

THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION 5th AF - RAAF

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

The Flying Circus

NEWSLETTER #55

SPRING 2014

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Glenn R. Horton, Jr.
Gary L. Horton

HISTORY PROJECT

Barbara J Gotham

2014 REUNION COORDINATOR

Barbara J Gotham
Norfolk, Virginia
5 -9 November 2014

NEWSLETTERS –

WEBPAGES – FINANCIAL
Barbara J. Gotham

Mail Call Inquiries/Responses

2014 Reunion (See Supplement for Reunion information & registration form)

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

<http://380th.org/>

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Phone: 765-463-5390

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HOPI CODE TALKER NEWS



Every year on April 23, the Hopi Veteran's Services, along with The Hopi Tribe, celebrate the Hopi Code Talkers and their accomplishments in earning the Gold Medal of Honor for their service in World War II.

The Hopi soldiers developed a code using the Hopi lavayi to transmit secured radio communications in combat. Use of the Hopi language confounded the Japanese and contributed to the liberation of the South Pacific Islands and final victory.

This year's celebration recognized the service of Hopi Code Talker Percival Navenma. Percival Navenma was a Private First Class in the U.S. Army.

Many Hopi and Native American veterans returned from their service in World War II and never talked about what they saw or did. This annual event honors the men who left their homes, culture, and traditions to serve the U.S. government and the earth.

The Native Code Talker Act of 2008 sought recognition for code talkers from Native American tribes. Last year, on November 13, a delegation of Hopi travelled to Washington D.C. to receive a gold medal of honor that was presented to the Hopi Tribe. Family members of the Hopi Code Talkers were given silver medals.

Originally eight Hopi Code Talkers were recognized. These Hopi Code Talkers served in the U.S. Army with the 323rd Infantry Regiment, 81st Infantry Division, known as the "Wild Cat Division," during World War II. They were: Charles T. Lomakema, Floyd Dann, Sr., Frank C. Chapella, Percival Navenma, Perry Honanie, Sr., Travis S. Yaiva, Warren R. Kooyaquaptewa, and Franklin Shupla.

Two additional men were later identified as also being Hopi Code Talkers: Orville Wadsworth and Rex Pooyouma of the 5th Air Force.


Source: http://www.hopi-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/5-6-2014_Vol.22No.9.pdf

THE NAVAJO CODE

December 12, 2013

In the last issue of the Flying Circus there were Hopi Code Talkers of WWII. When Teresa and I were living in Parker, AZ, our next-door neighbor, Casey Craig left home at 17, managed to get into the Marines and was assigned to guard the code talkers. I made copies of their language and would like to pass on what Casey gave me.

Joe Burdick



MILITARY TERMS

Term	Navajo word	Meaning
★★ Major General	So-na-kih	Two Stars
♙ Colonel	Astah-besh-legal	Silver Eagle
♚ Major	Che-chil-betah-ola	Oak Leaf
♛ Captain	Besh-legal-na-kih	Silver Bars
♙ 1st Lieutenant	Besh-legal-a-lah-ih	Silver Bar
✈ Fighter Plane	Da-he-tih-hi	Hummingbird
✈ Bomber Plane	Jay-sho	Buzzard
⚓ Battleship	Lo-tso	Whale
✈ Aircraft Carrier	Tsidi-ney-ye-hi	Bird carrier
⚓ Submarine	Besh-lo	Iron fish

ALPHABET

Navajo word	Meaning	Navajo word	Meaning
A Wol-la-chee	Ant	N Nesh-chee	Nut
B Shush	Bear	O Ne-ahs-jah	Owl
C Moasi	Cat	P Bi-sodih	Pig
D Be	Deer	Q Ca-yeilth	Quiver
E Dzeh	Elk	R Gah	Rabbit
F Ma-e	Fox	S Diben	Sheep
G Kizzie	Goat	T Than-zie	Turkey
H Lin	Horse	U No-da-ih	Ute
I Tdin	Ice	V A-keh-di-gini	Victor
J Tkele-cho-gi	Jackass	W Gloe-ih	Weasel
K Kizzie-yazzie	Kid	X Ai-an-as-dzon	Cross
L Diben-yazzie	Lamb	Y Tsah-as-zih	Yucca
M Na-an-tson	Mouse	Z Besh-do-giz	Zinc

Source: Navajo Weapon: The Navajo Code Talkers, 1991

OHIO VETERAN SURVIVED FIERY B-24 CRASH IN WWII

By Ron Simon T-F staff (Ashland, Ohio), August 16, 2007



Jerry Eugene Wilson, 83, still has a yellowed copy of that telegram his mother received in October 1944. "We regret to inform you that your son, Jerry E. Wilson, was slightly injured in action Oct. 11, 1944, in the Southwest Pacific Area." "It scared the hell out of my mother," Wilson recalled. But if she had seen what was left of Gus' Bus it might have been worse.

