You in the war?"

I said, "Yes, how about you?"

"Yes," he said, "What did you do?"

I replied that I had been a flyer, in bombers. "What did you do?"

He said, "I was an ack-ack gunner."

"Very interesting," says I, "where were you based?"

"Oh," says he, "in a little out-of-the-way town on the northern tip of New Guinea, place you've never heard of named Manokwari."

"Really," says I, "I certainly have heard of it and was over Manokwari, bombing the airstrip or shipping on three or four occasions. You were terrible shots; didn't come anywhere near us!"

"Well, you blokes weren't so hot either," says he. "After you'd dropped all your bombs in the bay, we'd send boats out to collect the dead fish for our dinner!"

Well, we both laughed, stood up and hugged each other -- two men who 22 years before had been trying to kill each other, now able to have a friendly laugh about it. And we did exchange friendly, newsy letters, and send little gifts, for some years. He couldn't read or write English of course, but his educated eldest daughter could and did. About twelve years later his letters ceased, so I assumed he had died.

A wonderful, one in a million experience for me, and one which I will always treasure -- the best sort of war story.

Richard Dakeyne

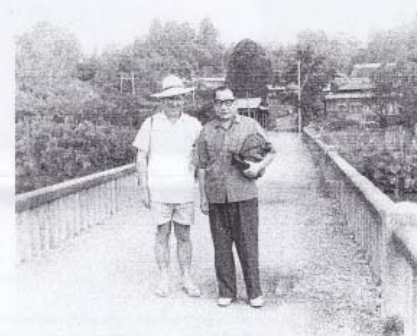
18 April 2011

RAAF 528th/530th Squadrons, Gunner/RCM Operator, Various Crews

[I checked my logbook and was over Manokwari on 19.8.43, 5.9.43, 18.4.44, 19.5.44]



Genro Morinaga (back right) with his wife and 3 daughters and old father (centre front).



Richard Dakeyne with Genro Morinaga in Suye Mura, late August 1966.  
("I got on TV clad like this; camera focussed on my shorts and bare legs -- unusual in Japan". RD)

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## MAIL CALL

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Apr 24, 2012

I was just reviewing the 380th website and I thought I would send this poor photo to you. My father, Fred Carlage, was a flight navigator in the 529 squadron. The plane pictured may be the Miss Hap. On the top row left to right: Pilot Ivey, Co-Pilot Hansen, Navigator Carlage, Bombardier Smith. Bottom row left to right: Engineer Imondi, Asst. Engr. South, Radio man Ellingson, Gunner Ahern, Gunner Pickens, Tail Gunner Brusso. This picture was taken at the Pueblo Air Force base.

I have my father's war album which has approx 150-200 pictures. I snapped this photo with a digital camera and I can't get the glare out but I would be happy to have it reprinted for you.

My father is still living at 95 and he believes he is the last survivor of the Ivey crew.

Keep up the good work, Bruce Carlage  
hoosiers@charter.net



Feb 4, 2012

I finally got a photo of the very Spitfire that had the head-on crash with Queer Dear/Deer on 18th September 1944; its serial number was A58-435 with Rego QY-T, Arthur Kelly's nephew in Adelaide mailed it to me along with some letters dated 1993 to his nephew Keith from another Pilot named Ron Cundy; he had the Spitfire before A.K. Kelly took it over. It also included another letter to Arthur's wife from F/o Harold Freckelton, dated 18th Oct 1944 just 1 month after the accident, Harold was also in the group of Spitfires doing practice attacks on 380th BG B-24s and had seen the accident happen.

Doug Tilley  
dtilley5@bigpond.com



Apr 28, 2012

We had our Anzac Day earlier this week on the 25th, I had a spare Poppy so I placed it on the 380th Bomb Group plaque in the gardens at the Adelaide River War Cemetery.

Thanks to all those brave Americans gave all from Australian soil.

Doug Tilley



May 25, 2012

My grandfather just passed away on Tuesday. I have been thinking about him a lot. I am only 25, so not that old, but I remember when I was a kid he used to tell stories about the war all the time. In recent years he has not talked about it as much just because he became more quiet as he got older, I think it's common for people to get more quiet as they age. So I never really got a chance to talk to him about the war recently. I knew a lot about what he went through and some of the missions he was in. But I was not sure exactly what air force he served in, never mind the bomb group and squadron number.

