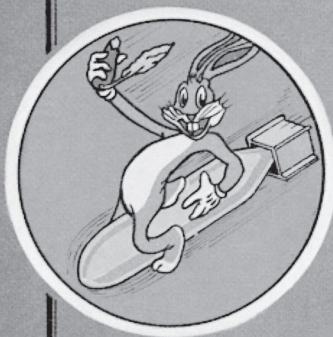


380TH BOMB GROUP



HERKY-528, LIL BEAVER-529, BUGS BUNNY-530, DONALD DUCK-531 SQUADRONS

Francis Johnston



The 380th Bomb Group Association

5th AF -- RAAF

Affectionately Known As

The Flying Circus

NEWSLETTER #67

JUNE 2019

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Glenn R. Horton Jr.

Gary L. Horton

William Shek Jr.

Robert Withorn

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Barbara J. Gotham

LINKS

Membership form:

<http://380th.org/>

2019member-form.pdf

Gear order form:

<http://380th.org/Gear2019.pdf>

Comments/TAPS notification:

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

FACEBOOK

Search for the group 380th

Bombardment Group (5th AF, WWII)

or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/380th/>

In Memoriam page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1686408651610839/>

Jim Fain

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2019 Gear Order Form (June 2019)

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WWII Photo & Story

TAPS

Origin of TAPS

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Fun Facts: Flag Day - United States and Australia

380th Bomb Group Association

130 Colony Road

West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209 USA

<http://380th.org/>

Email: 380th.ww2@gmail.com

Phone: 765-463-5390

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

Please leave voicemail if no answer on cell or home phone

531ST PATCHES ARE SOLD OUT

As of May 2019, we have no 531st squadron patches for sale until we can get permission from the Walt Disney company to use Donald Duck on our patches. Date or even chance of this happening going forward is uncertain at this point.



If anyone has any extra 531st patches in good condition that they'd like to return to Barb Gotham for resale, please let her know!

Of course you can return any other patches (in good shape) if you want!

Cost of used squadron or group (King of the Heavies) patches will be \$5 (new is \$10).

HOPI CODE TALKERS EVENT: APRIL 23, 2019

Barb Gotham attended the 2019 Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day on April 23, 2019, and delivered the keynote speech at that event. You can find the PDF versions of her PowerPoint presentation and notes on our website at: <http://380th.org/HOPI/380thHopiCodeTalker.html#Events>

The Hopi code talker being honored this year was Rex Pooyouma, who served with the 380th from August 1944-November 1945. Little is known of his actual service, since his position as code talker was top secret!

The program, photos, and a letter from Lt Gen Kevin B Schneider, Commander of the Fifth Air Force can be found in this issue.

ABOUT CODE TALKERS

A code talker was a person employed by the military during wartime to utilize a little-known language as a means of secret communication. The term is now usually associated with United States service members during the world wars who used their knowledge of Native American languages as a basis to transmit coded messages. In particular, there were approximately 400 to 500 Native Americans in the United States military whose primary job was to transmit secret tactical messages. Code talkers transmitted messages over military telephone or radio communications nets using formally or informally developed codes built upon their native languages. The code talkers improved the speed of encryption and decryption of communications in front line operations during World War II.

There were two code types used during World War II. Type one codes were formally developed based on the languages of the Comanches, Hopis, Meskwakis, and Navajos. They used words from their languages for each letter of the English alphabet. Messages could be encoded and decoded by using a simple substitution cipher where the ciphertext was the native language word. Type two code was informal and directly translated from English into the native language. If there was no word in the native language to describe a military word, code talkers used descriptive words. For example, the Navajo did not have a word for submarine so they translated it to iron fish.

The name code talkers is strongly associated with bilingual Navajo speakers specially recruited during World War II by the US Marine Corps to serve in their standard communications units of the Pacific theater. Code talking, however, was pioneered by the Cherokee and Choctaw peoples during World War I.

Other Native American code talkers were deployed by the United States Army during World War II, including Lakota, Meskwaki, Mohawk, Comanche, Tlingit, Sioux, Apache, Crow, and Chippewa; they served in the Pacific, North African, and European theaters.

Adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_talker

Although the Navajo tribe is most remembered for its contributions to the World War II communications code units, the Hopi tribe also helped in the communications coding efforts. Ten Hopi men developed a code language which they used to assist US Army intelligence in the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia and the Philippines during the Second World War.

Franklin Shupla	Charles Lomakema
Warren Koiaquaptewa	Percival Navenma
Frank Chapella	Perry Honani, Sr.
Travis Yaiva	Floyd Dann, Sr.

Rex Pooyouma, 380th Bombardment Group Orville Wadsworth, 90th Bombardment Group

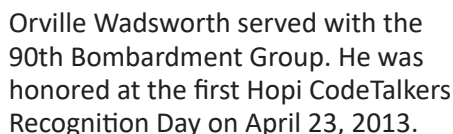
Both were selected and trained as part of a secret Native American Code Talker communications network to transmit secret-coded messages using their Hopi Lavayii in the Pacific campaign.

Mr. Rex Pooyouma and Mr. Orville Wadsworth were honored at the 2011 Veteran's Day observance on November 11, 2011, at the Hopi Veteran's Memorial Center, Kykotsmovi, Arizona. The Hopi Code Talker Recognition Day is now an annual event held each year on April 23 at Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

On November 20, 2013, in Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol, 33 tribes were recognized for the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World Wars I and II. Of the tribes recognized, 25 were presented with their Congressional Gold Medals.