Wilson still wonders how he and the other crew members of a B-24 piloted by Major Gus Connery survived after the bomber stalled on takeoff from a field near Darwin, Australia, then crashed and burned. Wilson, a belly gunner and combat photographer, got out on his hands and knees. "Then I was up, and that's when I found out that I should have been a sprinter," he said. "It was every man for himself." One man died. Most crew members were injured. Wilson's ears show damage to this day from the fire that singed them. "The rest of the crew got to go home, but I had to finish my time. I admit the next time I flew, which was out of the Philippines, I was a bit queasy." Especially during takeoff.

Wilson flew 38 missions with the 380th Bomb Group of the 530th Bomb Squadron of the Fifth Air Force in the South Pacific. "I wasn't a member of any one crew or plane, but joined crews where needed," he said. His unit flew out of Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines. Bombing targets included the cities of Hanoi and Saigon in what was then called French Indo-China. Wilson said the targets were enemy shipping, oil refineries, oil fields and mines.

His job was to operate the belly gun, but he was equally proficient with the other gun positions, particularly the waist guns. "My job as a combat photographer was to snap the lens after the bombs dropped to record whatever damage we did," he said.

Working from bomber to bomber, including the doomed Gus' Bus, Wilson had his share of aerial combat. "We fired at a lot of fighter planes. They came at you so fast you barely had time to react," he said. He has no idea if he ever shot an enemy fighter down. "I didn't have time to look."

He thinks his unit's most important raids were against the oil refineries and harbors of Borneo. While many bombs were dropped from great heights, some of these raids were conducted almost at floor level. "We might come in at just 500 feet," he said.

He recalls one bomber that delivered its load at the end of a near vertical dive. Unfortunately, Wilson said, the bomb skipped off the ground and hit that same bomber, killing that plane and its crew.

On a bombing raid to Hong Kong, Wilson said his pilot lost his way and cruised up and down the China coast before finding Hong Kong to drop his bomb load. "We got home flying on fumes," he said.

He recalled that before raids on Formosa, crews were warned that if they had to bail out, the Japanese on the ground were not taking prisoners. "Nobody loved us," he said.

Wilson recalls taking homemade green beer on raids just to get it nice and cold for the men when his plane got back. "It's pretty cold at 16,000 feet," he said.

A native of Bryan, Ohio, Wilson's father was an engineer, specializing in railroad bridges. So the family moved around a lot. He graduated from LaPorte High School in Indiana in 1941 and joined the Army Air Force in March 1942 after working a few months in a munitions plant. During the war, his family lived in Bellville, and that was where he was, on furlough, when the war in the Pacific ended.

After he joined the Army Air Force, Wilson went through a long series of training centers, ending up as a gunner. "I thought I'd be headed for North Africa," he said. Actually, his destination was Oakland, Calif., where he boarded a troop ship headed for Brisbane, Australia. "We hit a typhoon along the way. Everybody was sick. I was the only one that showed up on the chow line," he said. From Brisbane he traveled up the Great Barrier Reef on what he termed "a banana boat" to Port Moresby, New Guinea.

At his first base in New Guinea, he was assigned as a bomb loader. It took a lot of protesting to finally get a crew assignment. "I came to fight, not load bombs," he said.

While he was in the South Pacific, Wilson obtained a saxophone and played in a Glenn Miller-style band between missions. As of 2007 he was still playing the saxophone and enjoys swing and jazz.



Gus's
Bus



Connery
Crew

B-24 LIBERATOR MEMORIAL RESTORATION FUND



B-24 Liberator Memorial Restoration Fund
No. A0019983M
Patron: Air Comm. (Ret) F.E. Burt: OBE
Secretary: Judith Gilbert
3 Eldorado Crt, Wyndham Vale, Vict. 3024
Phone: (03) 9734 0094
judithone@optusnet.com.au

30th January 2014

Barbara Gotham
130 Colony Rd
West Lafayette In.
47906-1209
USA

Dear Barbara,

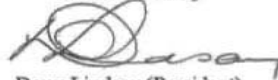
Please be in receipt of the promised plaque commissioned by our group to further recognise the bond that exists between the 380th Bomb Group of the U.S.A.A.F. and the Liberator Squadrons of the R.A.A.F. during WW2.

