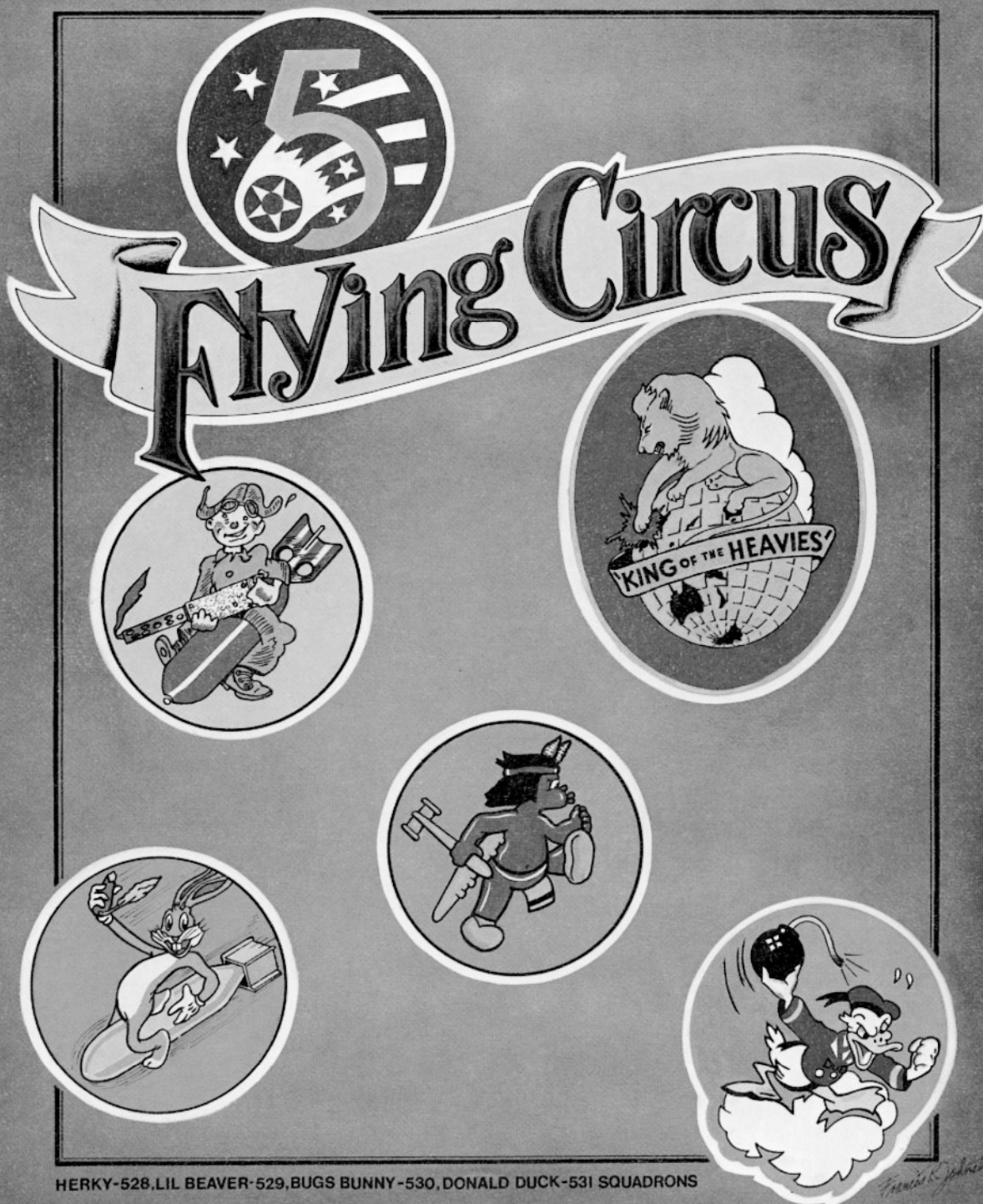


380TH BOMB GROUP



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



The 380th Bomb Group Association

5th AF -- RAAF

Affectionately Known As

The Flying Circus

NEWSLETTER #73

OCTOBER 2021

National Personnel Records Center

380th Air Expeditionary Wing

State Library New South Wales-Digital Collection

380th Group Commanders & Brass

Black Swans over Java

Willard J. McCurdy (529th)

Last 380th Combat Missions Against Japan

Ralph W. Oman (530th)

Charles H. Shaver Memoir (529th)

"The All-American Crew," Novel by Russell Low

90th Bombardment Group WWII

Frank C. Deller (530th)

Tiffany Crew (528th)

TAPS

Notices

✓ **Check this out:** New Fold3 article by Jenny Ashcraft -- Women Who Lost Their Lives During WWII -- <https://blog.fold3.com/women-who-lost-their-lives-during-wwii/>

HISTORIANS

Bob Alford
Glenn R. Horton Jr.
Gary L. Horton
Pete Johnston
Robert Livingstone
Edward Rogers
William Shek Jr.
Robert Withorn

HISTORY PROJECT

NEWSLETTERS

REUNION COORDINATOR

WEBPAGES -- FINANCIAL

Barbara J. Gotham

LINKS

Membership form:

<http://380th.org/2021Member-form.pdf>

Gear order form:

<http://380th.org/Gear2021February.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/>

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.

THE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER (NPRC)

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is one of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) largest operations. It is the central repository of personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States Government. Its mission is to provide world class service to government agencies, military veterans and their family members, former civilian Federal employees, and the general public.

Temporary Reduction in Onsite Operations at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis

Due to the resurgence of COVID-19 infection in the local communities, the NPRC is operating at a reduced capacity. As of August 2, 2021, the NPRC has reduced its on-site staffing to 10% of the workforce. While they remain in this state, they will continue to service emergency requests associated with medical treatments, burials, and homeless veterans trying to gain admittance to a homeless shelter. Please refrain from submitting non-emergency requests such as replacement medals, administrative corrections, or records research until the NPRC returns to pre-COVID staffing levels.