His name is George Leaska, he was a tail gunner in a B-24. By searching the internet I found your website and found out that he served in the 5th Air Force, 380th bomb group, 530th squadron, in air crew #64. Barnett was the flight commander, I have heard him mention the name Barnett before. Some of the other names sound familiar too.

Since my grandfather just passed away I am still very emotional about it. But websites like this help me feel like I can reconnect with him. I just want to thank you for preserving the history of what my grandfather and all the other veterans went through. Preserving this history and allowing their legacy live on is extremely important to me. In the coming days I will spend time looking through your website. I hope that I can find a picture of my grandfather's flight crew, with him in the picture. I'm not sure if anybody else from air crew #64 is still alive. I think my grandfather may have been the last surviving member because I know he was the youngest person in the crew, he was only 17 when he enlisted in 1943.

Thank you so much,

Christopher Urena      urena.christopher@gmail.com

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## MAIL CALL

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Mar 31, 2012

I am sure the 380th Bomb Group Association knows that its former Commander, Colonel Forrest Lee Brissey died about 40 days ago. I am honored to join his family in a private memorial service in Anacortes, Washington this afternoon. He, like all of you who served in the 380th, were great Americans. I shall salute him from all of you!

If you like I shall report to you following the service today.

Richard D. Iversen, Col, USAF, Ret  
Former Commander, 528th Bomb Sq, Plattsburg AFB, NY,  
Honorary Member, 380th Bomb Group Association  
aviatoriver@gmail.com

Apr 6, 2012

Thanks for your thoughts on my father's passing, Barbara. We will see if we can come the reunion in New Orleans this Fall.

Lee Brissey III  
leebrissey@comcast.net

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12/27/11

My maternal grandfather, Bernard Shashaguay, died a week ago. Upon his death, my mother (Sally, who is cc'ed on this email) and some of her siblings discovered some papers and books that have raised questions about his military service. The family had known that my grandfather served in the army in Asia during WWII, but he had never talked about his service and no one had any reason to believe that his service involved anything of note. His discharged papers, however, reveal that he received some awards as a Technical Sergeant for the 531st Squadron of the 380th Bomb Group from 1942 to 1945. We were very surprised by this information. This information led us to your website, 380th.org, where my grandfather is included on your roster.

The information we have has prompted more questions than we'll ever get answered. But I write in hopes that, given your work with the 380th, you might be able to shed some light on a few things.

Your website lists my grandfather as "Ground Staff, Engineering, Technical Supply, Quartermaster Supply Technician; Administrative NCO." What does all of this mean?

What did my grandfather actually do? I know you may not be able to answer specifically, but I'm hoping for general information about what someone with his title would have done for the 531st.

My grandfather earned some awards. Would you be able to explain what the awards were for, and what he might have done to earn them? We've been able to figure some of them out by searching online, but your expertise would be appreciated. I can email you the entire list. For example, he was awarded two bronze battle stars and one silver battle stars. (Side note: sadly, we've been unable to locate most of his awards, including the three stars.)

His discharge papers list all of the places he served. I can share this information if it would be helpful in answering these questions.

I'm sure I'll have other questions as well. Perhaps I can call you sometime to discuss this? Or, if you can direct my inquiry to a more appropriate person, I'd greatly appreciate it.

Finally, based on your website, it appears that you hold reunions and provide a way for members of the 380th to stay connected. Would it be possible for you to make some sort of announcement (by email, in your newsletter, or some other way) that the family of Bernie Shashaguay is looking to be in touch with anyone who might have served with him? Any chance to get a first hand account, or possibly copies of photos, from someone who served with my grandfather would be very special. Of course, I would make a contribution to your organization to cover the costs of your efforts.

Many thanks for any assistance you are able to provide. My phone number is 734-276-1489 if a telephone call would be simpler than responding to my email in writing. Or, as I indicated, email me your phone number and I'll call you.

Take care.

Andrew Lievense  
ajlievense@hotmail.com



## MAIL CALL

10/9/11

Going through files in the National Australian Archives and found this file. Doug Tilley dtilley5@bigpond.com

HAYDN LENNARD.

No. 3.