Our visitor levels continue to increase and part of our presentation to them includes this unique situation.

The restoration of our B-24 continues at a steady pace with systems and flight control cables being installed to a planned schedule.

Please accept this plaque as a token of our ongoing respect and interest in your organisation.

Yours sincerely



Doug Lindsay (President)



Member of Aviation Museums' National Network



Here's photos of the front and back of the plaque sent to me by the B-24 Liberator Memorial Fund Restoration group. I will be bringing it with me to the Norfolk Reunion for all to see!
-- Barb Gotham

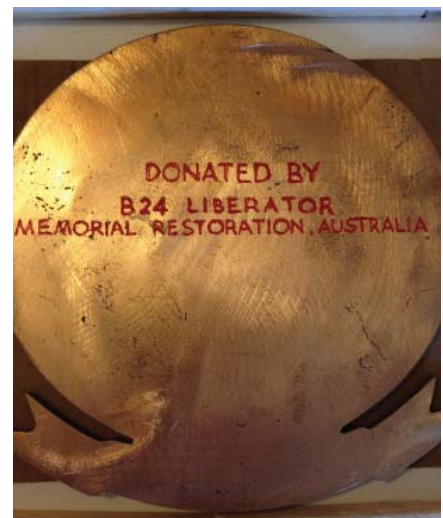


PHOTO GALLERY / MAIL CALL

May 3, 2014 - I've been looking over your 380th Bomb Group web page and it's fantastic. I've been doing research on a couple of the crews listed on your page and I wanted to pass along a bit of information to you. Author Gill went down on Big Chief Cockeye in July 1944 but he was actually captured by the Japanese. He didn't die in the crash of the plane. Author ended up dying in July 1945 in the Omori POW camp in Japan. Author was beaten severely by his guards and ended up starving to death due to internal injuries. I have the guards trial transcripts if you'd like to have them. I have also built basic biographies on all the crewmembers of Big Chief Cockeye and I have some individual photographs of them as well. *However, what I cannot find is a picture of Author. I was wondering if you had a picture of him and possibly a better scan of the Cecil Wells crew picture on your web page.* The Cecil Wells crew picture has most of the Big Chief Cockeye crew on it.

By the way, I'm interested in the Big Chief Cockeye crew because they were on a weather recon mission when they crashed and I'm researching all weathermen and weather recon crews who perished during the war. - Craig

May 5, 2014 - Here are some individual pictures I have of the Big Chief Cockeye (Thornton) crew. I met up with Lt Douglas McMillin's (killed on the Thornton mission) daughter yesterday and she gave me a better copy of the Cecil Wells crew picture I wrote to you about. I'm also in touch with the Corbin and Kosciuszke families, so I should be receiving better images of those two men as well. Author Gill is the one person who I just cannot find any picture of. Author wasn't a member of a regular crew and only flew on the one mission. If you can find a picture of Author, I'd truly appreciate it. - Craig

May 6, 2014 - Here are some scanned images of the Thornton and Wells crew that Lt McMillin's daughter had.

Craig M. Kirwin, CMSgt, USAF
Enlisted Functional Manager, Weather Operations Division
Directorate of Operations, Headquarters Air Combat Command (ACC)
craig.kirwin@us.af.mil

FO Harold Thornton



1Lt Douglas G McMillan



Lt Vincent J McManus



TSgt Richard W. Corbin



SSgt Steve J. Buccia



2Lt William C. Karbach Jr.



Lt Max Rubin



Back Row - L-R, Lt Max Rubin, Lt Wells, FO Thornton, Lt McMillin
Front Row - L-R, Sgt Buccia, Sgt Corbin, Sgt Kosciuszke, Sgt Reed, Sgt Johnson



Back Row, L-R: Lt Rubin, Lt Wells, Lt Thornton, Lt McMillin
Front Row, L-R: Sgt Corbin, Sgt Reed, Sgt Buccia, Unkn (Aust hat & wings), Sgt Kosciuszke

Wells Crew (37)

Acft Cmdr, Pilot: Wells, Cecil F.
Pilot, Acft Cmdr: Thornton, Harold A.
Navigator: McMillin, Douglas G.
Navigator, Photographer: Light, Dudley L.
Bombardier: Rubin, Max (NMI)
Flt Eng: Corbin, Richard W.
Radio Opr: Johnson, Clarence L.
Radio Opr: Reed, Harry H., Jr.
Gunner: Buccia, Steve J.
Gunner: Hawthorne, J. D.

