



THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION 5th AF - RAAF

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

The Flying Circus

NEWSLETTER #57

MARCH 2015



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HISTORIANS

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

HISTORY PROJECT

Barbara J Gotham

2015 REUNION COORDINATOR

Barbara J Gotham
Dallas, Texas
14-18 October 2015

NEWSLETTERS –

WEBPAGES – FINANCIAL
Barbara J. Gotham

380th Bomb Group Association

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YOU CAN ALSO FIND US AT ...

Blog: <https://380thww2.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: Search for the group *380th Bombardment Group (5th AF, WWII)* or go to
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/380th/>

2014 REUNION NOTES

The 2014 380th Reunion (The Third "Last Hurrah") was held at the Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport, November 5-9, 2014

We had 34 attendees to the 2014 Reunion (smallest group in recent years). Six of them were first-timers!

The four veterans present were:

- 528th: Dexter Baker Sr (Washington) (Aircraft Commander, Baker's Crew)
- 528th: Milt Markowitz (Florida) (Pilot, Breece's Crew)
- 528th: Russ O'Day (California) (Pilot, Vance's Crew; Aircraft Commander, O'Day's Crew)
- 531st: Ed Walford (Colorado) (Navigator, Sears' Crew)

Activities included: Nauticus/Battleship Wisconsin tours/Victory Rover cruise (Thursday), welcome buffet at hotel with "Frank Sings Frank" (Frank Cubillo) as our entertainment (Thursday evening), Memorial Service and Naval capabilities demonstration at the Joint Expeditionary Base/Little Creek (Friday morning), tours at the Virginia Air & Space Center in Hampton (Friday afternoon), Saturday morning meeting and viewing of THE SHADY LADY documentary, Saturday evening banquet at hotel

Thanks to the following people for contributing photos from the reunion: *Bill Shek, Spencer Rackley IV, Steve Wassner, Doris Mitchell, and Barb Gotham.*

TAPS from the Memorial Service Program (Those who have left us - reported 2013-2014)

528th

Herman G. Corrado, August 7, 2014
Evelyn Henry, November 21, 2013
Margaret Mary (Peggy) Isaack, June 30, 2014
Lawrence A. Italiano, June 1, 2014
Wilfred E. Moran, February 21, 2014
Loyd R. Oakes, October 28, 2013
Richard B. Rone, February 8, 2014
John G. Shine, Jr., March 30, 2011

529th

Woodrow W. Beegle, April 1, 2010
James E. Elam, September 16, 2014
Edwin L. Ezor, January 23, 1999
Helen Flynn Mayfield, December 22, 2011
Jesse Talmadge Mayfield, August 15, 2008
Arthur T. Praster, March 17, 2001
Margaret Rossman, September 15, 2014
LeRoy J. Sabatine, July 21, 2013
Francis V. See, Jr., 2000
Alfred P. Werbner, February 25, 2014

Group

William Carl Bizzell, March 15, 2014
Roger W. Caputo, December 15, 2013
Virginia Caputo, April 30, 2014
Harold P. Lynch, August 9, 1974

530th

Keith M. Baker, September 18, 2014
Ernest C. Capone, February 11, 1993
Paul C. Hebner, May 10, 2000
Gene C. Lysaker, May 5, 2012
Charles F. Mason, February 3, 2005
Wilbert E. McClellan, Jr., September 6, 2012
Richard B. Moore, August 6, 2007
Walter Francis Noonan, April 18, 2012
Robert F. Rhoden, October 26, 2011
Warren D. Steppe, June 19, 1990
Earl Elroy Zody, August 20, 2007

531st

William Stanley Bradley, April 5, 1965
James C. Ferguson, June 2, 2013
Richard L. Hall, October 1999
John W. Jackson, August 30, 2013
Louis Joseph Kempf, December 29, 2006
Alvin D. Powell, September 25, 1994
Jessie Wee Poy, October 23, 2014
Clara Sears, January 29, 2014
Philip C. Smith, August 10, 2008
Russell G. Sullivan, November 16, 2013

RAAF

Albert Owen Baker, January 12, 2008
Gordon Lindsey Killion, February 1, 2013

2014 REUNION PHOTOS



OUR WWI VETERANS

L-R: Milt Markowitz,
Russ O'Day, Ed Walford,
Dexter Baker Sr.