How do I submit an emergency request?

Emergency requests are those involving requests to support burial honors for deceased veterans; life-threatening medical emergencies; requests from homeless shelters, seeking to gain admittance of a homeless veteran; and comparable emergencies. If you have such an emergency, please submit your request via the online web portal eVetRecs. Please select "Emergency Request" in the drop down menu under "Which of these categories best describes why you're requesting the records?" within the Veteran Service Details page. Please provide a valid email address with your request and please take time to ensure your request is legible.

Unfortunately, they will not have sufficient on-site capacity to respond to many other important requests, including requests related to other veterans benefits.

Why is the NPRC unable to service other requests?

NPRC employs many veterans. The biggest obstacle to returning NPRC's performance to its pre-pandemic level lies in the reality that the majority of NPRC's holdings and reference activity involve paper records that can be accessed only by on-site staff. While modern military service records are maintained electronically, most requests submitted to NPRC involve veterans who separated from the military many years ago and records that are available only in paper or micro-film formats, which require on-site access.

Their long-term plans include digitizing responsive records from their holdings to facilitate the remote servicing of requests. It is therefore imperative that requesters include a valid, legible email address with the submission of each request. This will enable NPRC to respond to your request electronically as records are digitized.

Are there alternate sources to obtain military service records?

Yes, modern service records, generally for veterans who separated after Calendar Year 2002, are available in electronic format. NPRC has deployed new digital delivery functionality to enable some of these requests to be serviced by its staff from remote locations. To be eligible for this service it is imperative that requesters submit a request using our online application, eVetRecs, and provide an email address with their request. If you provide an email address and your request involves records available in electronic format, the NPRC staff will obtain the records and provide you with credentials that will enable you to download the requested records from a secure server. This service is available only when (1) the responsive records are available in digital format, and (2) requesters provide an email address with their request.

In many instances, records that are available in electronic formats may also be accessed directly by veterans, without involvement from NPRC, through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) eBenefits application at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage> or the Department of Defense milConnect application at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>. For more information regarding the online availability of VA and military records, please visit <https://www.va.gov/records/>.

Find out more at: <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/>
National Personnel Records Center
Telephone: 314-801-0800
Fax: 314-801-9195

380th AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING

July 2021

Hello from the 380th in the United Arab Emirates! Hope you are well and enjoying a nice day back in the lovely United States!!

My personal business first, I am trying to do something where I am taking the Wing's current patches (Wing, Group, and Squadron-level) and combining them with our origins – the 380th Bomb Group patches. What do you have left? I was looking for originals online, but could not find many or the few I could find were being sold for a ridiculous amount.

[Editor's Note: I was able to send him gratis the 528, 529, 530, and Group patches, but I didn't have any spare 531 patches. Barb Gotham]

I am going to try and find a 531st patch out there somewhere only because the German in me must have symmetry and completeness!!!

[Note: if anyone has any of the original patches, or newer ones, of any of the squadrons, especially for the 531st, please send to Barb Gotham to forward to Matt.]

That aside, are there many of our founding "King of the Heavies" fathers still out there? I know time is being cruel when it comes to these great men. I just lost my great uncle that flew on C-47s in WWII. Is there anything we can do as their legacy for any of those remaining members?

September 2021

The 380th forward deployed nearly 100 personnel to assist with the Afghan retrograde and assist with all of the refugees. We also put a significant bit of combat airpower up supporting the above. The old warhorses would be proud of the job the men and women of this Wing accomplished in August and September!

Respectfully,

Matthew F. Coleman, Col, USAF
Vice Commander, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing
Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates

COLONEL MATTHEW F. COLEMAN

Colonel Matthew F. Coleman currently serves as the Vice Commander, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates. The 380th AEW is comprised of four groups and 15 squadrons. As Vice Commander, he is responsible for the wing's air refueling, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, air battle management, control and reporting center, ground attack, air support, theater security cooperation and airlift missions in support of overseas contingency operations in Southwest Asia.

Colonel Coleman enlisted in the Air Force in 1990 and entered the Space Systems Operations career field where he gained experience with the Defense Meteorological Support Program, COBRA DANE, Space Control mission, and the National Reconnaissance Office. He was selected for a 2-year Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship and separated as a Staff Sergeant in 1996. In 1998 Colonel Coleman received his commission after graduating from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Daytona Beach, Florida, campus and attended Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training the following year. His flight experience is with the KC-135R/T, KC-10A, as well as the C-17A and has accumulated over 1,000 combat flight hours during six deployments supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. His command experiences were with the 15th Comptroller Squadron (Acting), Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI, and the 92d Operations Support Squadron, Fairchild AFB, WA. Colonel Coleman has worked at the squadron, wing, and headquarters-level to include the Joint Staff.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Pilot

Flight hours: 2,500

Aircraft Flown: T-37B, T-1A, C-17A, KC-10A, and KC-135R/T

(Current as of June 2021)

Official photo of 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Vice Commander



Source: <https://www.afcent.af.mil/Units/380th-Air-Expeditionary-Wing/>

380TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING

The 380th Air Expeditionary Wing was established on Jan. 25, 2002. It is located at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, and is one of the most diverse combat wings in the Air Force. The wing is comprised of four groups and 15 squadrons. Its mission partners include an Army air defense battalion, and multiple coalition partners.

The wing's mission is to conduct combat operations directed by the President to provide high-altitude all-weather intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, command and control and air refueling for Operations Inherent Resolve and Resolute Support. To accomplish its mission, the wing is equipped with diverse systems: The E-3 Sentry (AWACS), EC-130 Compass Call, RQ-4 Global Hawk, E-11 BACN Bombar-dier and KC-10 Extender. They are a unique combination of aircraft which acts as the "eyes and ears," serve as guardians of the sky and provide greater range and endurance for coalition aircraft throughout the Area of Responsibility.