Recorded 1.30pm  
28.6.44

What is <sup>PROBABLY</sup> ~~believed to be~~ a world's record <sup>IN AN AIR FORCE</sup> belongs to an old <sup>AMERICAN BUILT</sup> Liberator still <sup>ATTACKING</sup> hammering the Japs from a northern Australian base.

This old lady -- known as Gus's bus the Second" -- made fortyfour consecutive missions against the enemy without turning back to her base.

To-day her mission record is past the fifty mark, <sup>SHE HAS</sup> with only one space missing on the long line of bombs painted on her side. <sup>WHICH</sup> These bombs denote completed missions.

Already Gus's Bus the Second has flown <sup>ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND</sup> 18500 miles and she's still going strong.

She has three times completed the 2,800 mile flight to Balikpapan and back -- has been intercepted on sixty percent of her missions -- but <sup>EACH TIME</sup> has brought her crew home safely ~~after~~ fighting her way out of the Jap zerds.

Pilot of this Liberator is freckle-faced sandy-haired Augustus V. Connery of East Providence Rhode Island who has nearly four hundred combat hours to his credit in less than a year's flying.

Connery is Deputy-Commander of the American Unit with which he works. A confirmed bachelor he says "I have enough trouble with aeroplanes without worrying about a wife".

Connery has a large shamrock painted on the side of his "bus" and when I asked him why he laughed and said "Boy! With a name and a dial like mine what else could I paint on her".

This American airman has been in Australia for fourteen months and already wears the DFC and cluster, the Air Medal and the Soldier's Medal. He won the last award when he rescued several of his mates from a burning Liberator which had crashed.

Connery gives full credit for the remarkable performance of his "bus" to the ground crew - four husky sergeants who keep the Liberator in the air.

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## MAIL CALL

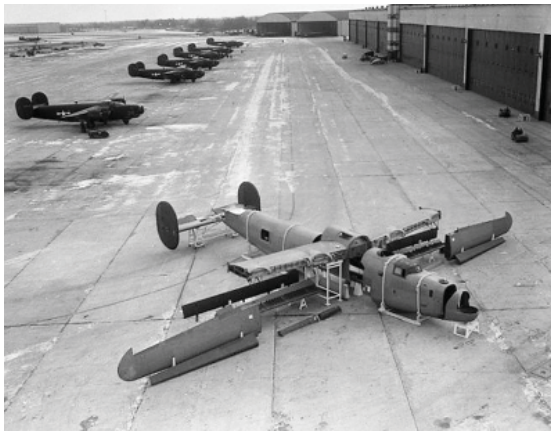
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11/22/11

I came across this photo on the internet. It shows a B-24 interior, rear part of the fuselage, at the bottom hatch, with an aerial camera mounted in the open hatch (view is looking forward, from the tail toward the front). Guess this was the way a lot of aerial strike photos were taken. The guy in the background, in the partition "doorway", is one of the waist gunners at his gun.

I also found the photo of a B-24 outside a manufacturing facility, showing how it was put together in sections.

Bill Shek  
filmxtra@att.net



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Mar 28, 2012

I am conducting official research into a variety of US air force units based in Australia during WWII to confirm base locations and activities conducted. Much of the prior research I have reviewed has focussed on 'operational' activities (i.e. bombing missions, etc) however there appears to be very little information related to what the units did at their bases and the training they conducted in Australia.

Information I am seeking includes (but is not limited) to photos, maps, diagrams, diaries, etc related to the following:

- where units were located at various times throughout WWII
- aerodrome/base layouts (runways, taxiways, hangars, bomb & armament storage & loading areas, etc)
- flying & bombing training (where conducted, what munitions used, etc)

If you have information related to the above, I'd be very grateful if you could let me know or send copies of information.

Thanks in advance

Ian Bullpitt  
(Major, retired, Australian Army Engineers)  
E-mail: ianbullpitt@bigpond.com

Apr 16, 2012

I am not sure how active the 380th association still is but my father-in-law, Cecil Edgar Parsons, an Australian pilot with your group is still going strong and still flying his own plane. Just sending a link to a news broadcast from two years ago your members might be interested in. He also flew in the RAF in bomber command earlier in the war.

Regards

Michael O'Donnell  
odeez@bigpond.com

Apr 1, 2012

Did a search on Ebay for the 380th, no leather jackets this time but a batch of original photos are up for auction.

