



## The 380th Bomb Group Association

5th AF -- RAAF

*Affectionately Known As*

# The Flying Circus

**NEWSLETTER #58**

**JULY 2015**

### Contents of this Issue

See Supplement for 2015 Reunion Information, including event registration, lodging, airport and ground transportation, and more!

This and That

Blast From the Past

Featured Crew: 530th, Petre Crew

Mail Call

70 Year "MILADY" Anniversary Event

TAPS

Address Changes/New Members/Returned Newsletters

2015 Reunion Fund

### HISTORIANS

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

### HISTORY PROJECT

Barbara J Gotham

### 2015 REUNION

Barbara J Gotham  
**Dallas, Texas**  
**14-18 October 2015**

### NEWSLETTERS –

### WEBPAGES – FINANCIAL

Barbara J. Gotham

### LINKS

#### **Membership form:**

<http://380th.org/2015Member-form.pdf>

#### **Gear order form:**

<http://380th.org/Gear2015.pdf>

#### **Comments/TAPS notification:**

<http://380th.org/form.html>

#### **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/>

### **380th Bomb Group Association**

130 Colony Road

West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209 USA

<http://380th.org/>

Email: [380th.ww2@gmail.com](mailto:380th.ww2@gmail.com)

Phone: 765-463-5390

Cell (texting preferred): 765-412-5370 (Eastern time zone)

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## THIS AND THAT

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Shady Lady can now be viewed online as a download or to stream:  
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/shadylady>

Our other documentaries online can be found via the FNFF weblink  
<http://www.factnotfictionfilms.com/doco.html>

Kind regards  
Susan Michaelis  
Head of Marketing  
Fact Not Fiction Films

Jennifer Walford reports that Ed Walford's book is now sold out. There are no plans for reprinting.

Following the distribution of the March 2015 newsletter, Dick Dakeyne passed away. Barb Gotham is still working on finding a way to distribute his book in the U.S. Stay tuned!

The Plattsburgh AFB Museum is planning a small 20th anniversary of BRAC / memorial service event on or about September 30, 2015. That's all the info so far; will let you know when there's more to tell!

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## BLAST FROM THE PAST

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The Intelligence Section of the 380th put together a booklet in 1944 telling the story (to that point) of the 380th. The pages from that booklet ("Once upon a time") are shown on the next page.

This booklet and other material came from the Estate of William H. Lee (Group HQ, Ground Staff, Intelligence Section, Topographer), given to the 380th Bomb Group Association by Dr. Paul H. Tedesco, Professor Emeritus, Northeastern University. Also included in the latest material from Dr. Tedesco are the two documents following the "Once upon a time" booklet.



Sgt Lee is shown here (he's the 2nd left, no hat, no pipe) - also pictured are Bill Desmond (Supply Clerk Typist), Russell Boertzel, John Murphy, Paul Leapart (Photographer), and Manuel Ambra (Radio Operator) (all were with Group HQ (taken in December 1944))

Photo taken Jan 12, 1945

L-R: Roger Caputo, Lt. Jack Nicholson (RAAF), Wade Sublett, William Desmond, Ralph Finch, William Lee, Capt. William Perdue, Capt. James Fain, Lt. John Duguid, Lt. Donald Heet, and Robert Mulholland

Note that on the last page of the booklet it is signed by Ralph J. Finch, Jr. (pictured here) (his signature is next to the 531st "Ranger")





Once upon a time...



Walt Disney  
K. A. N.