380TH EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS GROUP

The 380 EOG includes nine diverse squadrons with over 45 aircraft responsible for executing the U.S. Central Command's daily air tasking order with air superiority, all-weather precision strike, airborne command and control, persistent tactical command and control and air refueling missions around the clock as tasked by the Combined Forces Air Component Commander. The group is the sole provider of its assigned air assets used to carry out its taskings - the F-15, F-16, EC-130, E-3, E-11, MQ-9, RQ-4/EQ-4, and KC-10. In all, the group is responsible for employing more than \$7.8 billion in combat assets and helps sustain combat operations for eight major named operations in the Central Command's area of responsibility. It also ensures air traffic control, airfield management, aircrew flight equipment, intelligence and crew communications support and provides asset support for the Gulf-region Joint Air Defense and Air and Missile Defense exercises such as Air Tactical Leadership Course.

380TH EXPEDITIONARY MAINTENANCE GROUP

The 380th Expeditionary Maintenance Group oversees on- and off-equipment maintenance performed by over 900 personnel in both the 380th Expedi-

tionary Aircraft Maintenance and Expeditionary Maintenance Squadrons. The group manages sortie production for theater support packages, and various expeditionary operations and task forces ensuring quality maintenance on the wing's 45 plus combat aircraft comprised of 6 mission design series of aircraft, worth over \$6.3 billion. The group also manages an industrial complex comprised of over 40 facilities, 196 vehicles, a temporary munitions storage facility, and over 360 pieces of aerospace ground equipment.

380TH EXPEDITIONARY MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

By far the wing's largest group, the 380th EMSG Airmen and contractors work together in six diverse squadrons delivering comprehensive mission support and force protection. The group manages more than \$281 million in base facilities, oversees a \$243 million in Contracts, operates \$47.5 million in communications equipment, and secures nearly \$8 billion in combat assets in the AOR. The group's mission includes contracting, communications, security, logistics readiness, force support, personnel accountability, civil engineering and aerial port operations.

380TH EXPEDITIONARY MEDICAL GROUP

The 380th Expeditionary Medical Group provides a broad range of health and wellness services to include primary care, flight medicine, physical therapy, immunizations, dental, pharmacy, laboratory, radiology, and mental health. The group's combat effectiveness assures for in-house care of 97 percent of its patients, with 3 percent referred to host-nation facilities or transported via aeromedical evacuation missions for specialty and/or higher-level care. Bioenvironmental engineering and public health personnel offer additional capabilities through inspection of all wing workplaces, living quarters, potable water sources and food producing facilities. The 380 EMDG also provides a wide variety of outreach programs such as smoking cessation, healthy living and stress management.

AIRCRAFT

The 380 AEW is the Air Force's only airborne command and control and refueling unit utilizing the following weapons systems throughout the U.S. Central Command's 27-country Southwest Asia area of responsibility.

380th AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING (continued)

E-3 SENTRY (AWACS): The E-3 is an airborne warning and control system aircraft with an integrated command and control battle management, surveillance, target detection and tracking platform. It provides an accurate, real-time picture of the battlespace to the Joint Air Operations Center. The AWACS provides situational awareness of friendly, neutral and hostile activity, command and control of an AOR, battle management of theater forces, all-altitude and all-weather surveillance of the battle space, and early warning of enemy actions during joint, allied, and coalition operations.

RQ-4 GLOBAL HAWK: The RQ-4 is a high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aircraft system with an integrated sensor suite that provides ISR capability. The Global Hawk's mission is to provide a broad spectrum of ISR collection capability to support joint combatant forces in worldwide peacetime, contingency and wartime operations. The Global Hawk complements manned and space reconnaissance systems by providing near-real-time coverage using imagery intelligence sensors.

EC-130H COMPASS CALL: The EC-130H Compass Call is an airborne tactical weapon system using a heavily modified version of the C-130 Hercules airframe. The system disrupts enemy command and control communications and limits adversary coordination essential for enemy force management. The Compass Call system employs

offensive counter-information and electronic attack (or EA) capabilities in support of U.S. and Coalition tactical air, surface, and special operations forces.

KC-10 EXTENDER: The KC-10 Extender is an advanced tanker and cargo aircraft designed to provide increased global mobility for U.S. Armed Forces. Although the KC-10's primary mission is aerial refueling, it can combine the tasks of a tanker and cargo aircraft by refueling fighters and simultaneously carry the fighter support personnel and equipment on overseas deployments. The KC-10 is also capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients using patient support pallets during aeromedical evacuations.

THE CONTINUING MISSION...

The 380th Air Expeditionary Wing conducts combat operations directed by the president in support of contingency operations to protect national interests in United States Central Command's 27-country Southwest Asia area of responsibility. The wing maintains multiple aircraft in order to provide combat air power in joint and combined aerospace operations with Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coalition forces.

The 380th AEW brings together active duty, Reserve and Air National Guardsmen joined with civilian patriots and DoD contractors to carry out its diverse mission of all-weather high-altitude ISR, command and control and air refueling.

(Current as of July 2021)

Source:

<https://www.afcent.af.mil/Units/380th-Air-Expeditionary-Wing/Fact-Sheets/Article/445043/380th-air-expeditionary-wing/>



380th Air Expeditionary Wing Aircraft fly in formation over the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility.