Again if you know of any books that have become available please pass on the info.

Regards,

Mark Wheatley  
Grandson in Law of 528th member,  
Ed Pennington  
mhwheatley@sbcglobal.net

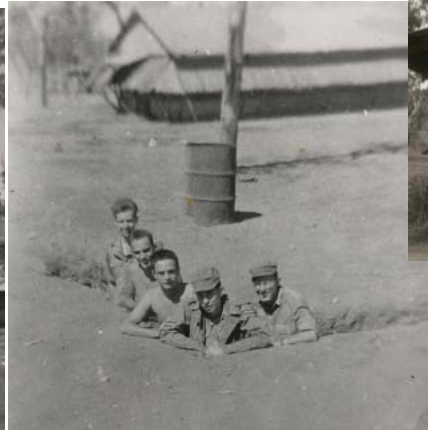


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## CAMP PHOTOS FROM ROBERT E CORDELL'S COLLECTION

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Rick Cordell sent these photos taken by his father, Robert E. Cordell, 529th Squadron, RCM Opr (Various Crews) and Administration Clerk





## PHOTOS FROM EDWARD A WESTLUND'S COLLECTION

These photos were sent by Kim Westlund, daughter of Edward A Westlund, Jr., 531st Squadron, Winston's Crew (107)



Top row, L to R:

Harrison Winston, Pilot  
Marvin Wildenberg, CoPilot  
Harry Saunders, Navigator  
Alexander Leckie, Bombardier

Bottom row:

Eugene Brown, Top Turret Gunner  
David Beischel, Tail Gunner  
Roger Evans, Tunnel Gunner  
William Ricks, Engineer  
Edward Westlund, Radioman  
Richard Windsor, Nose Gunner



Ed Westlund



## 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**

News #50 - SPRING 2012

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528th - **Arnheiter, Jr.**, Theodore Linkfield, Gunner, DOD July 13, 2005, Pocasset, Massachusetts, reported by his son, Michael Arnheiter

528th- **Dally, Joseph W.**, Aircraft Commander, Dally Crew (9), DOD April 25, 2012, Margate, Florida, reported by Mrs. John C. (Polly) Watson

528th - **Halling, Gene A.**, Gunner, Kemp Crew (11), DOD January 27, 2012, Perry Iowa, reported by his widow, Beverly Halling

528th - **Jackson, Warren L.**, Pilot, Spencer Crew (16), DOD March 3, 2012, Elko, Nevada, reported by his niece, Katherine Jackson

528th - **Thomas, Gail**, daughter of Gene Gaddis, DOD March 25, 2012, reported by her brother, Terry Gaddis

529th - **Dias, Robert**, Gunner, McDonald Crew (50), DOD September 11, 2011, Monongahela, Pennsylvania, reported by his son, Robert F. Dias

529th - **Vincent, Edward**, Gunner, Lively Crew (41)/Paul Crew (55), DOD March 23, 2012, Scottsdale, Arizona, reported by his son-in-law, Larry Jandro

529th- **Wyatt, William Burrell**, Assistant Radio Operator, Johnson Crew (30), DOD June 1982, Charlotte, North Carolina, reported by his daughter, Susan Wyatt

530th - **Ebel, Richard H.**, Radio Operator, Kelly Crew, DOD February 8, 2012, North Warren, Pennsylvania, reported by his friend and neighbor, Mark Nickerson

530th - **Leaska, George N.**, Gunner, Barnett Crew (64), DOD May 22, 2012, Enfield, Connecticut, reported by his grandson, Christopher Urena

531st/Group - **Brissey, Jr., Forrest Lee**, Aircraft Commander and Commanding Officer, DOD February 14, 2012, Anacortes, WASHINGTON, reported by his son, Forrest Lee Brissey III

531st - **Daugherty, Mark G.**, Ball Tail Gunner, Cook Crew, DOD May 29, 2011, Weirton, West Virginia, reported by Don Jack

531st - **Rafeld, Barbara Jane**, wife of Paul L. Rafeld, DOD February 29, 2012, Ashland, Ohio, reported by her son, Daniel L. Rafeld

531st - **Williams, Isabel M.**, wife of Theodore J. Williams, DOD February 24, 2012, West Lafayette, Indiana, reported by her daughters, Mary Williams and Elizabeth McPherson