To see the medals, go to: Code Talkers Recognition Congressional Medals Program, U.S. Mint: http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/medals/?action=codeTalkers&tribe=Hopi

For more info about the Hopi code talkers, see our website at: <http://380th.org/HOPI/380thHopiCodeTalker.html>



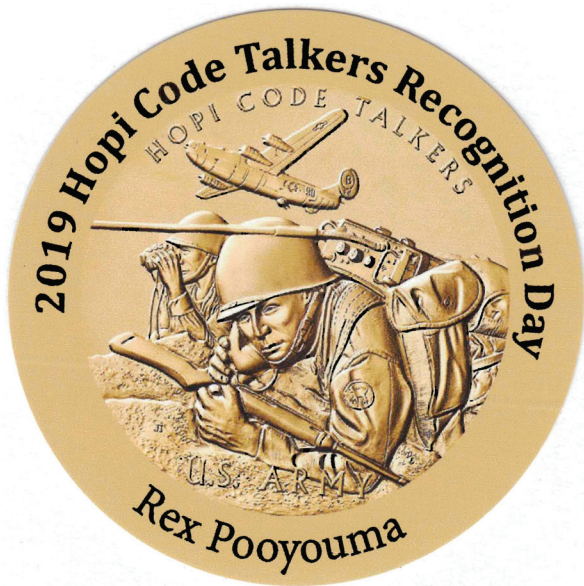
Mr. Wadsworth died in 1969. The chart to the left here is a document he had from WWII showing code talker assignments.

Note that the chart shows a Nelson Danford (Apache) assigned with Rex Pooyouma (Hopi) to the 380th. We have no record of Danford in the group. Geno Talas's response about Mr. Danford is "He was assigned to the 90th BG. We have a few contacts with next of kin for him at Apache Reservation"



Orville Wadsworth,
Code Talker, 90th
Bomb Group

2019 HOPI CODE TALKER RECOGNITION DAY - HONORING REX POOYUMA



Rex Pooyouma was born in June 1917, in the Village of Hotevilla, Arizona; he died on October 23, 2010, at the age of 93, in Hotevilla.

Pooyouma was drafted into the U.S. Army on February 16, 1942. His original military occupation was surgical technician. He was deployed to the Asiatic Pacific Theatre on July 31, 1944, where he served with the 5th AF as code talker in the 380th Bombardment Group until war's end.

He was honorably discharged in November 1945 with the rank of Private First Class. His World War II military medals included: the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star and a Good Conduct Medal. On November 20, 2013, his next of kin was bestowed the Congressional Hopi Code Talker Silver Medal, posthumously at Washington, D.C.

Rex was a hardworking and well-known individual to many people. But to his family, he was humble, smart, and a well-rounded people person. Moreover, he was widely known for his shoemaking, which he held with pride and also allowed him to travel to different places. Wherever he went, he was surely to start a friendly conversation with someone he knew or had just met. No matter where he was, he was always lightening the mood with one of his many stories, jokes or even with just his presence. Rex was deeply rooted in his culture and enjoyed being surrounded by family. He never did miss a chance to be around family nor attend family events. Although he could be stubborn at times, he taught his children and grandchildren to be strong independent individuals. He cherished his family and ensured everyone was taken care of while being present in the lives of his family members. More importantly, opening his home up to others during social dances and more, goes to show the generosity he had towards his community and his willingness to help others. (Courtesy of Ms. Genell and Evelyn Pooyouma, grand-daughters)

2019 HOPI CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION DAY

Program Events

10:00 a.m. – Mr. Jack Harding — Master of Ceremonies

- Posting of Colors – Hualapai Veterans Group
- National Anthem
- Opening Prayer – Gene Pooyouma, son of Rex Pooyouma
- Special Wreath Ceremony
 - * Clark Tenakhongva, Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe
 - * Cory Secakuyva, Commander, American Legion “Lori Piestewa” Post #80
- Playing of TAPS
- Honor Song — Ms. Ila Lou Lomawaima
- Recognition of Distinguished Visitors and Hopi Code Talkers Families.
- Tribute to Native American Code Talkers

10:30 a.m. – Special Letter, Choir and Presentation

- Lieutenant General Kevin B. Schneider, Commander, U.S. Forces Japan, and Commander, 5th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces, Yokota Air Base, Japan
- Sunlight Mission Choir—song
- Presentation to Rex Pooyouma Family—Vice Chairman Tenakhongva
- Recognition of Sponsors—Eugene “Geno” Talas, Manager, Hopi Veterans Services

10:45 a.m. – Keynote Speakers

- Barbara Gotham, 380th Bomb Group Association
- Remembering Rex Pooyouma
 - ◇ Melvin Pooyouma, son of Rex Pooyouma
- Entertainment
 - ◇ Youth Group—Hopi Warrior Dance

12:30 p.m. – Lunch meal is served.

1:30 p.m. – Closing Comments.

2:00 p.m. – Retire National Colors

Special Thanks

A huge thank you to Second Mesa Day School, staff and students for hosting the event in your beautiful school. With special recognition and sincere appreciation to Ms. Dianne Lomahaftewa Albert, Chief School Administrator, and Melvin Pooyouma, Jr., Facility Manager, for their outstanding support and guidance to hold this annual event in a school setting. Kwa kway!



2019 HOPI CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION DAY



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FIFTH AIR FORCE (PACAF)

April 15, 2019

Lieutenant General Kevin B. Schneider
Commander, Fifth Air Force
Unit 5087
APO AP 96328-5087

Mr. Eugene "Geno" Talas
Manager, Hopi Veterans Services
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmobi AZ 86039



Dear Mr. Talas

Let me begin by congratulating you on the 2019 Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day. The Hopi Tribe has a proud legacy of Hopi Veterans, men and women, who served honorably in all branches of the Armed Forces during World II. Their work was highly dangerous, especially in the Pacific, where the enemy deliberately targeted officers, medics, and radiomen.