STATE LIBRARY NEW SOUTH WALES - DIGITAL COLLECTION



<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital/QwWzgkOg63qmV>

HERE'S A FEW OF THE PHOTOS FROM THAT COLLECTION

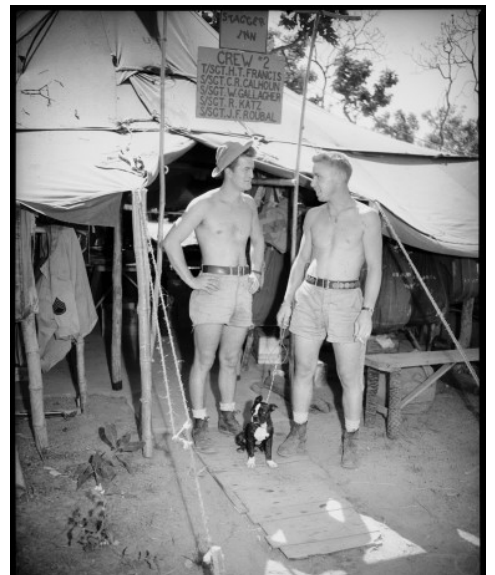


<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital/2Rj6jyjkxAQEm0>



<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital/AyjbvzzwX6LAB>

Tent crew list – 528BS
ORs from Grenfel's crew
all KIA on 11Nov43 in
42-41242):
H.T. Francis (Gunner),
C.R. Calhoun (Flt Eng),
W. Gallagher (Asst
Radio Opr), R. Katz
(Gunner), J.F. Roubal
(Gunner)



<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital/L3WWVL7XewdJ5>



<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital/jXQGGbw5eX3KL>



<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital/yvMdBRMyaxqPE>



<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital/XgX6MKpVL43ar>

<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital/PgRLwE2o3BD8k>

August 2021 - From Bob Livingstone:

From the State Library of NSW: <https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital>

No supplied details except American Liberator Squadron N.T., 14 October 1943 (on all photos). Would be Fenton.

The RAAF F/Lt is not wearing wings, so an admin type.

I don't recognise anyone, though one crew list is on a tent (see pic below)

380TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP -- GROUP COMMANDERS & THE BRASS

As a follow-up to the article in Issue #72 (June 2021), here are some additional photos of the Group's Commanders, in particular the photo of David A. Tate, which wasn't featured in that issue. These photos are from the 380th's "Blue Book," page 121.



Col. William A. Miller, kneeling in center of front row.



Col. Forrest L. Brissey, Jr., facing camera at center.



Col. David A. Tate.

Many high-ranking officers visited the 380th during its war tour, among them those shown below. Even some Senators checked votes!

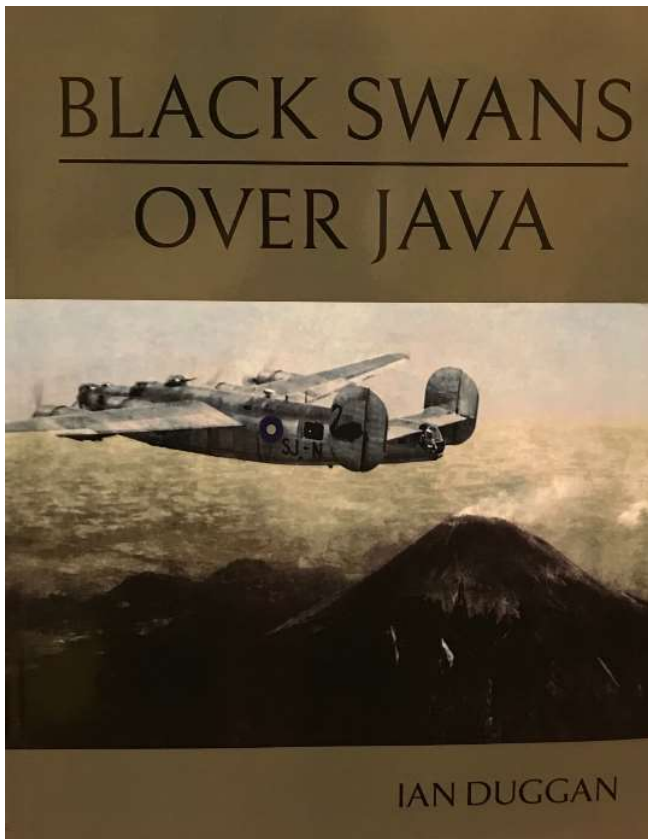
Top: General George Marshall, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, speaking to movie star Gary Cooper on his arrival at the Flying Circus camp. Below, left: General Marshall just after he dismounted from his airplane. Below, right: Brig-Gen J.V. Crabb, commanding general of the V Bomber Command, was a frequent visitor at Flying Circus camps. Bottom, left: Col. Miller, his arm in a sling from a crash injury, greets the Senators. Bottom right: Senators Richard B. Russell, Jr. (Georgia) and A.B. "Happy" Chandler (Kentucky), part of an inspection team of Senators.



Text and photos from
p. 122 of the 380th's
"Blue Book."



NEW BOOK ABOUT CORUNNA - BLACK SWANS OVER JAVA



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I am a retired police officer, and following retirement, write about Western Australian history and continue with my mineral exploration in the north of Western Australia. I have enjoyed writing about Corunna and the important participation of the young American air crews that flew from there during WWII. My biggest regret is now being unable to correspond or meet with the aircrews that flew out of Corunna and obtain their anecdotes.
"Lest We Forget" *Ian Duggan*

"An excellent book and interesting accounts of the WW2 Perth 25 Squadron RAAF that operated from a little known outback airbase called Corunna near Marble Bar Western Australia. The base was also home to the 319 and 380 US Army-Airforce Bombar-dier Groups. The detailed narrative is supported by numerous illustrations."

<https://booksonwaraustralia.com/accueil/2909-balack-swans.html>

The story of the Corunna WWII secret air base south of Marble Bar, Western Australia, the men that worked there under unbearable conditions to provide fuel and armaments to American and Australian B-24 Liberator bombers, and the heroic flight crews that flew missions bombing Japanese bases in Java and Bali.

ISBN 978-0-85905-898-8 (new, 2021), A4, 139 pages, heavily illustrated, French flaps, 430grams,
<http://www.hesperianpress.com/index.php/booklist/titles-a-d/b-titles/1147-black-swans-over-java>

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WILLARD J. MCCURDY - 529th SQUADRON

August 22nd, 2021

My father was Willard J. McCurdy, 529th Bombardment Squadron 35418958 | Flight Crew, Photographer (939) | Ground Staff, Supply, Quartermaster Supply, Gunner, Technician (821) | Various Crews | Initial Deployment, May 43, Pfc | S/Sgt. He previously lived & died in Heath, Ohio, Date of death: May 9th, 2010.