Thornton's Crew (19)

Pilot, Acft Cmdr: Thornton, Harold A.
Pilot: Karbach, William C., Jr.
Asst Radio Opr, Gunner: Pickens, Samuel W.
Gunner: Kosciuszke, Peter P.
Weather Observer: Gill, Author H., Jr.



Back row standing: Both unknown
2nd row-L-R: Lt Rubin, Lt Wells, Lt McMillin, FO Thornton
3rd row-L-R: Sgt Reed, Sgt Corbin, Sgt Buccia, Sgt Johnston
Front: Sgt Kosciuszke

PHOTO GALLERY / MAIL CALL

May 7, 2014

My father was Victor Morales. He was a radio operator on the "Toddy." Here's a couple of photos from his collection.

David Sandoval
julianesai1990@gmail.com



GROVER CREW (79) - 531st SQUADRON

Acft Cmdr, Asst Sqdn

Ops Officer:

Pilot:

Navigator:

Bombardier:

Flt Eng:

Radio Opr:

Asst Flt Eng, Gunner:

Gunner:

Gunner:

Gunner:

Grover, Niles L.

Manley, Harold J.

Gurthet, Robert E.

Panos, Peter S.

Owens, Carl W.

Morales, Victor C.

O'Connell, Cornelius D., Jr.,

Bronakowski, Anthony E.

Gudgeon, Gerald R.

Uhrich, Gilbert A.

November 26, 2013

Nose art photos sent from
Doug Tilley.

dtalley5@optusnet.com.au



MAIL CALL

June 21 2013

A friend of mine, Ron Taafe of Sanctuary Lakes, Victoria, Aus, has lent me 3 newsletters of the 380th Bomb Group. I am very pleased to hear that you are continuing the good work for all those interested. As a pilot I was seconded to the 530th Squadron on September 7, 1943 til June 7, 1944. I did some training with Gus Connery in "Gus's Bus" and then assigned to Joe Cesario as his co-pilot on missions around the Pacific and New Guinea. Sharing my tent was Bob Craig and Gus Connery, the latter being C.O. and then Group Operations Officer.

During my stay at Fenton I made many friends and I am still in touch with Mary Connery and Dottie Cesario. I was checked out as a plane commander about May 1944 and was then sent to Tocumwal in New South Wales as an instructor on B24s training new crews for the new B24s we were receiving from the U.S. I continued to fly these machines until 1946 (May) and then retired from the R.A.A.F.

My wife and I have attended the following reunions: Plattsburgh 1983, Australia 1988, Norfolk 1989, Orlando 1991, Denver 1994, and Savannah 1996. As I am now 94, I do not travel very well but I do assist in rebuilding a B24 at Werribee in Victoria as I was an RAAF fitter 1940, 41 and 42. I was one of the last pilots to fly A72.176 on March 22, 1946.

My grateful thanks to you all for continuing the good work.

E.L. Crabtree, Malvern, Victoria

Enclosed is an extract from my log book.