VICTORY ROVER CRUISERS, THURSDAY



EVERYONE!! SATURDAY DINNER



2014 REUNION ATTENDEES

528th: Dexter Baker & his son, Greg Baker
528th: Peggy & Dean Baker (daughter of Bill Vance)
528th: Martha & Ken Collins (daughter of Houston Burkhart)
528th: Terry Knight (daughter of Thomas "Ike" Isaack)
528th: Milt Markowitz
528th: Russ O'Day, his son Michael, his son Terry and wife Susan
528th: Bill Randall (son-in-law of Loyd Oakes)
528th: Bill Shek (son of William Shek)
529th: Kathleen & Spencer Rackley IV (friends of Al Busedu)

530th: Kara & Adam White (granddaughter of Richard B Moore)
531st: Marie Anderson (widow of Robert "Andy" Anderson) & her friend, Doris Mitchell
531st: Carroll & Pat Boatwright (son of Carroll W Boatwright Sr)
531st: Steve Wassner & Karen Hinton (son of Bob Wassner)
531st: Norma & Nicholas Lamicella (daughter of Raymond Benedict)
531st: Ed & Barbara Walford and their children, Ted Walford and Jenny Walford
Honorary: Barb & Doug Gotham and their friends, Dave & Kara Perry

2014 REUNION PHOTOS

THURSDAY:
Nauticus/ Battle-
ship Wisconsin/
Victory Rover
Tours & lunch



Battleship Wisconsin



Michael & Russ O'Day

Victory Rover Cruise



HOSPITALITY ROOM



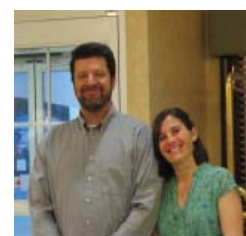
Bill Shek, Russ O'Day, Michael O'Day



Bill Shek, Bill Randall



Ken & Martha Collins



Adam & Kara White

Norma Lamicella, Doris Mitchell, Marie Anderson



Bill Randall



Barbara & Ed Walford

2014 REUNION PHOTOS

THURSDAY: WELCOME DINNER



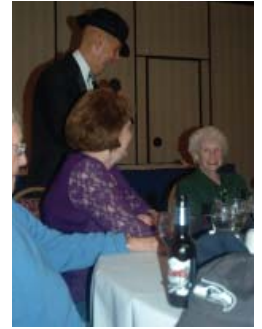
Frank Cubillo,
entertainer



Carroll & Pat Boatwright



380th's Chorus Line!



Barb Gotham,
Barbara Walford



Jenny Walford,
Ted Walford

Marie Anderson
& Doris Mitchell



FRIDAY AM: Memorial Service at JEB/ Little Creek & Naval capabilities demo



Chapel



Ed Walford



Kara White



Chaplain
Anderson



"WELCOME
HOME
RECEPTION"
AT THE HOTEL
PUT ON BY
THE HOTEL
STAFF



2014 REUNION PHOTOS

FRIDAY PM:
Virginia Air & Space Center



Barbara, Ed, Jenny Walford
with museum docent



B-24
"GRUMPY"

Steve
Wassner



Bill
Randall,
Greg
Baker w/
Apollo
12



SATURDAY PM: Dinner



Ed Walford, Karen Hinton,
Carroll Boatwright, Terry
Knight



Russ O'Day



Bill Shek



Kathleen & Spencer Rackley



Susan O'Day & Milt Markowitz



Dean & Peggy Baker



Michael, Russ, and Terry O'Day



Doug & Barb Gotham



Karen Hinton & Steve Wassner

Dexter
& Greg
Baker



Nick & Norma Lamicella



Dexter Baker & Marie Anderson



Terry Knight



Fallen Soldier's Table

2015 REUNION NOTES

Discussions regarding the 2015 Reunion were held during the 2014 Reunion in Norfolk. Locations up for contention were Kansas City, Oklahoma City, San Antonio, Albuquerque, and Dallas. After a crazy/funny voting session, the group voted on Dallas for the 2015 reunion location.

Barb and Doug Gotham traveled to Dallas February 14-18, 2015, for a site visit to select the hotel and other venues.

HOTEL - Embassy Suites Love Field, 3880 W Northwest Highway, Dallas

DATES - October 14-18, 2015

HOTEL INFORMATION:

- The Embassy Suites Love Field is an all-suites (2 room suites, double-doubles and kings), non-smoking property.
- Rate is \$104/night plus taxes - our rate includes a full hot breakfast (with made-to-order omelets and eggs), complimentary parking, and complimentary WIFI in all guestrooms. All suites have a microwave and fridge.
- Hotel will honor our group rate for 3 days before and after our reunion.
- Hotel offers complimentary appetizers and beverages at the nightly Evening Reception.
- Besides shuttle service to Love Field, the hotel provides (upon availability) transportation within a 3-5 mile radius of the hotel. They do not provide transport from DFW.
- To make a reservation, call the hotel at 1-214-357-4500 - be sure to say you are with the *380th Bomb Group Association (BGA)*.
- Our online reservation link is: http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DALLFES-BGA-20151011/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Group Name: 380th Bomb Group Association

Group Code: BGA

Check-in: 11-OCT-2015

Check-out: 20-OCT-2015

RESERVATION DEADLINE: **23-SEP-2015** (after this date, reservations will be accepted at our group rate if there are rooms available)

- *Hotel website: www.embassysuitesdallaslovefield.com*
- Located in the prestigious Preston Hollow area, the hotel is also convenient to many restaurants and businesses, situated near Southern Methodist University and NorthPark Shopping Center.