While Fifth Air Force can trace its roots back to the Philippines, March 1912, the Far East Air Force wasn't established until October 1941. Under this name, Fifth Air Force saw its first combat action. Within hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese forces also attacked U.S. bases in the Philippines, destroying most of the parked aircraft. The remaining aircraft became the first U.S. Army Air Force unit to take part in combat, conducting defensive operations for the U.S. and allied forces while retreating to Australia's northern coast.

In 1942, while in Australia, the Far East Air Force was redesignated Fifth Air Force and placed under the command of Major General George Kenney, General Douglas MacArthur's component commander for all allied air services. During this time, the U.S. Marines were the first to recruit Native American Code Talkers to join the military and aid in turning the tide in the Pacific. Servicemembers such as Mr. Rex Pooyouma, who was assigned to the 380th Bombardment Group, Fifth Bomber Command, Fifth Air Force, United States Army Air Force, remind us of the important work the Native American Code Talkers conducted during World War II.

The Fifth Bomber Command's unique selective group of Hopi Code Talkers and the other Native American Code Talker's heroic actions are credited by the United States Army in saving the lives of numerous Soldiers and Soldier-Airmen. By using their native languages to communicate secret-coded messages in combat, the Hopi Code Talkers contributed to the final victory in the Pacific and eventually to the successful end of World War II.

Today, as servicemen and women from Hopi Tribes continue to support our security interests around the globe, Fifth Air Force continues its long lineage in remaining a credible deterrent in the Indo-Pacific region while continuing to build and strengthen bilateral integration with the Japan Self-Defense Forces.

I am proud of the nearly 80 years of lineage that connects the Hopi Tribe to Fifth Air Force. Thank you for allowing me to recount the support provided by the Hopi Code Talkers during this proud chapter of Fifth Air Force history, as well as this opportunity to honor a member of the Fighting Fifth family – Mr. Rex Pooyouma.

Sincerely

KEVIN B. SCHNEIDER
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

2019 HOPI CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION DAY

Barbara J Gotham, representing the 380th Bomb Group Association, is from West Lafayette, Indiana, home of Purdue University, where she was employed for over 30 years as an administrative assistant. She retired from the university in 2011.

Mrs. Gotham has been working with the 380th Bomb Group Association since the 1990s. She worked with Professor Theodore Williams at the university and assisted him with his research of and correspondence regarding the 380th Bombardment Group in WWII. He was a navigator in the 531st Squadron on the Magee crew. Together they published several volumes in the *WE WENT TO WAR* history series, which includes rosters of all wartime members of the group, details of the individual aircraft of the 380th (B-24 bombers), bombing missions, and more.

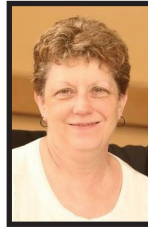
Mrs. Gotham worked closely with Professor Williams on these books (as co-author), and subsequently developed the group's webpages, newsletters and Facebook pages. Together they ran the group's annual reunions from 2000-2007; from 2007-2018, she solely coordinated and ran the reunions, ending with the final one held last November (2018) in Tucson. Upon Professor Williams' death in 2013, Mrs. Gotham took over the reins of the organization.

The 380th Bombardment Group Association was formed to preserve the history of the 380th Bombardment Group (H), 5th Air Force, World War II. The bombardment group served in the Southwest Pacific Theatre in Australia, New Guinea, and The Philippines from 1943 to war's end.

Mrs. Gotham's work with the 380th includes making additions and updates to the *WE WENT TO WAR* history series, publishing their newsletters, and maintaining the group's web and Facebook pages.

The group first learned of Rex Pooyouma's WWII service in the 380th as Hopi Code Talker in 2011; we are very proud to have had him serve with the 380th.

Barb and her husband, Doug Gotham, have been married for over 20 years. Their daughter, Arika, and her husband, Brandon, live in Clinton, Tennessee, and they have four children.



A big "thank you" to Bill Shek for his assistance in preparation of the keynote speech!!

Also, heavenly thanks go to Ted Williams, because without his research and his dedication to the 380th, none of this would have been possible!



Photo credits: Geno Talas, Doug Gotham, Randall Nahto Sahmie

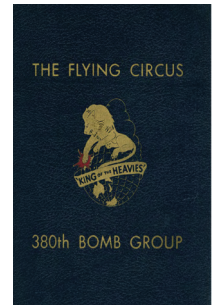
JIM FAIN

Barb Gotham recently came across an article that was with items she received from Ted Williams' estate. The article was from a Tucson newspaper, dated March 17, 1991, titled *VIEWPOINTS: A nation can be no stronger than its weakest links*. Various other newspapers also carried this commentary.



Fenton: Intelligence

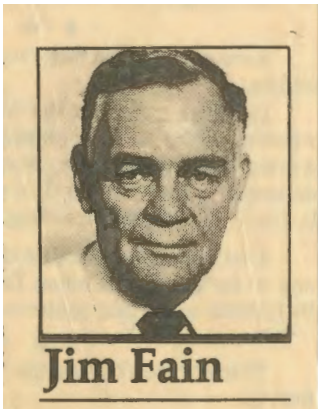
The author, Jim Fain, was an Intelligence Officer in the 529 Squadron and Group Headquarters. When the war ended, he, as Editor-in-Chief, and other intelligence officers published the first 380th History Book, *The Flying Circus*, November 1942-September 1945 (commonly known as the "blue book" because of its blue cover). The photo of the Fenton Intelligence group shown here is from that book.



Born in Norman Park, Georgia, he graduated from Emory University with a degree in journalism; he worked for several newspapers in Georgia and in 1949 went to what is now the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as news editor. He later became editor of the Dayton Daily News and the Miami News. In 1976, Mr. Fain became the publisher of the Austin American-Statesman. He moved to Washington DC in 1983 to work as Cox Media Group's national correspondent.

He was a retired brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve. Jim passed away on April 14, 2012, in Savannah, Georgia.

Here is an excerpt from his March 1991 Viewpoint.