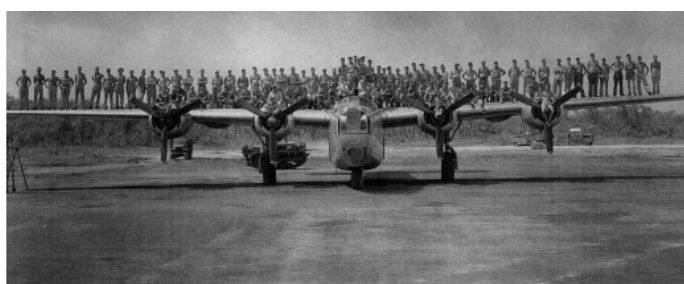
A couple of quick stories. Although a gunner, my father was given the opportunity to take BXW photographs of the destruction resulting from their B-24 bomber's mission either directly after the mission, or on a nearby return flight to another target. In both cases, two crew members would hang on to his legs as he literally hung out of the aircraft taking these photos! The base commander was so impressed with his results in order to more accurately assess and evaluate the damage inflicted by their missions, that he wanted 'his' photos as often as possible.

Also, he told how the monitor lizards used to come in to their tents, never bothering anyone, but with curiosity, would lope around, swishing their tails and off they'd go out the other end of their tent! Fortunately, he was never injured during any flight operations. TTL! Amen. --Cindy S. Kikeli, daughter of Willard J. ("Mac") McCurdy

About the photos: The originals only are stamped on the reverse with the information: His name & serial number plus...380th BOMB CP., 529th BOMB SQ., APO 921 Postmaster, San Francisco, California. The photos include aircraft named: Rough Knight, Morbid Moe, Adelaide Fever, Dottie's Double, Jugglin' Josie, The Miss Hap, Atom Smasher and JeReviens.

A fantastic large repro'd BXW shot of a huge B24 crew, support staff, as well as a photo of Willard (in uniform) and Thelma. Also included is a photo of flight crew friends (including 'Mac'..you'll spot him for certain), dressed casually with the bomber group flag in the background.

By the way, Thelma is still alive. She has a box of your old newsletters, but when "Mac" passed, she let the subscription pass away as well. We'll "gift" her with a copy of this issue! --Paul Kikeli



All photos from the Willard J. McCurdy collection, used with permission

LAST 380TH COMBAT MISSION AGAINST JAPAN

July 2021

Our crew's pilot, William Kunz, manned the group's last crew to fly a combat mission against Japan.

Regards, Dick Wood, 528th Squadron, Gunner, Kunz's Crew (5)

From the mission records for 1945 as compiled by Robert Withorn (son of Robert E. Withorn, 531st, Bombardier, Kay's Crew (113)), the mission referred to by Mr. Wood was on 7 September 1945, weather reconnaissance, with Tokyo as the target.

Maj. W.E. Kunz of the 528th Squadron flew a mixed crew (Group HQ provided most of the crew). Using aircraft 44-50794 (unnamed), they carried 3,100 gal of fuel, no ammo load, no bombs, and 250 lbs of oxygen.

Field order 141 - Mission 250-A2, was the Tokyo weather, with a time over target of 1100-1400 hrs. Their route was: Base to Tokyo to Nagoya, down the North coast of Honshu, then the West coast of Kyushu and back to Base. They had a base altitude range of 7,000' to 9,000'. Cruising speed was 155 mph. The alternate landing field was Atsugi A/D and the crash strip was Sagami. This is how it worked out: Lt. Col. Cox ordered Maj. Kunz, who ordered Capt. Barnett, to issue squadron orders, from field order 141, as mission 250-A-2, signed by Capt. Barnett, for Maj. Kunz, who flew the mission.

Crew Mission List:

Pilot - W. Kunz (GP)
Co-Pilot - W. O'Day (GP)
Navigator - C. Cooney (528)
Engineer - E. Treesh (528)
Radio - J. Wilkinson (528)
Gunner - D. Pester (528)

Extra Men on Board:

J. Meador, Radar (528)
W.A. Denton, Ground Staff, Administration (GP)
Lt. Klein, 5th Bomber Command (VBC)
B. Ervin, Chief Clerk (GP)
J.R. Payne, Radar Mech/Navigation (GP)

The last of the 380th's mission records at the National Archives was Mission 251-A 2 on 8 September 1945, weather reconnaissance, to Tokyo, Nagoya, North Coast of Honshu, and West Coast of Kyushu, Japan, remaining in Japan afterwards. Using aircraft 44-51100 (unnamed), they carried 3,100 gal of fuel, no ammo load, no bombs, and 250 lbs of oxygen.

Field order #142 - Mission #251-A2 flew from the base to Tokyo to Nagoya, down the north coast of Honshu, then down the west coast of Kyushu and back to base. The time over target was 1100-1400 hrs. at a speed of 155 mph. The flight altitude was 7,000' to 9,000'.

Crew List (530th)

Pilot - N.M. Lutsey
Co-Pilot - G. Goecke
Navigator - O. Ogletree
Bombardier - M. Norstrom
Engineer - E. Hedin
Radio - R. Greening
Gunner - E. Becker
Gunner - H. Neil
Gunner - J. Gall
Gunner - R. Levy
Passenger - M. Crimando

Also on 8 September 1945, aircraft 44-50459 (unnamed), piloted by John W. Kay from the 531st carried five crew including the pilot from Crew 113, three men from Mincks Crew (115) (Co-Pilot, Warren Moeller; Navigator, Leo Kutch; Radio, Charles Riley) and one from Smith's Crew (93) (Engineer, Charles Rohrbach).

The ex-prisoner transfer mission disappeared in a storm during the return flight to Okinawa from Clark Field on Luzon. Air searches went out, no traces were ever found.