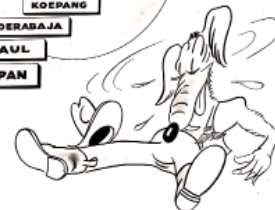
.... IN FACT IN **MAY 1943**  
A SHINY NEW B-24 GROUP ARRIVED —



— DOWN UNDER

One year later, they had flown  
**3,653,840** COMBAT MILES

**150**  
TIMES AROUND THE WORLD



Over their private jungle  
A MILLION SQUARE MILES OF IT

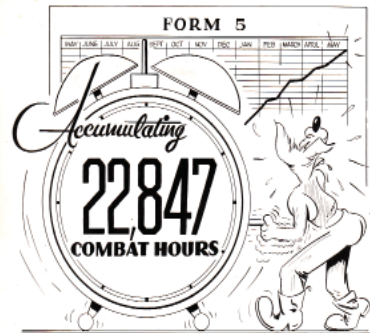


DROPPING

**3,730**  
TONS

ON

**58**  
JAP TARGETS



FORM 5



in

**2387**  
Sorties

THEY SNAPPED  
**5000**  
CANDIDS



OF NIP SHENANIGANS

and SPRINKLED

**3 MILLION**  
POOP SHEETS



**DUNKED**



**82,150 TONS**

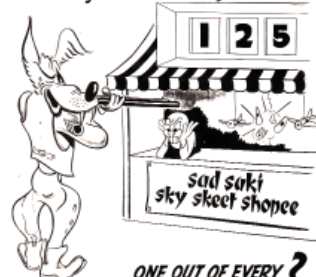
OF NIP SHIPS

TOJO SENT UP

**382**

INTERCEPTORS—

—got shortchanged



ONE OUT OF EVERY 3

Some grew chesty



**4** **91** **185** **15** **507** **34**  
DISTINGUISHED SILVER DISTINGUISHED SOLDIERS AND PURPLE  
SERVICE CROSSES STARS FLYING CROSSES MEDALS MEDALS HEIGHTS



Not everyone  
came home

All helped write the story of the  
**380th BOMB GROUP**



*The Lone Rangers*  
MAY 1943 — MAY 1944

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## *BLAST FROM THE PAST (continued)*

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5-2

HEADQUARTERS  
FIFTH AIR FORCE  
APO 710

AG 201.22

4 September 1945

SUBJECT: Congratulatory Message from the Secretary of War.

TO: All Fifth Air Force Unit Commanders.

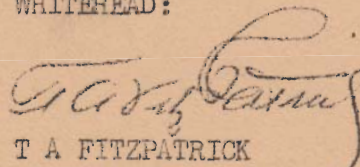
The following message from the Secretary of War to the Commanding General, Far East Air Forces, is quoted for your information:

"DURING THE FINAL WEEKS OF THE AIR ASSAULT ON JAPAN, THE FAR EAST AIR FORCE ADDED NEW CHAPTERS TO THE HISTORY OF COURAGE AND ACHIEVEMENT WHICH IT HAS BEEN WRITING SINCE YOU FIRST ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE ALLIED AIR FORCES IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC. THROUGHOUT THE LONG PERIOD OF YOUR PACIFIC ASSIGNMENTS, YOUR INITIATIVE AND INGENUITY DEVISED OR PERFECTED NEW TECHNIQUES OF AIR TACTICS WHICH CRUSHED THE ENEMY'S AIR RE-ENFORCING HIS ONCE POWERFUL GARRISONS.

"IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE PACIFIC WAR WHEN WE WERE IN THE MOST URGENT NEED OF HALTING JAPANESE OPERATIONS, YOU MADE BRILLIANT USE OF THE SMALL FORCE THEN AT YOUR COMMAND. I RECALL PARTICULARLY THE BOLD AND HAZARDOUS MISSION BY WHICH YOU FLEW A DIVISION INTO PAPUA TO HALT THE ENCROACHMENT OF THE JAPANESE ON PORT MORESBY. BY THE UTMOST EFFICIENCY IN THE USE OF YOUR PLANES AND MEN IN CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE ENEMY'S ISLAND STRONGHOLDS YOU CAUSED SUCH ATTRITION ON THE JAPANESE AIR FORCES THAT YOU SECURED ACTUAL SUPERIORITY OF THE AIR IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC WELL BEFORE IT COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED.

"IN OFFERING MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PART IN OUR VICTORY, I HOPE YOU WILL EXTEND THEM AS WELL TO THE GALLANT CREWS UNDER YOUR COMMAND."

