



SUNSETTER'S GAZETTE

*Newsletter of the
Seventh Fighter Command Association
USAAF-World War II*



NEWSLETTER

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A NATION GRIEVES – A NATION UNITES



The following was written by Jerry Yellen 78th FS:

For the second time in my life I feel that I am living in a Nation united. The 60th anniversary of the first time, December 7, 1941 is only a few months away. I have spent a lot of time reflecting on that event, how it impacted my life then and now, what it did to change the World for better or for worse and what lessons it taught me.

As a young man I was determined to seize the moment, attack and kill my enemy, wipe them off the face of the Earth. In fact, we almost did that and I was a very willing participant in the War against Japan. What I saw as a P-51 pilot, what I did, remained within me until 1983 when I visited Japan for the first time. I saw and met people whom I believed to be barbaric, inhumane and with no regard for life. Those whom I met were exactly the opposite of what I had believed.

We as a Nation interned Americans of Japanese decent beginning in 1942. Every right and freedom was taken from them. Yet their sons served America well in the war against evil. Now I have a family living in Japan, a son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren. Don't take this wrong; I am proud of what I did in the war, what my country did for the World, but my children, taught me a great lesson, especially Robert, the son who married a Japanese woman. And that lesson is this; we cannot condemn all people of

one race, one religion, and one way of life that may be different from ours, for all time. They, the Japanese learned lessons too and are respected and valued members if the International community of our World today, as are the Germans and the Italians, our former enemies.

The second time is now, today, and we are faced with the same anger and hatred I faced as a young man. The desire to strike back is in me now as then. Evil must always be eradicated, lives must be taken, and lives must be lost. But we cannot condemn an entire race of people, an entire religion, for the acts of just a few. Those few must be rooted out, must be eliminated, must pay for their deadly and inexcusable, inhuman acts of terrorism. That will happen, no doubt is in my mind about the outcome. But we must learn from the past, we cannot imprison or punish those among us who live as Americans, are Americans, even though they believe in a different way of life and worship in a different way and place. There is no doubt in my mind that some parents of today will have sons and daughters marry the sons and daughters of the very people we despise at this moment. It is my hope and prayer that we can eliminate war, as we know it, in my lifetime; that 60 years from now we are not faced with the situation that exists today, that we can find a way to live, not in Peace, but in Harmony and Unity with all people, with all of Nature.

Painting of 78th Fighter Squadron

Brian Bell, a new aspiring aviation artist has just released a painting of 78th Fighter Squadron Major James Tapp's second aerial victory over a Ki61Tony.

Brian is very interested in preserving the air combat in the Pacific and is particularly interested in the 7th FC.

On April 7th 1945, P-51's of the 7th Air Force

escorted B-29's on the first VLR escort mission to Tokyo Japan. Flying with the 78th Fighter Squadron, 15th Fighter Group, Major James B. Tapp downed four Japanese aircraft on this mission. A Ki-45 "Nick", Ki-61 "Tony", Ki-43 "Oscar" and a N1K1 "George". Major Tapp later downed four more Japanese aircraft to bring his final tally to eight confirmed victories by the end of the war.



Depicted in the above painting "Tapp's Second" is the second victory of that day, a Ki-61 "Tony".

The above print is now available for sale to the public. Each Limited Edition Print is numbered and signed by Col. James B. Tapp USAAF (Ret.) and the artist. Each Print measures 22 1/2" x 27" with an image size of 18" x 24" and is selling for \$100.00 plus \$10.00 shipping. Please contact Brian at blbhb@hotmail.com or at (801) 565-8322 for purchase information.

Brian is also interested in hearing from any of you who would be interested in having his aircraft depicted in a painting. Brian does not charge for this service.

Kudos' to Brian

MEMORIES

Splash One Dreamboat

The late Lt. Arvid "Al" Shulenberger of the 548th Night Fighter Squadron wrote a six page article, "Splash One Dreamboat", which was featured in the October 2001 edition of Flight Journal Magazine. It is the fascinating account of how Al, a radar operator on a P-61 Black Widow and his pilot, Arthur "Shep" Shepard shot down a B-29 over Iwo Jima. The following is an interview

with Shep done by Warren Thompson in 1976. I would encourage you to find a copy of the magazine and read the whole article.