YEAR	AIRCRAFT		Pilot, or 1st Pilot	2nd Pilot, Pupilot or Passenger	Duty (Including Results and Remarks)	ENGINE-DRIVEN AIRCRAFT				MULTI-ENGINE AIRCRAFT				Passenger	INSTRUMENT FLIGHT (1) to (10)
	Type	No.				Day	Time	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End		
MARCH	1	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	PT MORESEY - NAPZAB	19-35	21-05	21-45	22-10	22-10	22-10	22-10	22-10	22-10	22-10
"	3	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	NAPZAB - FENTON, HOLLANDIA - NAPZAB	20-35	22-05	22-45	23-10	23-10	23-10	23-10	23-10	23-10	23-10
"	7	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	NAPZAB - FENTON, HOLLANDIA - NAPZAB	21-35	23-05	23-45	24-10	24-10	24-10	24-10	24-10	24-10	24-10
"	9	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	NAPZAB - FENTON	22-35	24-05	24-45	25-10	25-10	25-10	25-10	25-10	25-10	25-10
"	10	B24-D1	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	FENTON - ADELAIDE	23-35	25-05	25-45	26-10	26-10	26-10	26-10	26-10	26-10	26-10
"	13	B24-D1	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	FENTON - CORUNNA DOWNS	24-35	26-05	26-45	27-10	27-10	27-10	27-10	27-10	27-10	27-10
"	14	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	FENTON - CORUNNA DOWNS	25-35	27-05	27-45	28-10	28-10	28-10	28-10	28-10	28-10	28-10
"	15	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	CHANDLER - CORUNNA DOWNS	26-35	28-05	28-45	29-10	29-10	29-10	29-10	29-10	29-10	29-10
"	17	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	NO. 11 - CORUNNA DOWNS	27-35	29-05	29-45	30-10	30-10	30-10	30-10	30-10	30-10	30-10
"	18	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	CORUNNA DOWNS - JAPAN OCEAN	28-35	30-05	30-45	31-10	31-10	31-10	31-10	31-10	31-10	31-10
"	19	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	CORUNNA DOWNS - FENTON	29-35	31-05	31-45	1-11	1-11	1-11	1-11	1-11	1-11	1-11
"	31	B24-J	CAPT CESARIO	SELF	FENTON - SLOW TIMING	30-35	32-05	32-45	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12
			TOTAL FOR MONTH		LIBERATORS										
			TOTAL TO DATE		ALL TYPES FLOWN										
						<p><i>James B. Planch</i> <i>1st Lt. H. H. H.</i> <i>Operations Officer</i></p>									
GRAND TOTAL (Cols. (1) to (10))						<p>32 1 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11</p>									

MAIL CALL

January 1 2014

A few days ago I received the #54 Newsletter. On the second 1st page under "Mail Call" is a short letter from Richard Hebner regarding the "Juarez Whistle." I was a crew member on that ship right thru 1943 so have written to Mr. Hebner. I thought you might also like to include the following bit in the next Mail Call.

Thank you and best wishes,
Dick Dakeyne, Toormina, NSW, Australia

My name is Richard (Dick) Dakeyne. I was one of that small group of RAAF, RCM operators attached to each squadron. My squadron was the 530th and I flew as a crew member on John Dennis' crew in 1943 and Ed Harkins' crew in 1944. In August '44, I was transferred to the Jolly Rogers on Biak Island. I finished up with 528 combat hours. After the war, I went to Sydney University and after some years teaching outside, ended up teaching geography there.

I regret that I was never able to attend a reunion of the 380th in the States, but I just want to say that my time with the 380th, and the friends I made there, was one of the happiest and enjoyable of my life - a real highlight.

Best wishes to you all for 2014.
Dick Dakeyne

Nov 25 2013

I am a researcher with the WFI Research Group www.wfirg.com

I am presently working on a case of an unknown airman that I believe to be Lt. Edward P. Skuzinski, who went missing on 21 Sept 1943. Would like to make contact with any of the Morris Crew members or anyone who may have known him.

Thank you,
Ted Darcy

Feb 21 2014

Since I wrote a few more things have happened as the research continues. Skuzinski is still of interest.

The first five on this list were all in one aircraft. One of them is buried as an unknown in the Philippines. I believe Skuzinski is buried as an unknown in the Punchbowl. Any additional information you can gather would help. Possibly we can get them identified and sent home.

WW II DEAD&MISSING

NAME	RANK	BRANCH	SERIAL	HOME TOWN
KAY,JOHN W	1LT	11	O829755	IL COOK CNTY
KUTCH,LEO D	1LT	11	O2027166	IN
MOELLER,WARREN H	1LT	11	O2067741	KS JOHNSON CNTY
RILEY,CHARLES T JR	TSGT	11	36690016	IL COOK CNTY
ROHRBACH,CHARLES G	TSGT	11	33511565	PA NORTHUMBERLAND CNTY
SKUZINSKI,EDWARD F	2LT	11	O667444	MI KENT CNTY

I looked over the history project you mentioned. I checked the database here and found we carry 386 Americans as lost with the 380th BG.