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL WHITEHEAD:

  
T A FITZPATRICK  
Colonel AGD  
Adj Gen

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*BLAST FROM THE PAST (continued)*

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HEADQUARTERS 380TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF  
Office of the Commanding Officer  
APO 337

BULLETIN )  
          ;  
NO. 1 )

12 September 1945

Effective immediately the following schedule of calls  
will be strictly adhered to by all members of this command:

FIRST CALL ..... 0540  
REVEILLE ..... 0545  
MESS ..... 0600 - 0645  
FATIGUE ..... 0700 - 0740  
SICK CALL ..... 0730  
WORK CALL ..... 0745  
RECALL ..... 1150  
MESS ..... 1200 - 1300  
WORK CALL ..... 1300  
RECALL ..... 1700  
MESS ..... 1730 - 1830

BY ORDER OF COLONEL TATE:

*Joseph V. Weigle*  
JOSEPH V. WEIGLE,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Asst Adjutant.

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## FEATURED CREW

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### 530th Squadron Petre Crew (67)



Photo taken October 3, 1944

Top L-R: Sgt Huber (Radioman), Lt. Charles A. Petre (Pilot), Lt. Jack H. Speight (Co-Pilot), F/O W.L. Luvisi (Navigator), Lt. Robert Perez (Bombardier)

Bottom L-R: Sgt Don E McPherson (Gunner), T/Sgt Joseph C. Haefner (Crew Chief), Sgt Jim N. Raymond (Gunner), Sgt Lee E. Ward (Gunner), T/Sgt Milton Nothdurft (Armor Gunner)

Photo sent by Stephen Perez (Robert Perez's son). As of September 2014, his father was living in Monterey Park, California.

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## MAIL CALL

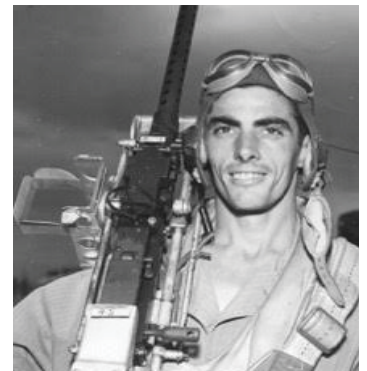
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8 Jun 2015

Was very happy to find your web-site for the 380th. My father was a radio operator/gunner in the 528th. He served on Beautiful Betsy at Fenton from April 1943 thru April 1944.

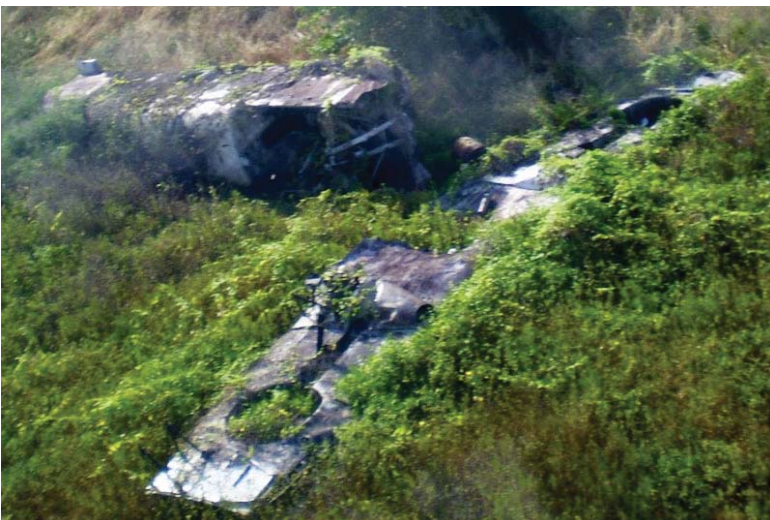
For your records his name was James L. Sword 39827112, T-Sgt. from Idaho. He passed away in April 1985. I am very interested attending your get together in October.

Thanks,  
Ralph E. Sword  
msword@cableone.net



From Bob Livingston, 6 May 2015:

Here's a recent photo of POOCHIE on Crocker Island (all that remains of her).



9 May 2015

A day after I saw notice of the death of Jim Wright at age 92 on the computer early in May of 2015, our daily newspaper printed an obituary, a decent sized one since he did serve as Speaker of the House for a number of years in the U.S. Congress on the next day. What bothered me is that not a mention of his military service was made throughout the entire obit. The 380th Bomb Group was one of the first ones sent to the Pacific early in the war. Jim Wright was one of the early bombardiers surviving that initial run across the ocean, flying some 30 missions and 300 flying hours during the following year. When that kind of activity isn't even mentioned, we wonder where politics has raised its ugly head and how important military service is in the whole scope of things.