TENTATIVE AGENDA:

Wednesday, Oct 14 - Early arrivals, registrations in hospitality suite during afternoon/evening - no planned group events this day



Thursday, Oct 15 - Optional group tours (probably a city tour) in morning; welcome buffet in evening

Friday, Oct 16 - Morning visit to the Commemorative Air Force's B-24 "Diamond Lil" at Dallas Executive Field - includes tours of the B-24 (CAF members will be present to answer questions) and Memorial Service; boxed lunches will be available at the hotel; afternoon tours to the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field; dinner on own

Saturday, Oct 17 - Morning member/attendee meeting to discuss possible 2016 reunion and viewing of the SHADY LADY documentary; afternoon on own; 5:00 pm group photos, followed by banquet at the hotel

Sunday, Oct 18 - Departures

DALLAS AIRPORTS:

- *Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)* - <https://www.dfwairport.com/>
Serves all major airlines
- *Dallas Love Field (DAL)* - <http://www.dallas-lovefield.com/>
Serves Southwest Airlines, Delta, SeaPort Airlines, United Airlines, and Virgin America Airlines

AIRPORTS - GROUND TRANSPORTATION:

- *Embassy Suites Love Field only provides shuttle service from Love Field (DAL)*
- Hotel recommends SuperShuttle (1-800-258-3826) from DFW
- Rental cars available at both DFW and DAL

The next newsletter will contain more information about the 2015 reunion, including planned group events and costs!



THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, NEW ORLEANS

Barb Gotham was in New Orleans in December 2014 and visited the National WWII Museum.

Shown here is a photo of the 380th commemorative brick at the museum.

Our brick can be found at NF 23 (rows down) 18 (bricks over) on Magazine Street (see map).

Here's what's new at the museum since our reunion group visited in 2012:

In January 2013, the museum opened the *US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center*, which celebrates the extraordinary spirit of teamwork, sacrifice, and ingenuity demonstrated by Americans in battle and on the Home Front, as well as America's legendary production of airplanes, artillery, tanks, and other equipment that helped achieve victory.

Final Mission: The USS Tang Submarine Experience places visitors aboard the most successful submarine in World War II for its fifth and final war patrol on 25 October 1944 to relive the last epic battle of the USS Tang. Each guest receives a "watch bill" representing a specific Tang crewmember and many will be "en-listed" to perform specific tasks to navigate through the battle. [During Barb's "mission," she got to fire the torpedos!]

Most recently in December 2014, *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* opened in the brand new *Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters* pavilion. Expansive in its scope, exhaustive in its detail, and captivating in its innovative design, *Road to Berlin* is a whole new way to understand America's story of the war in Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean. [The grand opening was unfortunately the day after Barb's visit!]

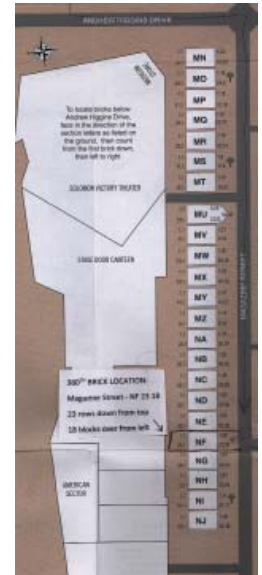
This newest pavilion of The National WWII Museum brings to life the drama, sacrifices, personal stories, and strategies of America's campaign to defeat the Axis powers and preserve freedom. Dramatic exhibits explore how the United States' citizen soldiers and their Allies secured victory in the 20th Century's titanic struggle—a fight for civilization itself.

The heart of the museum experience, *Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters*—a 32,000 square foot pavilion—brings visitors inside the story of how the war was won. The Pavilion features two immersive exhibitions—*Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries*, now open, and *Road to Tokyo: Pacific Theater Galleries*, opening in 2015.

Up next at the museum:

The museum is currently finishing the design of and building out exhibits in the next pavilion *Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters*. This pavilion will take visitors on a deep dive into the heart of battles, strategy, and leadership of the war in Europe and the war in the Pacific. After *Campaigns of Courage* opens, the museum will focus its energy on the *Liberation Pavilion*, which will educate the public about postwar history and what the war means today – a critical component of the museum's core mission. Meanwhile, the museum will rebuild and expand its current Home Front exhibit to tell the complete story of America's journey to war and action on American soil during the war years, including the formidable Arsenal of Democracy.