Talk soon,

Ted
wreck2@comcast.net

MAIL CALL

February 16 2014

My name is John Bird and my Father was Donald L. Bird. He was a navigational bombardier during WW2. He had a picture in front of an airplane he flew on named Patty's Pig. He never talked about the war and the only thing I know is that his plane was shot down on Oct. 9, 1944. I believe he was on leave or sick and never knew the details about missions or what he did to serve our country. He met my mother in England at a dance and they have both passed away. Thanks very much. - John Bird

Apr 4 2014

I found this photo of Patty's Pig airplane and its crew. Donald Bird (my father) is the third from the left. I hope you can get this to any family and relatives of this crew.

John Bird
jbird85@ymail.com



Jan 6 2014

About 10 years back I hosted a website called the Fenton and Long airstrip research page with much help from Ted Williams. I put this page together to gather information regarding the social histories of Fenton and Long airstrips and associated camps during ww2. On completion of my university degree and the commencement of full time employment I had to remove the site due to time restrictions and well life in general. I have recently taken the decision to rebuild my web page, but this time with a larger scope. The primary focus will be to document WW2 sites from across the Northern Territory and gather together information regarding the social, rather than purely the military aspects of these sites. Areas of focus on the web site will be, living conditions, accommodation (tents/ buildings), food, entertainment, uniforms and flight gear worn, means of transport and communication, personal stories related to the climate and landscape of the Northern Territory. Currently I am working on uniforms and accommodation part of the web site but require information / references / help.

For example I have purchased a number of historic items including 380th uniforms and documents that I wish to use on my website but need to ask someone to ensure I have given correct historical commentary on these items. I am also after photos of tents, building, and camp life and anyone who might have detailed knowledge of these areas/ items.

My website will be 100% non profit and is purely for research gathering purposes. I am currently adding content and gathering permissions and references before I go live with the site.

I currently live in the NT and am employed as an educator of History in secondary educational context.

Clinton Bock
clintonb29@gmail.com



2Lt Richard H. Feltman

January 27 2014

My name is Joseph Veltre and I am a resident of Bellerose Village, NY - a tiny hamlet on Long Island consisting of only approximately 370 homes. In 2012, as a volunteer, I assisted our Mayor Henry Schreiber, obtain photos and biographical data of 9 servicemen who died during both World Wars and Vietnam, and whose names were inscribed on a stone memorial outside our village hall. This resulted in an indoor display so that residents and non-residents could put a face to a name and also read something about their pre-enlistment life and their ultimate sacrifice during wartime. Though I thought my job concluded in 2012, in my continued research I recently came across another former Bellerose resident who, while serving overseas in the U.S. Army Air Force, perished in a flying accident in 1945. While his name is not on the stone memorial, we would like to change that. I have photos and sufficient biographical data thanks to my contact with his younger brother, Henry H. Feltman, now living in Florida.

Joe Veltre jpveltre@aol.com

MAIL CALL

May 17 2014

I am writing to find any crew members from the 530th Bomb Squadron who may have flown/served with my Grandfather, Ernest Howell. In a picture of B-24J 42-100209, it appears that he flew with a crew commanded by Capt DeLoache. The other crew members shown in the picture are Jerry Guerard, Sgt Phillpott, Sgt Chelling, Sgt Palmer, Sgt Bissaillon, Sgt Robinson, and Lt Langdon.

Any information would be greatly appreciated and I can be contacted at jasonalaneckberg@gmail.com

Lt Col Jason Eckberg, USAF

Jan 24, 2014 / Feb 19, 2014

My dad was Jimmy Snyder.

Snyder, James R. / 530 / 33268136 / Ware's Overseas Crew (Passenger) (Staff Extra-530) / Ground Staff, Power Turret Spec / POOCHIE
Snyder, James R. / GP / 33268136 / Ware's Overseas Crew (Passenger) (Staff Extra-530) / Ground Staff, Power Turret Spec / POOCHIE
He gave me his Purple Heart.

He had a heckuva combat story.

What I've seen of the record was that he serviced Poochie.

The story was of being shot down, kicking out the glass to escape the sinking plane, and saving the pilot, then hanging onto a floating fuselage with the pilot hanging off him until they were rescued. Pilot supposedly got a Silver Star. I don't know if it's fiction or not!

Other than that, I don't know anyone that knew him or what he was like during war time, and I don't have any photos of him in the service.

Carl Snyder <capitalman@spoos.com>

May 2 2014

My Dad, Marvin Gardner, is now in an assisted living center in Price, Utah. He is doing quite well for being almost 92. He keeps in contact with Keith Baker who was on his crew. We have donated several of his Military things to a museum in Palm Springs, Calif. I still have his history-we are slowly going through a ton of pictures taken during the war and in his service years that we are trying to catalog and will donate them also.