"Concerning our famous June 9, 1945, 'kill' of a B-29 Superfortress off Iwo Jima: On days when the B-29s were returning from their raids on Japan, we would fly out and give whatever assistance we could. If we saw one ditch, we would call in a Dumbo Sea Rescue plane and direct it to the downed crewmen. While on one of these missions, my R/O, Al Shulenberger, picked up an emergency IFF and directed us in on it. I pulled up on the right wing and tucked in real close. I could not see anything wrong with the aircraft, but the crew was all at the windows waving like mad. At first, we thought they were being friendly, so we peeled off and moved away; but Al continued to receive the IFF, so he directed me to pull in close again. "This time, I moved in on the left wing and looked down on the nose of the aircraft.



Iwo 1945 (left to right) Lt. Arthur Shepard (pilot), Lt Arvid Shulenberger (radar), M/Sgt. Donald Meech (gunner)

The hole in the nose was big enough to drop a piano through! A 90mm had gone right through the pilot's seat, killing him and injuring the copilot.

We led them to Iwo. Over the island at 4,000

feet, on autopilot, the crew bailed out without incident. I was just about to ask if I could shoot it down when I was directed to do so. It didn't seem like much of a contest with a 'sitting duck' flying straight away and me right behind it with four .50-caliber machine guns and four 20mm cannon that were loaded with armor-piercing and incendiary rounds! "I did not realize that the bomber still had its full load of ordnance, as the first burst from my guns blew the bomb bay doors open.

I don't remember how many rounds we pumped into that old bird, but it didn't want to go down. The 20mm shells were ripping big holes in the fuselage and wings. At last, the left wing dropped a little and it started turning back toward two, losing altitude all the time. At that time, I decided to concentrate my fire on the two left engines. When I scored hits on both, the aircraft began a tight left spiral into the ocean. I actually felt sorry for it and wished that the copilot had been able to bring it in. What a magnificent aircraft it was."

First Combat on Iwo Jima

Donald E. Gordon of the 46th Fighter Squadron writes the following about his first experiences on Iwo (edited by editor to make shorter):

Living on Iwo was somewhat less than interesting. It was March 25, 1945 and the original plan was to take Iwo Jima in three or four days and then to proceed up to Chichi Jima and "take that island." Our group was scheduled to move to Chichi when it was secured. The 21st Fighter Group was living in Army tents near the beach on the West side of the island parallel to Chidori Airfield where our P-51's were tied down.

It was boring just sitting around waiting for orders to finally get a chance for action over the home islands of Japan. Fishing from the rocky shoreline proved uneventful. The extensive bombing prior to the invasion had either chased off all the fish or had killed a majority of them. I was sitting on my cot in my tent talking with one of my tent mates, Herb Bowden. We decided to hike down to the North end of the island to watch the fighting. We were both young, naive, and totally unaware of the possible danger that could

possibly await us. On the trail we were turned back from going any farther by a Marine guard. We left the road and traversed the rough ground around the guard and back on to the trail. The area had not been cleared of land mines and we were fortunate not to "locate" any of them accidentally. We hiked north on the trail and saw a group of caves on our right. A large unexploded naval shell had broken into one of them. The shell was about a foot and a half in diameter and perhaps six or seven feet in length. We both slid down the shell and went into the cave. Inside the cave we were disappointed to find only First Aid supplies and NO souvenirs. We resumed our "hike" and located another cave a short distance away. .



Looking through a sabre slit in their tent are six enlisted men of the 549th NF Sq. who killed eight of the attackers; (clockwise from bottom left) Ernest Hugh, Bernard Overesch, Hiram Savidge, Harry Hamilton, Henry Szblewski, Milwood Hlebof. (USAF / Jack Lambert)

There was a tunnel down into the ground and we went down....suddenly we heard some noises we could not account for. We both ran hurriedly up the steps and left the cave. We hiked the last couple of miles to the north end of the island and heard gunfire coming from the beach below. We settled down on the edge of the embankment and watched as well as we could. We noted some ricochets bouncing off the rocks nearby, but we were not overly concerned until they increased appreciably. We quickly decided that we had better "get the hell out of there" and stood up to leave. The number of "ricocheting bullets" suddenly increased. It finally dawned upon us that WE were the targets of enemy gunfire probably from some distance away. Dashing back down the trail from which we

came, we ran...all the way back to where the guard was still stationed. We again avoided him and made our way back to our group campsite.