The melting pot

By Jim Fain

THE BALTIMORE EVENING SUN

March 18, 1991 / WASHINGTON

RACIAL PURITY is a silly topic, partly because there's no such thing. We've all been blended, and we almost surely had a common origin. Still there's something about the subject that makes people nervous.

Minority populations grew twice as fast during the '80s as in the '70s, according to the U.S. Census. Nearly one in four Americans now has African, Asian, Hispanic or American Indian ancestry. Despite the fact we are a nation of immigrants, many whites find this disquieting.

Each new wave of newcomers has been resented by those who got here ahead of it. The Irish, Italians and East Europeans all faced discrimination and racial slurs. But their assimilation was a piece of cake contrasted with what Americans of different skin hues have to go through.

The proudest achievement this country has made in my lifetime, by my standards, is its progress in moving blacks toward full membership in society. There's a painful lot still undone, but the improvement from the segregated, brutally discriminatory culture in which I grew up in the Deep South has been breathtaking.

This all happened after World War II, rearranging a society that had been in concrete, except for the end of slavery, for two centuries.

To read the rest of the article, as published in THE BALTIMORE SUN, March 18, 1991, please go to:
<https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1991-03-18-1991077167-story.html>

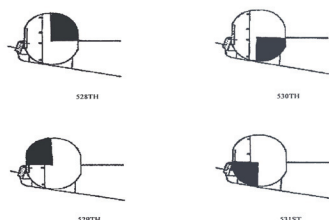
380th AIRCRAFT MARKINGS IN WORLD WAR II

Like most combat groups before the fall of 1943, the 380th went into combat with the aircraft painted the standard olive drab on the upper parts and sides of the aircraft and the undersurfaces were standard neutral gray. This was modified only by the national insignia and, in many cases, a name with nose art.

As in all theatres, a problem soon arose when planes needed to rendezvous prior to hitting the target. If more than one group was involved, it became very difficult to tell the different units apart and some form of highly visible identification became necessary. The presence of the large twin tails on the B-24 made them the logical place to put whatever identification symbols were employed.

This situation became critical in the Southwest Pacific area when General MacArthur began preparations for the Cape Gloucester invasion of New Britain Island in late November 1943. All available bomber aircraft were scheduled to take part, with three B-24 groups involved. An order was therefore issued for each group to pick a distinctive marking.

The 380th chose to paint the fins and rudders of their planes in a scheme of quadrants, as shown on the left below. These pictures, for clarity, show the scheme after Spring 1944 (Northern Hemisphere seasons) when the olive drab paint was removed from our aircraft. The first version was to paint the chosen quadrant white on the olive drab background. As noted, this was changed to black on natural metal finish the following April-June period.



This scheme was maintained until the move of the 380th to Mindoro, The Philippines, in February-March 1945 (i.e., 15 months). The figure to the right shows all the versions of tail markings for the 380th.

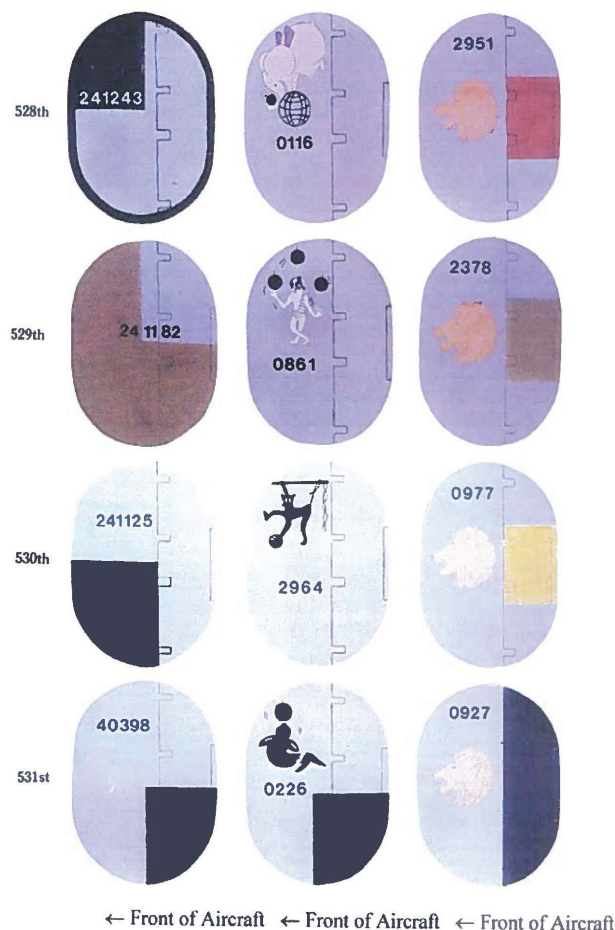
The Philippines Campaign markings are shown in the center panel of this figure and shows the Flying Circus motif used there, while the right-hand column is for the King of the Heavies motif adopted for expected involvement in the Invasion of Japan from Okinawa, the latter fortunately halted by peace.

In The Philippines renderings, the 531st Squadron is shown as retaining the black quadrant from the earlier examples. This was not true for all aircraft but for most. Many aircraft of the 530th also retained the lower front quarter black quadrant.

The elephant of the 528th was "pink" in most cases. The juggler of the 529th was in natural colors. The monkey and the seal were normally black, but some seals for the 531st were red.

The change from the colored quadrants to the Circus theme was based on a 380th Headquarters order dated February 8, 1945.

The change to the lion or King of the Heavies motif apparently took place during late July and early August 1945 when the 380th was waiting to transfer to Okinawa.



Figures source: Horton, "King of the Heavies," p. 127.

Text source: <http://380th.org/HISTORY/partV-tails.html> (click on this link to see the photos in color).

More info available from Horton, "Best in the Southwest," Appendix Three, pp. 436-443.