Thank you for your concern.
Kathleen Gardner Clements

Nov 1, 2013

I am the granddaughter of Alvin D Powell, Gunner, Whitlock Crew, 531st. I am interested in possible resources for photographs. His records are not available due to a fire, so any suggestions would be great appreciated. Thank you.

Crystal Runyan
flrunyans@aol.com

MAIL CALL: DIGITAL ART BY ARTHUR EGGERS

April 26, 2014

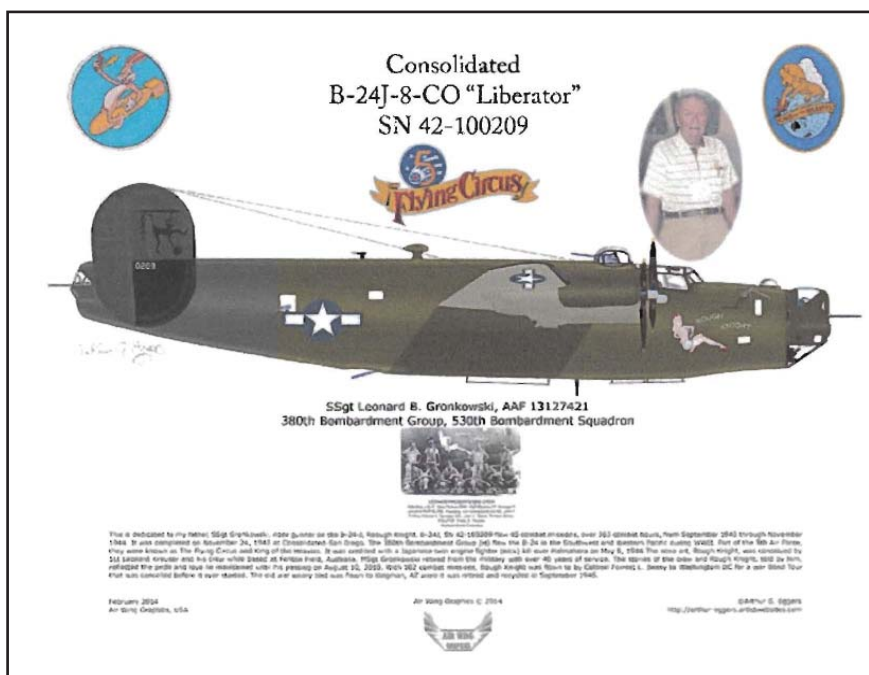
Hi Barb, I met you at the 2008 Tucson reunion with my Dad, Len Gronkowski.

I recently had a print made dedicated to him and the crew of Rough Knight. The artist's name is Arthur Eggers and this print is really great work so if anyone is interested go to:

ArthurEggers.aviationartprintsandaviation-artartforsale

and click on B-24J Rough Knight. It is really worth looking at and can use format to do another crew.

Rick Gronkowski
rgchukarman@gmail.com



MAIL CALL

Jan 30 2014

I am seeking your assistance in finding the identity of a B24 which completed service and was disposed of at Lae. To put you in the picture, my father was an Aust Army Captain attached to the Army General Hospital and the convalescent depot at Lae throughout 1945. After the war he brought home a piece of silver fabric marked "Fabric from B24 liberator 5th USAAF, Record of service 69 missions, ---Jaff downed during interception. swpa."

I was told by my father that the Aust Army Hospital had an occupational therapy hobby shed and the aircraft was a source of aluminium which the soldier/patients melted in the hobby sheds making craft items particularly ashtrays decorated with model aircraft which were very common after the war.

Regrettably, my father has died some years ago and I have no contacts in the US that may have knowledge.

You may well be wondering why I am inquiring, but the reason is I have incorporated it in a model liberator made of many samples of wood taken from the Jungle at Lae, and it is creating much interest in the model, but the main inquiry is to what happened to the plane's occupants, hence the big interest.

Your association records disclose 2 B24 aircraft which ceased service with 69 missions, Frisco Frannie and Little Lulu, but does not disclose whether they were ever taken to Lae for salvaging.

If you have any information to help, or any lines of inquiry you may be able to recommend, it would be greatly appreciated.

Incidental to this, I have been doing quite a lot of research on the 5th USAAF in the SWPA and it certainly shows powerful reasons for the US/Australian bond.