Website: <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>



As part of the expansion, the museum is also committed to increasing the resources we provide online. This is being accomplished through the museum's ever-growing digital archives project, which digitizes their collections and places them on their website, making them available worldwide. This project launched in December 2013, and the museum is continually adding new content. Please see the latest at ww2online.org.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

For those of you doing research on WWII veterans, here's a couple of resources:

Requesting military personnel records? Check out the National Archives at: Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63132-5100 USA (their website is: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>, where you can request records online). You will need to include certain information in the request, such as Social Sec # or the vet's service Serial Number, dates of service, and other info (which is listed on the website). You may have to ask more than once (some records were lost in flooding or a fire) - others in our group have said that they've had to ask two or three times for info before they actually got what they were seeking.

If you're looking for information on a particular mission accident report, check out: Accident-Report.com (Note that there is a charge for their reports.)
Accident Reports, 1322 West Main Street, Millville, New Jersey 08332 USA

Accident Reports is also looking for AAF pilot training documents. They offer discounts for scans of certain World War II-era AAF pilot training documents and orders, especially those containing lists of names.

2015 Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day



"Lavayit ak Mongvasii...Life Sustained Through Language"

Thursday, April 23rd, 2015
10:00AM—2:00PM MST
Hopi Veterans Memorial Center
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Keynote Speaker
MS. STEPHANIE BIRDWELL
Director for the Office of Tribal Governmental Relations

Special Showing
HOPi CODE TALKER DOCUMENTARY

All Registrants Will Receive
COMMEMORATIVE HOPi CODE TALKER PIN
(Limited Quantity)

Veterans, military, and the public are invited to come join us for this event.

Event Sponsors

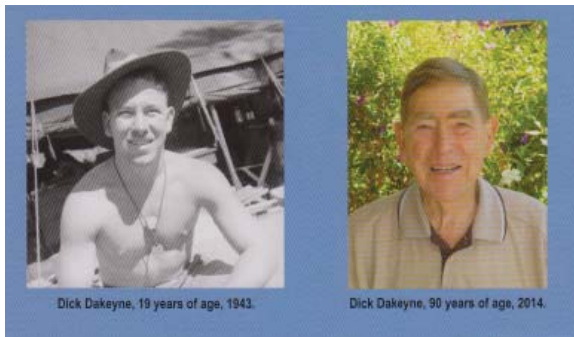
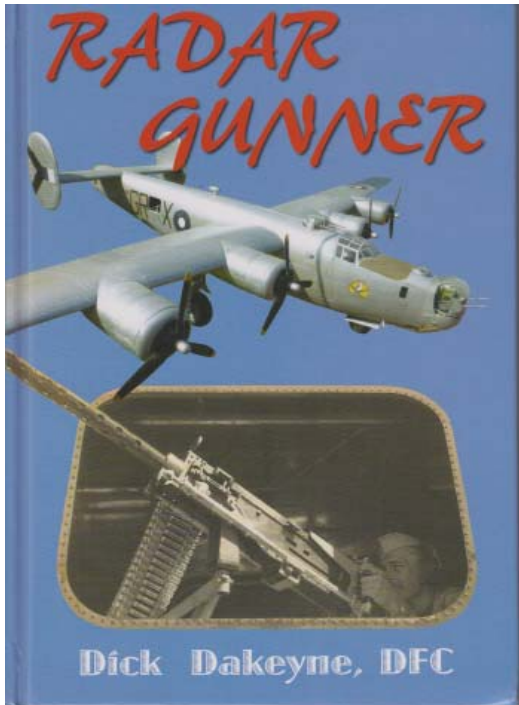
For more information on this event, call Hopi Veterans' Services:
(928) 734-3462

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

You can find us on Facebook by searching for the group 380th Bombardment Group (5th AF, WWII) or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/380th/>

We currently have 119 members and growing!

Check it out and request to join so you can see photos, news, and other up-to-date reunion and other information about the 380th Bomb Group!



Dick Dakeyne, 19 years of age, 1943.