However, WE remember, the reducing numbers of "Flying Circus" members, as well as all of us who are part of the "Greatest Generation." Those of us who were there with him or who have read his book know.

Milt Markowitz, copilot

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## MAIL CALL

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23 April 2015

My father was Ralph Castillo, crew chief of the B-24, Gus's Bus. He passed away Nov 30, 1989, at the age of 76. The attached photo from his album is crew of B-24 Gus's Bus taken when they were in Australia. My father is standing in back row second man from the right side.

Ralph E. Castillo  
recnoc@pacbell.net



8 April 2015

Here are a couple pictures from the Reunion held in San Antonio in the early 80's.

The first one are of (left to right) Dewey Struck, Andy Bratton, Bill Trollinger, and Leslie Coleman. Second one is James Wright, Dewey Struck, and Zoetta Struck.

Dewey Struck  
deweystruck@att.net

12 March 2015

My father was a doctor at the 86th station hospital during WW2 and I am collecting information about him and his friends there. He was also a pilot and a camera nut. I have 8mm color footage of fenton field and some of the people there and events that happened there. I have footage of a Japanese air raid and the anti aircraft guns being fired. I would like to know what you folks have that I could use in the book I am writing about dad. Dad had quite an amazing life. His two best friends after the war for over fifty years were Ronald Reagan and Arnold Palmer. The Book should be out soon, I am in the final editing of it now. His name was Dr. Foster Gossard.

Thanks  
John Gossard  
jfgos@live.com

1 March 2015

My name is Jarod Bucki. My Grandfather was a WG on Carrot Top during WWII, Eugene Bucki. I'm trying to find some as much info as I can about him, the plane and the crew for my own personal knowledge. I'm also interested in trying to find an actual picture of the crew with my grandfather standing by the plane. The same picture that's shown on the website under the planes info page. If you could steer me in the right direction and help me anyway possible it would be very appreciated.

Thank you for your time.  
Jarod Bucki  
fins8271@yahoo.com

16 November 2014

The B-24D-65-CO s/n 42-40522 was from the 531st Bomb Squadron, 380th Bomb Group, 5th Air Force. She flew 33 combat missions with the 380th BG as "Deliverer." Declared 'war weary' on December 13, 1943. Repaired and given a nose turret then shipped to the RAAF as A72-006 on March 3, 1944.

Regards Richard Goold, Australia  
rbgoold@gmail.com



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## 70 YEAR "MILADY" ANNIVERSARY EVENT

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We had the ceremony at the site April 25, 2015, with some 30 people attending despite the fact the access track was flooded after some late rains. Small cars were left in the scrub and those with 4-w-d picked up the occupants.

The Northern Territory Government Heritage division replaced the interpretive signs recently and the area is being well maintained.

It was a great little ceremony in the early morning dawn with a minute's silence to remember the crew, broken only by a chorus from the local birdlife. It was quite a moving moment.

With the Anzac centenary celebrations pulling massive crowds, including all the US forces training in our area, it wasn't possible to get any USAF or Marines here. The RAAF did include us in the community flyover so that was pretty impressive. Unfortunately they were a whisker early and no one had their cameras at the ready when it happened. No second chance with F-18s.

The local Anzac organising committee is very keen to make the Milady ceremony a regular part of our Anzac Day. If any of your people are in Australia around April 25, we would love to have them pay us a visit.

Kind regards

Jack Ellis, Event Organization and

Co-author, "The Cox Peninsula During World War II"

A PDF copy of the "Milady" booklet prepared for the ceremony will be included on the News #58 380th website:

<http://380th.org/NEWS/News.html>

Photo captions:

1- Part of the ceremony framed by the wreck.

2 - The book launch and minute's silence. Jack Ellis is the one with the yellow polo shirt (far left).

3 - Some of the local high school students who wanted to take part and helped with the book launch.

4 - The Anzac ceremony at Wagait Beach.