At this point, Lt. R.E Withorn (Bombardier, Kay's Crew (113), 531st), was the officer in charge of packing and shipping home the possessions of the lost crew. He took Lt. John Kay's 'luggage' back home to the USA with him on SHI-CHI BABY in October of 1945. He took the train from Kingman, Arizona, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, first. There he went to see and drop off some items to John's girlfriend/fiancee. He then went on to Chicago to deliver the 'luggage' to John's parents and explain what had happened and what the crew had done on some of their 29 missions, before then returning home to Armada, Michigan.

This was to be the last war loss for the 380th.

RALPH W. OMAN - 530th SQUADRON

September 2020

I am the son of Captain Ralph W. Oman who served in the 530th Squadron in WWII. He was an intelligence officer; he died in 1984 in Topeka, Kansas. He bequeathed to me memorabilia that I would now like to turn over to a museum or other agency that would appreciate and preserve these items. They consist of aerial photographs, photos of personnel, "noseart" photos of various aircraft, three "escape scarves," and other items. I am now 81 years old and have no relatives who would appreciate the value and significance of such material. I believe I read somewhere that there is a 380th museum, perhaps in upstate New York.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Michael Oman, Oregon

Michael sent the photos and memorabilia to Barb Gotham. If anyone has personal knowledge about any museums who might take these items, please let her know. The museum he refers to in upstate New York is probably the one in Plattsburgh.

Here are some of the photos he sent. More will be used in future issues of these newsletters as space permits!



"OLD HICKORY" and Lt. George Kassab (530th, Pilot, Bratton's Crew (21)



Above: Col Miller

Enlisted Men's Club-Australia Orchestra that was travelling through entertainment one evening



Right: No caption, but it looks like KP duty - what's for dinner?



Ralph W. Oman



Below: Names on back of photo unclear, but Oman is on the far left, front row. The names that are clear are Bill Massey, Major Ware, and Craig (the fellow with crutches)



Above: Wash day; Oman on left

RALPH W. OMAN - 530th SQUADRON (continued)



Left:
Officers'
Club.
Notice
bar-we
built this
ourselves

Below: Outside Officers' Club on beer night



USO Shows Pictures



CHARLES H. SHAVER MEMOIR - 529th SQUADRON

There was a recent request to find a memoir by Charles H. Shaver, 529th Squadron (Navigator on the Van Wormer Crew 45) of his time as a POW after a crash on 19 January 1944. Shaver's 22 page memoir, "Guests of the Emperor" about his time as a POW is cataloged under the 43rd Troop Carrier Squadron, 315th TCG at the Veteran's History Project website. (Shaver started his WWII story with the 43rd Troop Carrier Squadron.)

It is available at the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress: memory.loc.gov

Although Shaver's account is fantastic (and he gives a lot of history of the early Pacific Theatre war), because of copyright laws, his document cannot be reproduced here. However, if you are interested, you can read the memoir online at: <http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.09835/>



Photo source: Horton, BEST IN THE SOUTH-WEST, color inserts

An emotional reunion between Charlie Shaver, left, and Ed Weiss 28 Nov. 93. The last time they met was on Ambon at Tan Toey P.O.W. camp, Jan. 1944. Shaver was a navigator on Van Wormer's crew and Weiss had been caught escaping Corredidor. Charles Shaver Collection

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Home » Full Description » Charles H. Shaver

Charles H. Shaver

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

no image available

War: World War, 1939-1945
Branch: Army Air Forces/Corps
Unit: 43rd Troop Carrier Squadron, 315th Troop Carrier Group
Service Location: Australia; New Guinea; Pacific Theater
POW: Yes

[VIEW FULL DESCRIPTION](#)

Display XML: [MODS Bibliographic Data](#) | [METS Object Description](#) | [MARC](#)

Home » Full Description » Charles H. Shaver

The Veterans History Project (VHP) of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans from World War I through current conflicts so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

VHP relies on volunteers, both individuals and organizations, throughout the nation to contribute veterans' interviews to VHP. The Veterans History Project materials include oral histories along with documentary materials such as letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and memoirs. Veterans and interviewers contribute these materials to the Library for scholarly and educational purposes, retaining any copyright they may hold.

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NEW JOLLY ROGERS BOOK

"The All-American Crew" **A Novel by Russell N. Low**

Technical Advisor Bob Livingstone

On January 23, 1943, a B-24 Liberator and its crew of ten men disappeared without a trace in New Guinea, leaving ten families wounded permanently and without closure. Now, after almost 80 years of silence, using long-forgotten letters and dusty photographs from another era, the lives and loves of these ten men are brought to life on the pages of "The All-American Crew."

"The All-American Crew" is an intimate look at the early days of the 90th Bomb Group in the Southwest Pacific. Following the crew of Lt. Scott Regan through their training, formation of a B-24 Liberator crew, and deployment to Iron Range, Australia. The novel provides a rare look at ten young men who lived, fought and sacrificed for our freedoms.

Over 170 photographs, letters and maps bring to life the air war in New Guinea where quickly trained crews, flying off dirt runways, thousands of miles from home, fought against a relentless enemy. In the novel, the B-24 crews overcome mounting early losses as the tide of war begins to turn in early 1943, and letters home reflect their growing confidence and bravado. Technical advice and commentary by Queenslander Bob Livingstone assure the authenticity and add a personal perspective to the war in his part of the world.

"The All-American Crew" will be published by Craven Street Books on February 9, 2022.

Contact Russ Low at threecoins1@yahoo.com to purchase signed personalized copies of his new novel.

Praise for "The All-American Crew"

So awesomely real...from conveying family conversations and interactions to describing flying and gunnery training situations to aerial combat engagements. A book for young and old. A book for families. What stands out for us today is the full blending, integration, assimilation of the crew, whether on the town, in training, or in combat – All-American Crew.