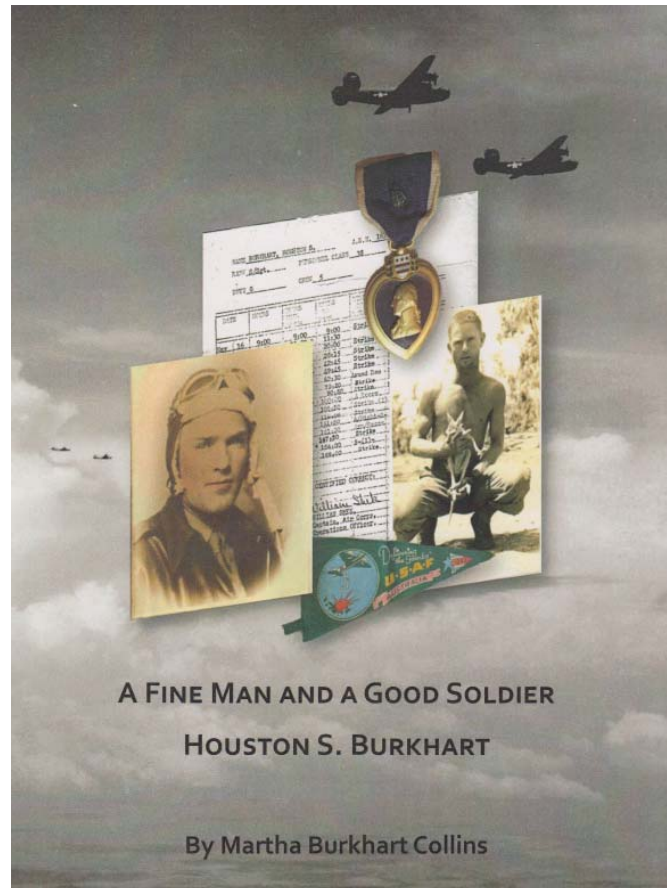
Dick Dakeyne, 90 years of age, 2014.

From the back cover of the book:

Born and raised in Sydney, Dick Dakeyne survived 48 missions and 500 hours flying over Japanese enemy territory during World War Two, both as a gunner and radar countermeasures operator. Most of his service was spent living and flying with US Army Air Force bomb squadrons based at Fenton airstrip 140 kilometres south of Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia. Dick's account describes living with the Americans and flying in B-24 Liberator long-range heavy bombers, on record-breaking missions lasting up to 16 hours. Death surrounded him, with the loss of fellow servicemen from Japanese ack-ack (anti-aircraft) guns, machine gun fire from enemy planes, and bombing raids on northern Australia.

For his military service and bravery, Dick was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross from Australia.

The book is co-edited by Craig Bellamy and David M. Welch, dated 2014, and is published by David M. Welch, PO Box 503, Coolalinga, Northern Territory, 0839 Australia. Fax: (61)(8)8983 1145



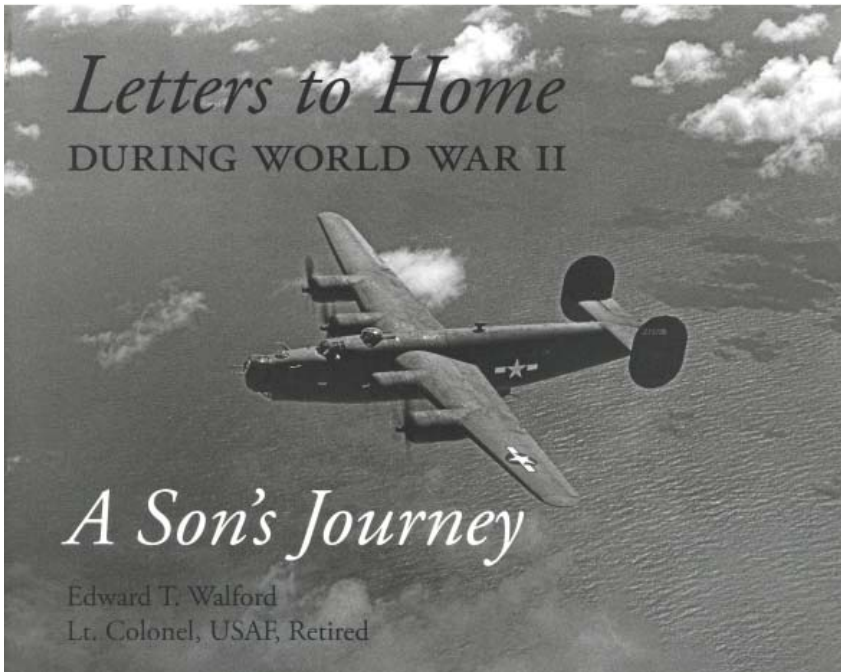
From the Introduction to the book:

This is a story of Houston Stephen Burkhart, my father, and his life in and around World War II. He never talked about the war and none of us ever asked.

I decided to collect his photos and World War II documents and give copies to his grandchildren for Christmas, six weeks away. I would have met the deadline had I not stopped to actually read the documents, but I did, and found I did not know what most of them meant. The project grew into what became this book.