528th - Alma A. Brew, wife of William Brew, DOD October 27, 2014, Henderson, Nevada, reported by her husband

528th - Edwards C. Henry, Pilot, Synar's Crew (18), Aircraft Commander, Henry's Crew (12), DOD June 21, 2015, Canton, Mississippi, reported by his son, Ed Henry

528th - Louis D. Joseph, Flight Engineer, Craig's Crew (8) (Shady Lady), August 4, 2013, Audubon, Pennsylvania, reported by Alice Craig

528th - John F. Lento, Jr., Nose Gunner, Vance's Crew (2), DOD January 23, 2015, Wilmington, Delaware, reported by his daughter, Johna Lento (his widow, Dolores, survives)

528th - Murray C. Marks, Pilot, Vance's Crew (2) and Harris' Crew, DOD August 2013, Marion, Iowa, reported by his widow, Alice

528th - Louis F. Mioduszewski, Gunner, Steinkamp's Crew (1), DOD February 15, 2015, Clinton Township, Michigan, reported by his son, James Mioduszewski

528th - Irene Mioduszewski, wife of Louis F. Mioduszewski, DOD October 2, 2014, Clinton Township, Michigan, reported by her son, James Mioduszewski

528th - Arvid J. Olson, Radio Operator, Spencer's Crew (16), DOD April 2014, South San Francisco, California, reported by his daughter-in-law, Kathleen Olson

528th - William T. Stephens, Flight Engineer, Vance Crew (2), DOD January 5, 2015, Fontana, California, reported by his son, Bill Stephens

528th - James L. Sword, Radio Operator/Gunner, Roth's Crew (5), DOD April 1985, reported by his son, Ralph E. Sword

529th - Edwin L. Ezor (formerly Ezorsky), Ground Staff, DOD January 23, 1999, Maplewood, New Jersey, reported by his son, Jonathan Ezor

529th - Cliff DeForrest Mansfield, Aircraft Commander, Mansfield's Crew (37), DOD September 17, 2014, Fairfax, Virginia, reported by his widow, Lois

529th - Charles B. McGrath, Flight Engineer, Jeffrey's Crew (54), DOD April 25, 2015, St. Helena, California, reported by his daughter, Maureen McGrath

529th - Chester Selakowski, Ground Staff, Decontamination Equipment Operator, DOD December 1, 2011, Livonia, Michigan (web search following returned newsletter)

530th - Ralph Castillo, Ground Staff, Aircraft Maintenance Technician, DOD November 30, 1989, Torrance, California, reported by his son, Ralph E. Castillo

530th/RAAF - Richard B. Dakeyne, Gunner/RCM Operator, Various Crews, DOD April 8, 2015, Toormina, Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia, reported by Craig Bellamy

530th - Constance Plassman, widow of William H. Plassman, DOD April 10, 2015, Leipsic, Ohio, reported by her daughter, Miriam Gibson

530th - James (Jim) C. Wright, Jr., Bombardier, Connery's Crew (25), DOD May 6, 2015, Fort Worth, Texas, reported by Milton Markowitz and Phil Shaw (and others)

531st - Daniel T. Bruen, Bombardier, Low's Crew (109), DOD June 18, 2015, San Antonio, Texas, reported by his son, Danny Bruen

531st - John (Jack) W. Connley, Ground Crew, Communications, Teletype Mechanic, DOD May 1985, reported by his son, Brad Connley

531st - Marian E. Hritz, companion of John Annesser, DOD February 6, 2015, Tamarac, Florida, reported by John Annesser

531st - Don D. Hurley, Aircraft Mechanic, Propeller Specialist/Communications Specialist, DOD February 8, 2015, Tucson, Arizona, reported by his son, Mark D. Hurley

531st - Jessie Wee Poy, wife of George Lim Poy, Sr., DOD October 23, 2014, Novi, Michigan, reported by her son, George Poy

531st - Joseph H. Wells, Assistant Flight Engineer/Gunner, Magee's Crew (91), DOD April 17, 2015, Grove City, Ohio, reported by Theodore Williams and Mary M. Williams

531st - Helen Sexton Wilson, widow of Joel R. Wilson, DOD July 5, 2012, Bastrop, Louisiana (returned newsletter)