Best wishes to you and your association
John Watts
johnjudy37@westnet.com.au

Feb 12 2014

John
Attached are the data sheets for FRISCO FRANNIE and LITTLE LULU. The first page shows any information we have about that plane, including salvaging. I don't see on either of them that it says Lae. There is a code UCIP on both of them, which is the code for delivery to the 8th Air Force (other unknown reason).

I'm not sure where to refer you, other than perhaps the 8th Air Force. They have a museum and library in Pooler SC.

Feel free to ask me additional questions - I will do what I can to assist you.

Best regards,
Barbara Gotham



May 8 2014

My father's details are: Ewan M WATTS, Army Reg No, VX585544. Discharged 1946. Date of Death was 2nd Nov 1971 at Collie West Australia.

During almost all of 1945 he was attached to the Australian Army Medical Corps and at Lae New Guinea and had a strong association with the US Army there.

The local Air Force Association museum researcher informed me that the fabric would have been from the flaps or tail of a J type liberator; however, I am unsure if he was certain or was his best estimation.

I will shortly be contacting the West Australian Newspaper which have "Can We Help" page where people can enter items seeking information. Apparently it is surprising the information, photographs and other leads that are forthcoming from that source. I am chasing down information from Australian sources who may have details regarding the demolishing of the aircraft. In respect to the US Army Air Force, your bomb group appears to be the only one of the Fifth Air Force that has the excellent quality of recording for which you must be proud. Of the 5th Air Force my checks have eliminated the liberators down to 250.

On my inquiries, I called at a museum at Werribee in Melbourne Victoria (Aust) where a liberator was being restored and I was put on to a Mr Crabtree for information. He had been a RAAF pilot attached to the 380 Bomb Group in New Guinea. He was well and active some of your veterans may remember him. His information was very helpful.

I will patiently continue my search and let you know how I get on.

Best wishes
John Watts



TAPS

LEST WE FORGET

Newsletter #55 - Spring 2014

528th - **Moran, Wilfred E.**, Aircraft Commander, Moran's Crew (7), DOD February 21, 2014, West Seneca, New York, reported by his son, Mike Moran

529th - **Beegle, Woodrow W.**, Pilot, Hawkey's Crew (57), DOD April 1, 2010, Vallejo, California, reported by his daughter, Trudy Hull

529th - **Praster, Arthur T.**, Ground Crew, Radar/LORAN Technician, DOD March 17, 2001, South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, reported by his son, Tom Praster

529th - **Werbner, Alfred P.**, Bombardier, Watkins' Crew, DOD February 25, 2014, Manchester, Connecticut, reported by his grandson, Andrew Klein

530th - **Capone, Ernest C.**, Aircraft Commander, Capone's Crew, DOD February 11, 1993, Simsbury, Connecticut, reported by his son, Ernie Capone

530th - **Hebner, Paul C.**, Navigator, Dennis' Crew (23), DOD May 10, 2000, Los Angeles, California, reported by his daughter, Jeannie Hebner Sheehy

RAAF/530th - **Killion, Gordon Lindsey**, Tail Gunner, McPherson's Crew, DOD February 1, 2013, Ballina, New South Wales, Australia, reported by Mick Maguire (Killion was the last surviving member of McPherson's crew)

530th - **Zody, Earl Elroy**, Assistant Flight Engineer/Gunner, Bevers' Crew (52), DOD August 20, 2007, Cleveland, Ohio, reported by Mick Bradley (Aaron Paul Bevers' great-nephew)

531st/GP - **Lynch, Harold P.**, Ground Crew, Radio Operator (531st) and Communications Chief (GP), DOD August 9, 1974, Granada Hills, California, reported by his daughter, Judy Robinson

531st - **Sullivan, Russell G.**, Ground Crew, Armament Chief, Aircraft Armorer, DOD November 16, 2013, Columbus, Ohio, reported by his companion, Peggy Keller

531st/GP - **Bizzell, William Carl**, Ground Crew, Gunnery Instructor, DOD March 15, 2014, Goldsboro, North Carolina, reported by his son, Rob Bizzell

OTHER - **Machamer, Richard**, armament specialist, DOD July 18, 1991, Neenah, Wisconsin, reported by his son, Jim Machamer

OTHER - **Watts, Ewan M.**, Australian Army Medical Corps, DOD November 2, 1971, Collie West Australia, reported by his son, John Watts



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