The book is dated 2014, and is published by Martha Burkhart Collins, 910 County Road 1635, Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455 USA





Ed Walford served as a B-24J navigator under Captain Lyle Sears with the 380th Bomb Group in the 531st squadron. Those experiences formed his character and Ed always had a goal to publish a memoir about those days. Ed realized this dream with the release of his memoir, *Letters to Home During World War II: A Son's Journey*.

More than 70 years later, Ed's detailed letters and photos that his mother, Rosina, diligently saved is now a unique memoir of a young man's personal narrative about the people, places, and experiences during military training and then assignment to Darwin, Australia and Mindoro Island, Philippines during World War II.

Letters to Home During World War II was first available at the 380th Bomb Group's 2014 reunion in November. For those members unable to attend the reunion, the 200-page memoir of Ed's letters and personal photos detailing the experiences from basic training through the end of the war is available for \$35 plus \$5 for mailing. Beautifully produced as a large-format coffee table book, this private edition of Ed's memoir is only available to members of the 380th Bomb Group and to Ed's family and friends.

For more information or to order your copy, please contact Ed's daughter, Jennifer Walford at 7425 Wynwood Terrace, Colorado Springs, CO 80919, or 916-709-5974 or email LettersToHomeDuringWW2@gmail.com



Tent mates:
Back row: Schultz, Herzog
Front row: Efthymios, Hamon
Edward T. Walford Collection

13 380th Bomb Group: Darwin, Australia

July 31, 1944 to March 1, 1945



July 31, 1944

Dear Mother & Dad,

My last letter was held up in New Guinea because of censor trouble. If you've gotten the letter at all, you probably noticed the holes in it. They didn't like the idea of me naming the airfield.

About all I'm able to tell you is that we've completed our training in New Guinea and have been permanently assigned to a squadron "somewhere in Australia."

Our field in Australia is a great improvement over the field in New Guinea. The food here is almost fit to eat. At Guinea, officers, enlisted men, pigs and dogs all ate the same tinned chow. The climate isn't as wet here and the mosquitoes aren't as bad. In New Guinea, we were forced to take atabrine everyday to prevent malaria. The flight surgeon said we could stop taking it after two months here. Atabrine is a substitute for quinine and when taken for a long period, the skin turns yellow. I think there are more yellow men in our Army than in the Japs'.



Ed and his daughter, Jennifer, at the 2014 reunion

The four of us live in a tent with a coral floor. It was just a tent, but we are building it into an fine a summer home as you'll ever see. Even to the extent of having a front porch. It will be our home for a good year, so we might as well enjoy it.

Your letter of June 17 is still the last one I've received. I got the razor but the yearbook hasn't arrived. I've had so many changes of address lately that it may take quite a while. You never mentioned receiving a barracks bag full of clothes that I sent. Also have you been receiving \$75 bombs. I am sending one every month and will also try to send \$75 in cash every month. It will come in handy when the war is over. Write often.

Love,

Junior

P.S. See the 5th AF patch on my blouse. It's a beauty.

380th Bomb Group: Darwin, Australia



The Japanese occupation of the Philippines began on December 8, 1941. Headquartered in the Philippines, the 1st Air Force suffered severe casualties in defense of the islands. The 1st Air Force was moved to Australia and redesignated as the 13th Air Force in February 1942.



5th Air Force insignia (reproduced)

Edward T. Walford Collection

HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

Barb Gotham received the remainder of the WE WENT TO WAR history project documents (from Ted Williams' family) last year. Among these are mission documents and maps.

Barb is currently creating mission lists for each crew. The current online history project shows the mission lists for each aircraft, but not by individual pilots. Once these are complete, they will be added to the List of Aircraft Commanders page on our website (<http://380th.org/HISTORY/AcftCmdrList-all.htm>). In the meantime, if you'd like a particular crew's mission list, please send email to 380th.ww2@gmail.com, and provide the veteran's or pilot's name.

The next 380th project (after the missions list for each crew) is scanning the mission record documents and maps.

Eventually, the goal is to post on our website (<http://380th.org/HISTORY/History.html>) the mission record documents associated with each mission # on each crew's missions list, as well as a separate section on each mission (the mission documents, maps, and possibly even narratives). Unfortunately, no date can be given for completion due to the large amount of data to be scanned and transferred to the website.

DARWIN BOMBING WEBSITE

Miles Peg NT is a website that aims to gather together stories, photos, recollections and maps of World War 2 sites along the Stuart Highway in the Northern Territory, Australia. The purpose is to present and thus preserve a picture of what life was like for the Allied Servicemen and women that served at these sites following the bombing of Darwin on the 19th of February 1942. As such, this site will be dependent on contributions from people willing to share such information to be displayed on the site and will therefore be a continual work in progress.