William S. Chen, Major General, US Army Retired

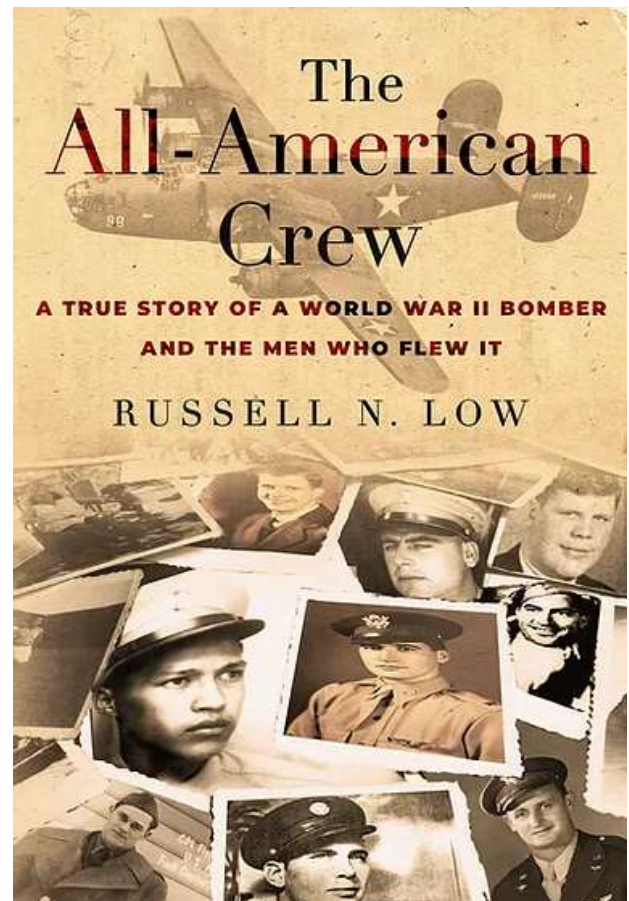
Enjoyable read. Russell Low captures the essence of diversity that defines what it means to be an American. He skillfully brings the crew together and brings to life the effects of the war on their families before, during, and after the war. His collaboration with Bob Livingstone as technical advisor ensured that family stories were in line with actual history.

*Bob Tupa, Historian and Researcher,
90th Bombardment Group*

Russ Low's "The All-American Crew" is an achievement in intimate storytelling. The story is deeply personal, yet as epic as its World War context. It is family history, not only of young men who fought together as a bomber crew-it is a family history of America.

Phil Searce, author of Finish Forty and Home: The Untold Story of B24's in the Pacific

Learn more about "The All-American Crew" on Russ Low's website: <https://www.russlow.com/>



Target, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble all have this book listed to pre-order online for \$18.95.

90TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (WWII)

During World War II the 90th Bombardment Group operated in the Southwest Pacific Theater as a Consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bomber unit assigned to Fifth Air Force of the United States Army Air Forces.

The group was organized at Key Field, Mississippi, in April 1942 as a Consolidated B-24 Liberator unit. The group's original squadrons were the 10th Reconnaissance Squadron and the 319th, 320th and 321st Bombardment Squadrons, although within a week of activation the 10th was renamed the 400th Bombardment Squadron. The group trained with Liberators in the southeastern United States under III Bomber Command until August.

The group moved to Willow Run Airport, Michigan, for conversion training on newly manufactured Ford Liberators. Assigned to VII Bomber Command with B-24Ds, The unit moved to Hickam Field, Hawaii, in September. The group arrived in northern Queensland, Australia in November 1942 and began bombardment missions under V Bomber Command almost immediately.

The group attacked enemy airfields, troop concentrations, ground installations and shipping in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Palau and the southern Philippines. The group was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for operations in Papua through January 1943. The unit participated in the Battle of Bismarck Sea in March 1943, and earned another citation for strikes on enemy airfields at

Wewak, New Guinea, in September 1943 despite heavy flak and fighter opposition.

During 1944, the 90th supported the New Guinea Campaign through the end of June, then made long-range raids on oil refineries at Balikpapan, Borneo, in September and October. In January 1945, the group moved to the Philippines and supported ground forces on Luzon, attacked industrial targets on Formosa, and bombed railways, airfields, and harbor facilities on the Asiatic mainland. Shortly before the end of the war in the Pacific, the 90th moved to Okinawa, from which it would be able to strike the Japanese home islands.

After VJ Day, the group flew reconnaissance missions over Japan and ferried Allied prisoners of war from Okinawa to Manila. Ceased operations by November 1945.

It was awarded two United States Distinguished Unit Citations and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for its combat service in China, the Netherlands East Indies, New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Leyte, and Luzon.

The group was inactivated in the Philippines in early 1946.

To learn more about the 90th Bomb Group, visit these websites:

<https://www.90thbombgroup.org/>
<https://www.ozatwar.com/90thbg.htm>
http://www.historyofwar.org/air/units/USAAF/90th_Bombardment_Group.html
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/90th_Operations_Group



"Jolly Rogers" of the 90th Bombardment Group on a mission, 1943. Photo credit: USAFHRA, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11192729>



B-24J with the distinct nose turret, probably in 1944. Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:90th_Bomb_Group_B-24J_1944.jpg

To learn more about the B-24 featured in "The All-American Crew" novel by Russell N. Low, go to the *Pacific Wrecks* webpage on this plane: <https://pacificwrecks.com/aircraft/b-24/41-24044.html>

The B-24 of Lt. Scott Regan was shot down by Zero fighters from Wewak.

Pacific Wrecks - B-24D-15-CO Liberator Serial Number 41-24044

USAAF 5th AF 90th BG 400th BS: Pilot 1st Lt Scott L. Regan, O-437653 (MIA / KIA) CA Co-Pilot 2nd Lt George D. Kerby Jr., O-662801 (MIA / KIA) MD Crew 2nd Lt John L. Crane Jr., O-791569 (MIA / KIA) NY Crew 2nd Lt Jerome A. Lesser, O-727640 (MIA / KIA) NY Crew S/Sgt Earl L. Byrd, 14053648 (MIA / KIA) Bryson City, NC Crew S/Sgt Albert S. Cowles, 12057523 (MIA / KIA) NY

FRANK C DELLER - 530th SQUADRON

June 2021

My husband's father died many years ago and unfortunately shared little information about his military experiences with his family. In fairness, we understand why he would not have wanted to talk about it. Plus he left the military in I believe fall 1945 and Steve was not born until August of 1960, so the war might have felt like a life-time ago.