380th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

2019 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

New ____ Renewal ____

Date: _____

WWII Squadron (528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, Group, or RAAF) _____

Your Name _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Your Address: _____

City/State/Zip/Country _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

380th Duty (if known, e.g., Gunner, Crew Chief, Mechanic, etc.) _____

Please check the appropriate box(es):

**To reduce printing and USPS mailing costs, we
recommend you get your newsletter (PDF) by email:**

☐ **380th Veteran**

☐ **Please send my FLYING CIRCUS newsletter by email**

☐ **380th Wing Member**

☐ **I'd prefer to receive a hard copy of the newsletter**

☐ **Family Member of 380th Veteran** Name of Veteran _____

Your relationship to veteran _____

☐ **Other** If other, please explain here why you wish to join the group _____

An annual donation of \$25 (or whatever amount your budget allows) payable to **380th Bomb Group Association** will help defray costs of newsletters, mailings and the website throughout the year. (Cash or checks only, no credit cards.) Please mail your donation and registration form to:

**Barbara Gotham
130 Colony Road
West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209 USA**

Cash or checks only, made payable to: 380th Bomb Group Association (no credit cards)

Note: If you have a PayPal account (recommended for our Australian and other overseas members), you can transfer your donation using the Send & Request Tab –

use Barbara Gotham's PayPal email account: bjgotham@gmail.com

If you send a donation by PayPal, you still need to send the completed form by mail (to address above) or email the information to 380th.ww2@gmail.com to get on the newsletter/reunion mailing list.

380th Bomb Group Association

GEAR ORDER – JUNE 2019

PATCHES

(Mark on line # requested)

Squadron/Group patches:

\$10.00 ea. (used patches \$5.00 ea.)

Group: _____ 528th: _____

529th: _____ 530th: _____

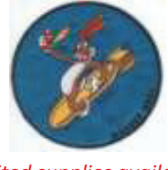
There are no 531st patches left (Donald Duck)



Group-6"x4-1/2" 528th-5"x5"



529th-5"x5"



**Limited supplies available.
380th Members only
530th-4-3/4"x4-3/4"**

Wings patches: \$3.00 ea.

Pilot: _____

Navigator: _____

Bombardier: _____

Gunner: _____

Air Crew Member: _____

Size: 3-1/8" x 1-1/4"



Pilot



Navigator



Air Crew



Bombardier



Gunner

REUNION PATCHES

\$3.00 ea. Size: 4-1/8" x 3/4"

Tucson/2018: _____

Older: Year _____

Place: _____



RAAF wings patches:

\$3.00 ea. (limited supplies available)

RAAF: _____

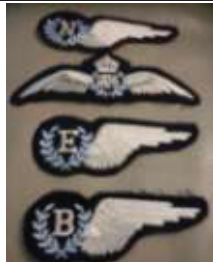
No navigator patches left.

Bombardier: _____

Engineer: _____

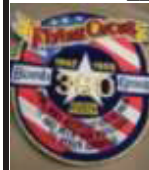
Size: RAAF4-1/4" x 1-1/2"

Others: 3-1/2" x 1-1/4"



Tucson 1942-1999 patches:

\$2.00 ea.



Size: 4-1/2" x 5"

CAPS, \$7.00 ea. (mesh, solid bill)

One size: _____

(limited supplies available)



One used cap: \$3.00: _____

Shoulder patches:

\$4.00 ea.

5th Air Force: _____

USAAF: _____

Size: 3" round



5th Air Force



USAAF

NEW: 1981-2018

**Commemorative
Reunion Patch**

\$10.00 ea.

Size: 3-1/2"x5-1/2"



JACKETS (long sleeves)

Blue nylon, \$20.00 ea.

Unlined: Small: _____

Lined: Small: _____

Lined: Large: _____

Lined: XL: _____



Back



Front

T-shirts (short sleeves)

**Blue cotton/polyester,
\$8.00 ea.**

Small: _____

Medium: _____ (only one left)

(Please send email for availability on Medium)

(Logo on shirt front only)



Front



Closeup of logo on front

It is suggested you send email to 380th.ww2@gmail.com before submitting order to check on current availability of items. Limited quantities of items are in stock – if a size is not shown above, it may no longer be available. Once the current supply of **jackets, caps, and t-shirts** (and some patches) runs out, please check on possibility/availability of re-orders. Please allow 6-8 weeks for re-stocking and shipping of these items.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR POSTAGE CHARGES ARE WELCOMED!

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to: Barbara Gotham, 130 Colony Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209 USA

Cash or checks only, made payable to: 380th Bomb Group Association (no credit cards)

If you have a PayPal account, PLEASE ADD \$2 to your order for PayPal transaction fee. You can transfer your payment using the

Send & Request Tab –PayPal email account: bjgotham@gmail.com –

(Note: You still need to mail or email the completed form in order to get the gear you want!)

MAIL CALL

January 28, 2019

From: George DiPierro, son of Louis J. DiPierro, 529th Squadron, Gunner, Barton's Crew

This email is concerning the 380th Bomb Group website I recently ran across. My Father was a member of the 380th BG, 529th Squadron. I was surprised to see as much information as I did! I still have his flight bag with painted artwork still intact and his info stenciled on the opposite side of the bag,

Here are the photos from Louis DiPierro's collection. The individual photos are of him, and there's also photos of a B-24, other crew members, and the painted flight bag.

Thanks, George, for sharing with us!!



MAIL CALL

Mar 27, 2019

From: Don O'Shea, son-in-law of Walter S. George, 529th, Assistant Flight Engineer/Gunner, Carmichael Crew (40)

Hello Barbara,

First of all I have to thank you very much for your tireless work in preserving the memory of the 380th bomb group! You have a passion and drive for keeping the memory of our heroes alive and I admire your dedication. Totally amazing.