The bombing of Darwin on the 19th of February 1942 is historically a very important date in the history of the Northern Territory. As such it commands a considerable amount of attention by the media and in other publications. The bombing on the 19th, however, was not the end of the conflict and the war continued in the Northern Territory until 1945. It is this period, spent along the North South Road, that this website attempts to document for prosperity.

Following the attacks, many camp and military sites were constructed down the Stuart highway in a military build-up designed for both defensive and offensive capabilities. As most of these sites had no known names, they were simply allocated a Mile Peg number, that being the distance from Darwin wharf along the then North South Road south to Alice Springs. To give you an example the 49 Mile point from Darwin, which was allocated to the 27th and later 28th Infantry Battalions, became known as 49 mile camp. It is this system of allocating Mile Peg Numbers that this site takes its name.

Website: <http://milepegsnt.com/>

Creator: Clinton Bock, Historian

Link to the 380th Bomb Group page on MilesPeg NT: <http://milepegsnt.com/site/life-380th-bomb-group-usaaf-fenton/>

MAIL CALL

I am writing to find any crewmembers 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 crewmembers shown in the picture are Jerry Guerard, Sgt Phillpott, Sgt Chelling, Sgt Chelling, Sgt Palmer, Sgt Bissaillon, Sgt Robinson, and Lt Langdon.

Any information would be greatly appreciated and I can be contacted at: 5520 5th St S, Arlington, VA 22204

Lt Col Jason Eckberg, USAF
jasonalaneckberg@gmail.com

My name is Michael Ksiazek and my grandfather was part of the 380th Bomber Group - 531st Squadron as a Gunner. His name was Frederick T. Chernes. He was part of Rosenbaum's Crew. This New Year 2015 was his 95th birthday, but sadly he's not in the best health.

I'm looking for any photos you might have of his old crew.

Any help you might be able to give me would be greatly appreciated.

Michael
mksiazek@optonline.net

B-24 LIBERATOR MEMORIAL AUSTRALIA

HONOURING THE RAAF WW2 B-24 LIBERATOR LEGACY

B-24 RESTORATION HANGAR

Located south west of Melbourne are a few remaining hangars of what was once the Werribee airfield. Werribee was built in 1940 to serve as a training field, storage/repair base and operational location for various RAAF units. Located inside one of the few remaining hangars is the current home of the B-24 Liberator Memorial Restoration Fund organisation. The Fund is the owner of one of the only remaining B-24 bomber in the southern hemisphere and only 1 of 8 remaining B-24 airframes still existing in the world, out of the original nearly 19,000 built. After nearly 25 years since the bold vision was started, the ambitious project is getting closer to reaching the goal of preserving a B-24 Liberator to honour the contribution of one of the RAAF's main bombers of the WW2 era.

MEMORIAL GOAL – A LIVING B-24 LIBERATOR

The core aspect of the project is now focused on making the B-24 a “living bomber”. It will not be flown but instead restored to a high quality as seen with other “living” warbird aircraft overseas such as the Just Jane Lancaster in the UK, which is now being upgraded to fly. The aim is for the B-24 at Werribee to be shown to the public with all elements “operational”. It is hoped that the bomber will eventually be taxi-able. To enable the B-24 to “live”, four working examples (and one spare backup) of the Pratt and Whitney Twin Wasp 1830 engines are to be used. These powerful and compact engines produce 1,200hp output via a two-row, 14-cylinder, air-cooled radial design. Some of the engines were donated, with one coming from an anonymous person, while two of the engines were purchased from Peter Starr of Dakota National Air. Visitors to the museum can see these engines up close and listen to the sounds via monthly engine running sessions. The hangar is also home to working displays which allow visitors to see how the aircraft systems worked. Visitors can examine up close and watch how the defensive protection of the B-24 worked. The protective fire came from many of its M2 0.5inch /12.7mm machine guns located around the airframe such as in the nose, the upper fuselage, the lower fuselage, the waist of the fuselage and the tail position. The volunteers are rebuilding all of these turrets with inert machine guns, to fit into the airframe and have some turrets already working as ground based displays to enable visitors to look closely at how the turrets operated with a crew member in them. The *B-24 Liberator Memorial Restoration Fund* is a great example of what can be achieved by a team of passionate, dedicated and organised volunteers. The project funding and ongoing work has mainly relied on the goodwill of volunteers, visitors and public donations to advance from where it was in the 1990s to the present day.