Our tents were located only a half-mile south of the former enemy lines. A group of Marines, on their way back to their own encampment just south of ours, stopped in to share a few cans of beer and "shoot the bull"... We were then told that the Marines would not dare go where we had gone with anything less than a full platoon of armed soldiers. They informed us that the Marines had "bypassed" at least 2500 Japanese in caves in their efforts to secure the island and we were very lucky to come out of it alive. That evening I settled down in my pad that I had made as comfortable as possible. An air mattress under my sleeping bag, and a small throw rug to keep my feet off the black sand was a luxury. An old orange crate at the head of my bed supported my alarm clock, gas mask, and 45 Colt revolver.

It was still dark when we were all awakened by loud explosions. The first thought that came to my head was that the Marines were celebrating by exploding hand grenades and I tried to settle back waiting for the sun to rise. The explosions continued and some sounded too close for comfort. Looking up at the top of the tent I could see tiny holes suddenly appear. I rolled out of the sack and on to the carpet. I put on my pants and boots in a horizontal position faster than I had ever put them on before standing up! Others in the tent were alerted and were also hurriedly putting on their clothes. Just then I heard a friend of mine in the tent behind ours cry out for help. I got up and ran around our tent to the one directly behind us. One of the pilots was bleeding badly from a head wound. Still not realizing what was actually happening I said that I would find the medic and bring him back. I ran down the back row of tents and when I reached Doc's tent called for him as I stuck my head in. I was promptly grabbed and pulled inside with all guns pointed at me. I was then alerted to the fact that we were under attack by the Japanese and that I could not leave the tent.

I was loudly insistent in wanting to get back with help for my friend when the medic pulled my arm and said, "let's go"! We crawled out under

the side tent flap and in the next tent we found two pilots who had been slashed with knives. We dragged them to a shallow foxhole in the corner of the tent. The medic then said that he would go for help and left. I then realized that I had, in my haste, left my 45 Colt on the orange crate by my cot and the only weapon I had was my knife. We huddled together shivering as grenades hit the top of the tents and rolled down the side exploding only a few feet from our refuge. It was fortunate that the hole had been dug at the corner of the tent rather than at the side because the grenades were then directed away from the corner by the shape of the tent. I looked up cautiously during a pause and saw a man standing up in the tent behind me going through some clothes. I yelled at him to get down when suddenly he was hit by gunfire and dropped to the ground. It turned out that he was in fact, a Japanese soldier going through clothes looking for souvenirs. Word was then passed that we were all to scramble for safety to the garbage pit behind the mess tent. I .. bolted out of the foxhole darting left and right to avoid being hit by stray gunfire. (I saw this in a movie and thought that this was the way to avoid being hit) I dropped to the ground six or eight feet from the mess tent and noted a strange bicycle leaning against it. I was getting ready to get up and make another dash for the pit and looked into the direction of the c.o.'s tent. I saw someone run out and jump into a barrel that had been dug into the ground as a foxhole.



Japanese casualties outside of the tents

Just then I saw another figure dash out of the

tent and leap for the barrel just as a black object arched towards him. The object hit him on the chest and exploded. His head went straight into the air and his hand landed in the spokes of the bicycle next to where I lay. I got up and ran around the tent jumping into the garbage pit with dozens of other pilots and ground crew huddling together for security.

After a few minutes I regained my composure and decided to go over to the Marine's compound next door and get some help. I found a foxhole with a tent over it and asked the two marines to come and help us. They declined stating that they were scheduled to go home in just a few hours and couldn't risk it. I asked for grenades and carbines and was told to take the "Jap truck" to the ordnance depot and get what I needed there. I started the truck, but it had so many gears I could not get it to move in any direction except backward. Just then our Executive Officer drove up in his jeep containing several boxes of grenades. We picked up the heavy boxes and broke them open. I stuffed as many of them as would fit in the front of my shirt and in my pockets. We then crawled up between the tents looking for any men that were still alive. As we crawled to the last row of tents we could see the concrete gun emplacements with Japanese soldiers firing rifles into the tents. Obviously they did not spot us. I rolled over on to my back, pulled out a grenade and pulled the pin. I held on to it fearful that the weight of it might cause me to drop it. I threw it with a straight arm and it landed directly in the gun emplacement. Japanese soldiers rolled out of their refuge and rolled back in after the grenade had exploded. I made several other direct hits into the emplacement when other pilots crawled up and began firing their carbines at the Japanese soldiers as they rolled out of the safety of their gun emplacement. The firing finally settled down and I looked up to see a Marine in a poncho yelling at me and the others to "get up off our asses and fight like men"! Unable to convince us he turned away as a tank pulled up and began firing into the gun emplacement and the shallow foxhole nearby. Just then the brave Marine sergeant dropped to the ground with a bullet hole in his head.