Anyway, last week, while visiting our daughter in New Orleans, we had the opportunity to visit the WW II museum. It was a truly amazing place. Our daughter Camille asked so many questions and there were, as mentioned above, very few answers were available.

Which is why I am writing. Steve's dad was Frank C. Deller, a pilot of a B-24. I am wondering if there are any books written by some of those who were B-24 pilots in the squadron. I am also wondering if there might be a link to photos that were shared in hopes of surprising Steve with a picture or two.

--Deller, Frank C., O-2057260 | Flight Crew, Pilot (1092) | English's Crew (76) | joined 380th Jul 44, 2/Lt

I am grateful for all of the information offered on-line, including your contact, and any direction you could provide me with. --Melissa Deller

July 2021

Thanks for your inquiry. Some of the 380th veterans have written books on their experiences, though not sure if any of them were pilots.

You can check out the References section of our web-site: <http://380th.org/References.html> for histories of the group.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to find any photos of the English crew that your father-in-law, Frank Deller, served with. I have enclosed the crew roster and crew missions of the DeLoache/English crews (English was pilot on the DeLoache crew, as well as others, and got his own crew late in the war). --Barb Gotham

Aug 2021

I want to sincerely thank you for all of the information that you have shared with me.

From reading some posts on the facebook account I became interested in the opportunity to fly in a B-24. Unbelievably, the plane was going to be in Janesville, less than an hour away from Madison [Wisconsin] just a couple of weeks after checking into it. The timing worked out beautifully. Anyway, Steve got to ride in the B-24 for his birthday present, one that he will never forget!

We are grateful for all of your efforts. --Melissa (and Steve)

TIFFANY CREW - 528th SQUADRON



Bill Brew sent this photo of the Tiffany Crew

Back row: Robert J. Tiffany, Acft Cmdr; George J. Sheehan, Co-Pilot; Arthur B. Doty, Jr., Navigator; William D. Brew, Bombardier

Front row: Angelo M. Lobosco, Flt Engr; Samuel O. Hancock, Radio Opr; Roy J. Wolfhope, Gunner; Donald E. Cutler, Gunner; George P. Lilge, Gunner



Bill Brew at the 2018 380th Reunion





528th - Allan, John W., Navigator, Kunz's Crew (5), DOD January 1, 2017, Angleton, Texas, reported by Dick Wood, Find a Grave website

528th - Cutler, Don Earl, Gunner, Tiffany's Crew, DOD February 12, 1985, Blue Springs, Missouri, reported by Bill Brew, Find a Grave website

528th - Failla, Sam G., Jr., Flight Engineer, Kunz's Crew (5), DOD March 12, 2008, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, reported by Dick Wood, Find a Grave website

528th - Hancock, Samuel O., Radio Operator, Tiffany's Crew, DOD December 11, 2000, Herrin, Illinois, reported by Bill Brew, Find a Grave website

528th - James, Vincent T., Bombardier, Kunz's Crew (5), DOD 1975-1985, Columbus, Ohio area, reported by Dick Wood

528th - Lilge, George P., Gunner, Tiffany's Crew, DOD January 6, 1979, Kendall, Michigan, reported by Bill Brew, Find a Grave website

528th - Lobosco, Angelo M., Flight Engineer, Tiffany's Crew, DOD January 14, 2017, Totowa, New Jersey, reported by Bill Brew, Ancestry website

528th - Shaw, Phillip A., Jr., Pilot, Shek's Crew (7), Aircraft Commander, Shaw's Crew (9), Assistant Operations Officer, DOD July 21, 2021, Austin, Texas, reported by his daughter

528th - Sheehan, George J., Pilot, Tiffany's Crew, DOD April 19, 1996, Altoona, Pennsylvania, reported by Bill Brew, Find a Grave website



Phil Shaw

528th - Waters, Donald S., Assistant Flight Engineer, Kunz's Crew (5), DOD February 1, 2005, Camillus, New York, reported by Dick Wood, Find a Grave website

528th - Wilkinson, James O., Radio Operator, Kunz's Crew (5), DOD 1976,, Wellfleet, Massachusetts, reported by Dick Wood, Find a Grave website

528th - Wolfhope, Roy James, Gunner, Tiffany's Crew, DOD March 27, 1987, Alexandria, Pennsylvania, reported originally by Bob Tiffany, and from Bill Brew, Find a Grave website

529th - McCurdy, Willard J., Photographer, Various Crews, Quartermaster Supply, Gunner, Technician, DOD May 9, 2010, Heath, Ohio, reported by his daughter, Cindy S. Kikeli

529th - Shaver, Charles H., Navigator, VanWormer's Crew (45), DOD March 8, 1997, Chesterfield, Virginia, reported by Steve Birdsall and Jeff Anderson

531st - Grunnet, Gene D., Flight Engineer, Magee's Crew (91), DOD May 21, 2005, Ocala, Florida, reported by Mary M. Williams

531st - Walford, Edward T., Navigator, Sears' Crew (85), DOD September 27, 2021, Colorado Springs, Colorado, reported by his daughters, Jenny Walford and Vicky Hulsey



Ed Walford

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 in "How to Report TAPS").

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).

If you are interested in this option, please send an email to: 380th.ww2@gmail.com

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

The membership/donation form is not provided in this issue, but you can use one from an earlier issue, or download a copy from the 380th website at:

<http://380th.org/2021Member-form.pdf>

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 an earlier issue, or on our website at: <http://380th.org/Gear2021February.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>

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/>



*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.