I'm a WWII amateur historian and I really appreciate the history you have preserved.

My father-in-law, Walter George (Weymouth, Mass.) was a flight engineer on Dream Gal, Carmichael's crew. I looked at his flight mission history and was totally amazed. Dream Gal flew 90 missions!

These service men were true heroes. Thanks again for your dedication to keeping the memory alive. During your reunion to Australia in 1992, Walter and his wife Anne were part of the trip. During the trip to Darwin, Walter and others in the group talked a cattle rancher into letting the heroes into his ranch to see the air field and the camp. Walter looked for a series of concrete platforms and counted down to where the tent he lived in was located. He pulled out a spoon and dug into the dirt behind the platform. He pulled out a bottle of Australian beer that he buried there before he left the camp ... wow!

Don O'Shea

Married 36 years to former Judith George (daughter of Walter George)

May 15, 2019

From: CPL Shane Parks

I am conducting a unit history investigation on behalf of 114MCRU based in Darwin N.T. Australia.

In 1945 the 380th bomber group had four squadrons of B24s based on RAAF Base Darwin in four large hangars, photo attached.

I'm trying to find any documentation of photographs of those hangars, research indicates that the 380th bomber group were the first occupants of those hangars.

114MCRU occupy the same space as two of those hangars and finding information about the foundations would be a great find.

Any assistance you can provide would be appreciated.

Cheers, CPL Shane Parks

NCO Unit Node 4

No.1 Combat Communications Squadron

RAAF Base Edinburgh

(Deployed to RAAF Darwin: 42045)

Email: shane.parks@defence.gov.au



If anyone has info to share with CPL Parks, please contact him at the email address shown at the bottom of his message (and it would be appreciated if you could copy Barb Gotham at: 380th.ww2@gmail.com)

MAIL CALL -- SHADY LADY INCIDENT INQUIRY

Aug 23, 2018

From: Frederick D. Upcraft

Hello Ms Gotham

Saw a movie on UK TV recently about a B24 (380 BG) Liberator, based at Darwin, Australia, which, apparently, made the longest ever recorded operational flight (SW Pacific area, attacking oil fields/Japanese shipping). On the return leg, the plane ran out of fuel and forced landed in some remote Northern Territories area. The crew were rescued by Aborigines, and, the plane, subsequently repaired and refuelled, was flown back to its base at Darwin - not by its crew, or USAF personnel, but, if the film is accurate, by two volunteers from RAF/RAAF sources.....

My interest in this stems from a piece of research I am doing in relation to a B17 which, returning from a mission over Europe, ran out of fuel and landed in a field in Kent, UK. The plane was subsequently repaired and refuelled and flown away - so it is attested by an eye-witness - by two (? volunteer) RAF personnel, rather than USAF..... If this report is accurate, was it standard practice, in such incidents, to employ volunteer aircrew from other air forces? from whence were these volunteers drawn/ etc etc

Any thoughts you may have would be most welcome.

Aug 23, 2018

Mr. Upcraft

I asked one of our historians your question, and here's his reply:

According to Horton "The Best in the Southwest" (p.78), after repairs were made, Shady Lady was flown off of the pan and returned to Fenton by two USAAF volunteers: Major Zed Smith and M/Sgt Willard Marshall--no other crew was on board. The RAAF first made contact with the SL crew when one of its Hudson a/c flew over the site. The RAAF also was in contact with the Drysdale Mission and helped organize the rescue effort by boat (Father Sanz in charge of the boat, named "Teresita Moa"). The repair crew, according to Lindsay Peet (Australian researcher) was made up of USAAF engineers from Fenton.

Also, this, from the Pacific Wrecks website:

"A team from the US Army, 43rd Service Squadron (Material) based at Fenton Airfield was sent aboard the Teresita Moa to the crash site to repair the bomber. The Aborigines aided by carrying a B-24 "birdcage" nose section overland 65 miles to the crash site, plus fuel and other repair parts. Other parts were flown to the site aboard a RAAF Gypsy Moth. The damaged bomber was repaired and unpainted aluminum sheets were used to repair the lower portion of the nose."

So, according to the records, the RAAF flew repair supplies to the site, coordinated with the Mission for the physical rescue of the crew, transported them to Drysdale Airfield (RAAF No. 58 Operational Base), and flew the crew back to Fenton in their Hudson a/c. Therefore, the film Mr. Upcraft refers to is inaccurate in saying that RAF/RAAF personnel flew Shady Lady back to Fenton. As for whether it was standard practice to employ volunteer aircrew from other air forces in such incidents, I'm sure that ANY resources available at the time and place of a crash were utilized, whether they were from foreign air forces or our own.

BTW, the information by Lindsay Peet in the link here is pretty informative and seemingly accurate:

"THE SAGA OF THE SHADY LADY" -- <http://www.kimberleysociety.org/oldfiles/2006/THE%20SAGA%20OF%20THE%20SHADY%20LADY%20Mar%202006.pdf>

Editor's Note: Bill Shek was the historian who answered this question - Thanks, Bill!

Aug 24, 2018

Many thanks to yourself and your historian colleague for such a prompt and very detailed explanation. I have the answer to the question I posed.

Oh that I had access to such detailed information concerning the aircraft I am researching..!! (B17G 42102424 El Lobo, 92 BG 325 Bomb Squadron.)

Ideally, I should like to locate the aircraft log book, and the records of the Unit responsible for organising its retrieval from the crash site, but, to date, no success. It may be, of course, that said records no longer exist - having been destroyed.

If you have any thoughts/ ideas thereon, I should be grateful to receive them.

Once again, many thanks for your assistance

Frederick D Upcraft

MAIL CALL -- A2 FLIGHT JACKET

May 27, 2019

From: Don Summers <ddsumrtime@aol.com>

I am intrigued with the "King of the Heavies" bomb group and am wondering if you know of any member who is still around. My father was an artist and in the army and I saw a picture of an A2 flight jacket that had a lion painted on the back of the jacket. Do you have any idea of anyone who has a similar jacket as it would be great to get some photos of it?