As I crawled down the last row of tents looking

for survivors I saw a Japanese soldier tap his helmet with his grenade and hold it to his chest. He died without his head. I pulled open a tent flap and saw a man on his stomach. I put my hand on his leg and he jumped not knowing I was friendly. By this time the fighting was all but over. The man I had rescued was a pilot named Felix whom I knew well. We all collected again in the garbage pit waiting for orders. Sandwiches were handed out and the impact of what had transpired over the last three or four hours began to set in. To lighten the atmosphere and always the joker, I took a sandwich apart and put a clean bandage on the Spam inside. I then put catsup and mayonnaise on it and put the top back on it and re-wrapped it. It was not long until another pilot picked it up and took a big bite out of it. The bandage pulled out and flopped on to his chin. For all intents and purposes it looked like a bloody bandage dangling on his chin. He quickly pulled it out of his mouth and threw it up into the air. Others around me were in on the joke and laughter broke the silence. It was perhaps a cruel joke, but it did help to break the silent despair in all who were fortunate enough to witness.

When we were sure that all was secure I made my way back to my tent to "pick up the pieces'." It was then that I found my new friend Herb Bowden face down on my carpet. He had been killed with a bullet just below his nose. My gas mask on the second shelf was riddled with holes but the alarm clock on the top of the crate was miraculously unhit. I later tried to mend the holes in my air mattress and gave up after patching 23 of them.

When we were able to take inventory, we found about 265 dead Japanese soldiers who had been ordered to attack the enemy and sacrifice their lives for their country. In the shallow foxhole behind my tent we counted 26 dead Japanese. Had I not left the tent to help a buddy, I might have stayed and fought it out with Herb. A number involved in the banzai attack were cited for bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

REUNIONS

7th FC Reunion 2000 South Carolina

March 23, 2000 - The following was submitted by Roderick O'Donoghue (72nd) Fifty five years ago this month, March 2000, the 7th FC began its operations from Iwo Jima providing air cover and ground disruption missions on Japan's home island. Those exciting and vivid events are beginning to lose their color and are becoming frayed around the edges. Very soon now, all that will remain of those colorful times will be black and white records. With more time even those will fade away.

Today, March 23, 2000, some of the 7th Fighter Command representatives of South Carolina and their spouses, met for a lunch, at the Flight Deck Restaurant in Lexington S.C. In our State there are twenty seven veterans listed representing a number of different units some having been on duty when Pearl was attacked. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Baldwin (413th), Mr. R.S. Corbett (44th), Mr. Steve D'Aiello (531st), Mr. and Mrs. Asbury D. Hoke (73rd), Mr. Maxwell M. Julian (549th), Mr. and Mrs. R.W. O'Donoghue (72nd), Mr. Kenneth and Tina(*) Sitton (531st), Mr. Wade and Janet Watson (Ward)

506th FS Reunion 2000 at Pigeon Forge, TN



On April 24-26, 2000, forty-three men and women gathered in the shadows of the Smoky Mountains to attend the annual reunion of the 506th Fighter Group (457th, 458th, and 462nd Fighter Squadrons) in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Twenty veterans and twenty-three family members enjoyed Southern hospitality organized by Col. Jack Westbrook (458th Squadron),

Oklahoma humor delivered by former astronaut Charlie Dry, and Southern charm warmly supplied by Anita Bryant.

The event opened on Monday with a cookout, followed by the first of many hours of renewing acquaintances and telling stories in the Hospitality Suite. Some of the stories may even have been true. Tuesday started with a morning Memorial Service, followed by a visit from former NASA test astronaut Dry (also known as Anita Bryant's husband). Tuesday evening's banquet featured an inspiring and patriotic video with the very appropriate theme "Heroes," followed by an address by BGEN Walter J. "Bud" Bacon, USAF (Ret), a Knoxville native and veteran of Korea and Vietnam.