MUSEUM EXPANSION PLANS

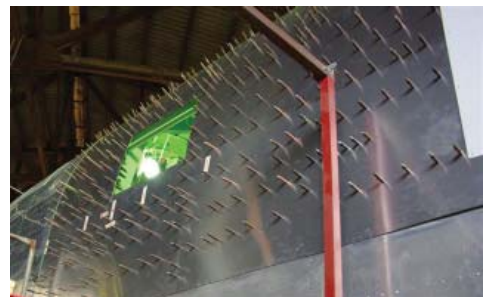
The B-24 Fund has developed a strategic and detailed future plan for the ongoing preservation of its collection. It is hoping to keep and upgrade the current hangar, which will also see on display a replica WW2 era Tiger Moth, Oxford aircraft and an Anson trainer. These aircraft types were mainly made from fabric/wood/steel, so they will require extensive work. A CAC Boomerang fighter project could also be donated by its owner to the museum for public display in the future.

For more about us, visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/B24Werribee>

Website: <http://b24australia.org.au/home.html>



Aircraft now displays its original number (May2011)



The Fuselage re-skinning completed in May 2011

TAPS
LEST WE FORGET



Newsletter #57 - March 2015

528th - Herman G. Corrado, Aircraft Commander, Corrado's Crew (17), DOD August 7, 2014, Schaumburg, Illinois, reported by Mr./Mrs. Al Manzardo

528th - Richard B. Rone, Flight Engineer, Roth Crew (5), DOD February 8, 2014 (age 105), Sutherlin, Oregon, reported by family friend, Martha Collins

528th/531st - John G. Shine, Jr., Radio Operator, Sowa Crew (9) (528th), Radio Operator, Paul Crew (50) (531st), DOD March 30, 2011, Westford, Massachusetts, returned newsletter

528th - Daniel G. Sullivan, Navigator, Wise's Crew (19), DOD January 25, 2015, Amityville New York, reported by his son, Michael Sullivan

529th - George Bechstein, Flight Engineer, Levandoski's Crew (43), DOD February 27, 2015, Bowling Green, Ohio, reported by his son, Brad Bechstein

529th - Courtney H. Brewer, Armament Chief, DOD October 8, 1990, Orem, Utah, reported by his son, Todd Brewer

529th - James Edward Elam, Gunner, Deaner's Crew (51), DOD September 16, 2014, Union City, Tennessee, reported by Al Busedu

529th - Lloyd A. Fry, Aircraft Commander, Fry's Crew (28), DOD February 25, 2015, Liberty Hill, Texas, reported by his grandson, Kelly Behrens

529th - Jesse Talmadge Mayfield, Ground Staff, Supply Clerk-Typist, DOD August 15, 2008, Clinton, South Carolina, returned newsletter

529th - Helen Flynn Mayfield, Widow of Jesse Mayfield, DOD December 22, 2011, Clinton, South Carolina, returned newsletter

529th - Margaret ("Marge") Stacker Rossman, Widow of Elmer C. Rossman, Jr., DOD September 14, 2014, Port Washington, Wisconsin, returned newsletter

530th - Keith M. Baker, Gunner, Gardner's Crew (78), DOD September 18, 2014, Adrian, Michigan, reported by his daughter, Jennie Zubke

530th - Robert F. Rhoden, Ground Staff, Autopilot Maintenance, DOD October 26, 2011, Portland, Oregon, returned newsletter

530th/531st - Wilbert E. McClellan, Jr., Bombardier, Cunningham Crew (20), DOD September 6, 2012, Bloomfield, Connecticut, returned newsletter

530th - Harold Bernard Stiles, Navigator, Roberts' Crew, DOD March 8, 1991, Sydney NSW Australia, reported by his, Todd Stiles

531st - Joseph R. Edinger, Gunner, Hahn's Crew (31), DOD January 28, 2015, Linfield, Pennsylvania, reported by his son, Richard Edinger

531st - Richard L. Hall, Photographer, Various Crews, DOD October 1999, Mount Laurel, New Jersey, reported by his grandson, Mark Theis

531st - Teresa Hice Burdick, Widow of Warren E. Hice, Tail Gunner, Wilson's Crew (102), DOD September 22, 2014, Brazil, Indiana, reported by her husband, Joe Burdick (Radio Operator, Wilson's Crew)

531st - Louis Joseph Kempf, Aircraft Commander, Kempf's Crew, DOD December 29, 2006, Charlotte, North Carolina, reported by Dennis J. Francis

531st/GP - Mario S. Piantedosi, Ground Staff, Mess Hall Cook, DOD October 11, 2014, Newton, Massachusetts, reported by his daughter, Elizabeth (his widow, Adeline, survives)

531st - Clara Sears, Widow of Francis Lyle Sears, DOD January 29, 2014, Costa Mesa, California, returned newsletter

531st - Philip C. Smith, Bombardier, Kempf's Crew, DOD August 10, 2008, Billerica, Massachusetts, reported by Dennis J. Francis