Happy Memorial Day,
Don Summers

May 29, 2019

From: Barbara Gotham to Don Summers

There are several members around, but I don't know off hand if any have the "king of the heavies" lion painted on their A2 flight jacket.

However, there's one on display at the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio!!

<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/196897/flying-circus-jacket/>

If you're anywhere near there, you can see it in person, otherwise the link above has a good photo of the back of the jacket! [Photo shown here]

Let me know if you need anything else! Check out our website for the history and more of the 380th Bombardment Group in WWII!

Barbara

May 31, 2019

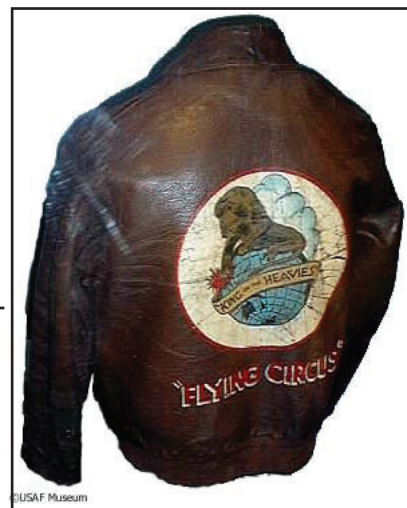
From: Don Summers

Thanks for the link to the photo of the jacket with the lion on the back.

Should you know the respected gentlemen who you mentioned in your email who are still around, I am wondering if you may reach out to them and provide my contact information either email or phone number (415-454-5538), as I always ask any elderly man I run into "what were you doing during the 40's?". I have heard wonderful stories. I find it immensely interesting to hear stories from WWII vets, and sadly there are not many left.

Regarding the A2 jackets, they hold a lot of history and are certainly iconic.

Regards,
Don Summers
<ddsumrtime@aol.com>



If anyone has a A2 flight jacket with the "King of the Heavies" painted on it, please contact Barb Gotham to forward to Mr. Summers, or contacting him directly works too!

WWII PHOTO & STORY FROM "THE BLUE BOOK"



From THE FLYING CIRCUS history, "blue book"

"Shaved heads of one crew illustrate what was on the 380th's minds, even in the early days."

... NEVER-NEVER

380th Yanks Find Australia's Great Outback an Endless Procession of Furnace-like Heat and Monotony. Circusmen start talking to the lizards.

PORT Darwin implies a city to a person whose travelling has been done in an atlas. So do Derby, Broome, Cairns.

Actually the few score dwellings and frame buildings which make up these outposts of the white man in the vast, tired wildernesses of the world's oldest continent are puny specks against the huge backdrop of Australia's Outback.

Two thousand miles to the south lies the Australia of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, the sheep ranches, vineyards, the farms and race tracks. In between is desert and bush country. Prior to the war the only link was by air and sea. Darwin is a place apart.

Into this odd no-man's land in early 1943 came the 380th Bombardment Group, some arriving by B-24 after the long flight from California and others by Liberty ship after a tortuous trip crawling along the coast of Australia from Sydney to Darwin.

Scheduled to operate from two bases, Fenton 100 miles south of Darwin, and Manbulloo, another 100 miles further south, the Americans viewed a land strange to most Australians, an unpeopled mass of trees and bush, stretching thousands of miles from Darwin, a tired land where no rainfall is ever felt during the eight months' "dry" and where more than 100 inches falls incessantly during the brief tropical "wet". Land of ant hills 12 feet tall, bounding wallabies, parched earth, screeching cacoatooos, six-foot Iguanas, and several million insects. Land of no human habitation except the nomadic Aborigines, most primitive of all men, jet-black, eating uncooked grubs and lizards, wandering from one lean-to to the next in a haphazard series of tribes or "families".

Along the North-South road, that winding stretch of clay which had been laboriously fashioned to allow truck convoys to travel from embattled Darwin to its nearest rail link with populated Australia — Alice Springs, a desert settlement 1,000 miles to the south — were a few Australian camps, some infantry, a few air installations, truck companies, not much. And at night, during the "dry" the never-ending "bush fires"

which ate away at an inexhaustible supply of ancient timber and underbrush.

Always the scorching heat of a tropical sun in the arid, parched climate until at midday the insects and lizards sought refuge under any available cover and only the unintelligent white man prodded his steaming trucks along the dustiness of the unfamiliar roads.

This was the Northern Territory which this one, isolated tactical unit of the American Army Air Forces was to call home for a year and one-half, one of the most forsaken spots God ever fashioned. Where a wag was to say:

"After a while you begin to talk to the lizards, and that isn't so bad. Then after a few more weeks, the lizards begin to talk to you, and that's all right, too. But when you begin to answer them, Brother, that's too bad."

When the first rains began to herald the coming "wet", 380th Yanks could find no solace in the switch of seasons for the heat would go on unrelenting, the humidity would rise, and drenching rains would convert the lonesome wilderness into a steaming mass of almost unbearable wet heat.

But life went on, and men lived at their camps, in their pyramidal tents, finding such ways as they could to break the monotony and losing themselves in an endless procession of sameness, one day after another.