A business meeting on Wednesday morning proceeded another afternoon of free time for exploring the many shops in Pigeon Forge and nearby Gatlinburg or telling more tall tales in the Hospitality Suite. The group later enjoyed dinner at the Alabama Grill, then went to Anita Bryant's Music Mansion Theater for two hours of stellar entertainment.

Everyone agreed that Jack Westbrook had done an outstanding job of organizing the reunion, and it was quickly and enthusiastically decided to hold the 2001 reunion at the same site. Please mark calendars now for April 23-25, 2001, and join comrades and friends of the 506th Fighter Group at the Music Road Hotel in Pigeon Forge, TN. Further details will be sent out in March, so contact Col. Jack Westbrook, P.O. Box 1801, Knoxville, TN 37901 to be added to his mailing list.

78th FS Reunion 2000 at Columbia SC



Photo courtesy of Fritz Martin

On October 5-9, 2000, the 78th Fighter Squadron held their bi-annual reunion in

Columbia South Carolina. The 78th has consolidated their organization to include all 78th veterans and around 40 members from WWII through the Cold War were represented. The highlight of the reunion was a visit to Shaw AFB to visit with the current 78th FS. The current 78th briefed us with their current role flying the F-16CJ aircraft. Many of our members tried their luck on the F-16 flight simulators shooting at bogies. All enjoyed each other's company and cumulated it with a fine banquet. You can see the photo's from the reunion at <http://www.78thfighter.com/>

The next reunion will be in September 2002 in Las Vegas, Nevada

318th Fighter Group 2002 Reunion

June 6, June 7, June 8, 2002
Country Inn and Suites, 405 North Park Road,
Wyomissing, PA 19610

This is a good opportunity for each Fighter Squadron to have a Squadron Reunion. For more information contact Frank Rogers at 432 Acer Drive, Blandon, PA 19510 or e-mail him at frankr13@juno.com

NEWS

On-Line Roster Available

If you have access to the Internet then you may have access to the 7th Roster. Here you will be able to look up olds friends and make new ones. You might be amazed at how many 7th veterans live in your area. In order to access the Roster you will need a computer with access to the Web that also has Microsoft Excel installed. Then visit the web site at:

<http://glorene.com/aviation/7th/private/database/index.htm>
You will be asked for a username and password. The username is **bushmaster** and the password is **snakes**

HELP NEEDED

History and Memories

From the Editor: I am in the process of developing an Internet based history of the 7th Fighter Command so that future generations will

have an opportunity to learn more about the little published role of the 7th FC in World War II. I am also in contact with several artists (such as Brian Bell), authors and producers who are very interested in publishing works on the 7th and have asked me if I could provide them with material.

How can you help? I need photos and recollections of your service with the 7th. Aircraft photo's are especially in demand. If you could send me (see my address on the back page) the originals I will scan them and return them to you promptly or you can have them reproduced yourself if you feel more comfortable with that method.

If you would like to see what I have so far, please visit it on the Internet at: <http://glorene.com/aviation/7th> I have also developed a site for the 78th Fighter Squadron at <http://www.78thfighter.com> My goal is to have a separate web page for each squadron.

WW II Army Air Forces Memorial

Many who flew the P-40 in the early stages of WWII have fond memories of the airplane, if not the circumstances. We now have a unique opportunity to place a bronze replica created by the sculptor, Robert Henderson. His sculptures of the P-40, P-51, P-47 and P-38 as well as the B-17, B-24 and the B-29 are permanently installed at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

The non-profit organization Groups Memorials, is facilitating the erection of the bronze 3/10 scale replica at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. The non-profit organization is run by Brigadier General McPartin, USAF Ret. and Dale Brown. Both are WW II Army Air Forces veterans and both feel strongly that much should be done to memorialize the work that we did for our country. The original sculpture at the Air Force Academy was done for the P-40 Pilots Association.

Why the P-40? The P-40 was the principal aircraft used in the most critical defense of the supply lines to the battle areas West of Hawaii. Pearl Harbor was essential to Pacific Naval operations as were the airfields that were needed to ferry aircraft to the battle areas. The P-40s and

their little brothers, the P-36s, got up on December 7th and were the first aircraft to engage our enemy. It also participated in the initial offensive action in the Central Pacific.