Excerpt from THE FLYING CIRCUS history, "blue book"



528th - Gay, William S., Jr., Ground Staff, Sheet Metal Worker, and volunteer side gunner, DOD May 25, 2019, Colleyville, Texas, reported by his son, Kirk Gay

528th - Miller, Faber Ellsworth, Flight Engineer, Kemp Crew (11), DOD July 23, 1980, Fresno, California, reported by his stepdaughter Clarissa Vargas and his son, Robert Miller

529th - DiPierro, Louis J., Gunner, Barton Crew, DOD March 31, 1996, Poughkeepsie, New York, reported by his son, George DiPierro

529th - Sauer, Kenneth A., Navigator, Harrison Crew (39), DOD July 7, 2015, Suntree, Florida, reported by his son, Steve Sauer

530th - Sparger, Margaret, Widow of Howard D. Sparger (DOD 12/1/1993), DOD September 30, 2015, Ardmore, Oklahoma, reported by her son, Richard Sparger

531st - Lundberg, John R., Jr., Pilot, Forssell Crew (77), DOD December 28, 2018, Vallejo, California, reported by his niece, Connie Allen

531st - Martone, Vincent P., Ground Crew, Radio Operator Mechanic, DOD May 13, 2012, Bradford, Connecticut, reported by his daughter, Marian Martone

ORIGIN OF "TAPS"



During the Civil War, in July 1862 when the Army of the Potomac was in camp, Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield summoned Pvt. Oliver Wilcox Norton, his brigade bugler, to his tent. Butterfield, who disliked the colorless "extinguish lights" call then in use, whistled a new tune and asked the bugler to sound it for him. After repeated trials and changing the time of some notes which were scribbled on the back of an envelope, the call was finally arranged to suit Gen. Butterfield and used for the first time that night. Pvt. Norton, who on several occasions, had sounded numerous new calls composed by his commander, recalled his experience of the origin of "Taps" years later:

"One day in July 1862 when the Army of the Potomac was in camp at Harrison's Landing on the James River, Virginia, resting and recruiting from its losses in the seven days of battle before Richmond, Gen. Butterfield summoned the writer to his tent, and whistling some new tune, asked the bugler to sound it for him. This was done, not quite to his satisfaction at first, but after repeated trials, changing the time of some of the notes, which were scribbled on the back of an envelope, the call was finally arranged to suit the general.

"He then ordered that it should be substituted in his brigade for the regulation "Taps" (extinguish lights) which was printed in the Tactics and used by the whole army. This was done for the first time that night. The next day buglers from nearby brigades came over to the camp of Butterfield's brigade to ask the meaning of this new call. They liked it, and copying the music, returned to their camps, but it was not until some time later, when generals of other commands had heard its melodious notes, that orders were issued, or permission given, to substitute it throughout the Army of the Potomac for the time-honored call which came down from West Point.

In the western armies the regulation call was in use until the autumn of 1863. At that time the XI and XII Corps were detached from the Army of the Potomac and sent under command of Gen. Hooker to reinforce the Union Army at Chattanooga, Tenn. Through its use in these corps it became known in the western armies and was adopted by them. From that time, it became and remains to this day the official call for "Taps." It is printed in the present Tactics and is used throughout the U.S. Army, the National Guard, and all organizations of veteran soldiers.

Gen. Butterfield, in composing this call and directing that it be used for "Taps" in his brigade, could not have foreseen its popularity and the use for another purpose into which it would grow. Today, whenever a man is buried with military honors anywhere in the United States, the ceremony is concluded by firing three volleys of musketry over the grave, and sounding with the trumpet or bugle "Put out the lights. Go to sleep"...There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air."

Source: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/ceremonies/originoftaps.html>

NOTICES

If you have any inquiries, requests, or other information you would like to relay to other 380th Bomb Group Association members, please write to: Barbara Gotham (see contact info below).

Also, if you have any information pertaining to any of the mail calls in any issue of THE FLYING CIRCUS, you can respond directly to the person inquiring (if contact info is provided) or to Barb Gotham to pass along to that person.

TO REDUCE PRINTING AND MAILING COSTS, READERS CAN NOW CHOOSE TO RECEIVE A PDF COPY OF FUTURE NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL (RATHER THAN RECEIVING THE HARD COPY IN THE MAIL).

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NOTE: IF YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND NOTICE OF YOUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS.

Membership form is provided in this issue, but you also download a copy from the 380th website at:

<http://380th.org/2019Member-form.pdf>

HOW TO REPORT TAPS

Please write to:
Barbara Gotham
380th Bomb Group Association
130 Colony Road
West Lafayette IN 47906-1209 USA

Or send email to: 380th.ww2@gmail.com

Or go to this web link and submit the form:
<http://380th.org/form.html>

PAST ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTERS CAN BE FOUND on our website at:

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

Issues 1-58 are in HTML format (December 1999-November 2015).

PDF versions are available of all issues.

Got an idea for a story? Send email to 380th.ww2@gmail.com or mail to Barb Gotham at the USPS address shown below

Looking for a gift for that special someone? Please consider 380th gear! Check out the order form in this issue and on our website at:

<http://380th.org/Gear2019.pdf>

FACEBOOK

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

To post obituaries and memorials, please use our *In Memoriam FB page*:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1686408651610839/>

FUN FACTS



In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress



In Australia, Australian National Flag Day is celebrated on September 3. It commemorates the day in 1901 on which the Australian National Flag was first flown. On that day Prime Minister Edmund Barton announced the winners of the official 1901 Federal Flag Design Competition.



*This Newsletter is Dedicated to All the Men of the
380th Bombardment Group (H) in World War II*

with special thanks to

*Forrest E. (Tommy) Thompson, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.) and Helen H. Thompson
who had the foresight, perseverance, and love of the 380th Bombardment Group (H) and its history,
traditions, and personnel to organize, succor, and guide the
380th Bombardment Group Association, Inc. (our predecessor organization, from 1982-1999)*

and to Theodore (Ted) J. Williams

*for his dedication to preserving the 380th's history and for continuing the work of the
Thompsons in guiding our current organization from 1999-2006*

and to Thomas (Tom) M. Hunt

for his support, guidance and commitment to the 380th Bomb Group Association during his lifetime.

Our everlasting thanks and love go out to them all.