Why Hickam? The initial home of the fighters was Wheeler Field. The 7th Fighter Command Headquarters was also established at Hickam. Since the end of the war, Wheeler has reverted to the Army but is still an active Air Force base even though its runways have been closed in favor of those at the adjacent Honolulu International. The base facilities for Hickam, and other Air Force activities in the Islands are provided by the 15th Airbase Wing located at Hickam. The Wing, of course, evolved from the old 15th Fighter Group. Our Jim VandeHey (6th, 45th, 73rd, & 78th) played a major role working with the 15th Wing on the site selection. The Wing will provide the site and landscaping for the Memorial and it will be located in the traffic circle at the end of the main access road into the base. It is near the base club and will be highly visible to people on the base. "Van" also worked with the Air Force and has arranged to get the memorial transported to Hickam.



The memorial is finished and its transport, erection and unveiling ceremony were all on track as of September 11th. For obvious reasons this is being delayed. It appears that it will be early spring before it can be completed. We will keep you informed of the progress.

Although the project is moving ahead it is not

yet fully funded and donations are sorely needed. The scope of memorial has been broadened accordingly to include more donors. You may have noticed that at the Air Force Academy memorials, the pedestals had plaques with the names of some of the donors. The same feature is being offered here and space is still available at \$500 each. To ensure appropriate recognition of our WWII role is highlighted, a section of the plaque will be identified as 7th Fighter Command and our recognized donors will be shown there. Smaller donations may be made to the 7th Fighter command Association and we will pool those funds to "buy" recognized for people like George Welch who shot down 4 Japanese on December 7th and was killed testing the F-100, and the likes of those like Sgt Morris Stacey who was killed on December 7th. The families or friends, of course, can make a donation in the name of a former member of the 7th Fighter Command whether living or not.

Groups Memorials is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in Colorado and therefore all donations are tax deductible. Make your checks payable to: "Groups Memorial Inc. of the Army Air Forces" and send to: Army Air Forces Memorial, Hickam Field Project, 816 Water Street, Canon City, CO 8121 2. Donations to the 7th Fighter association which is also a tax-exempt can be made to: Treasurers 7th Fighter Association, 1400 10th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 1 (800) 305-1738 or log on to: www.warbirdcentral.com. The e-mail address is aafimpearlharbor@warbirdmemorial.com.

LETTERS / E-MAILS

(If you do not have e-mail and would like to respond to any of the requests below, please contact the **editor** and your comments will be passed along to the requestor)

45th Fighter Squadron - Hello, My name is John DeLaFrance . My Father was Ssgt. John K. DeLaFrance in the 45th FS. He was an Aircraft Mechanic/Propeller specialist and was one of 16 Aircraft Mechanics attached to the 4th Marines, and flown via a Marine C-46 to Iwo Jima. This was on the third day of the invasion the Marines only had half of the runway. Dad said the

Japanese were trying to knock them down with knee mortars as they were landing. He was in Hawaii, Baker Island, Nomena, Saipan, the Gilbert's, the Ellis Islands, and Iwo Jima. He used to tell a lot of his war stories and Capt. Robert Moore was a favorite subject. Dad used to have to repair Capt. Moore's P-40 propellers when He shot holes in them with the .50 cal. in the cowl.

John DeLaFrance wwiitank@aol.com

548th Night Fighter Squadron - My father was 1st Lt Arvid Leroy Shulenberg, Radar Officer on P-61-B named Midnight Miss, 548th NFS, Iwo Jima and Saipan and Okinawa 1945. Dad shot down a B-29 and saved the entire crew over Iwo (I just got his story about the incident published in Oct2001 issue of Flight Journal mag. (*see prior article in this newsletter*). Dad got an air medal for the action, but I've not been able to find a copy of the citation, which I would like to get. I have found a good specimen P-61B in China and am trying, with the CAF, to get it back and then to restore it to flying status. ... there are currently only three intact + 1 in restoration known to exist.... and I may also have a very tentative trace on another in Germany somewhere. Meanwhile, I'm a P61 nut and trying to locate more info on the 548th. I am in contact with Lee Kendall, pilot of 548th P-61 "Lady in the Dark", who made the last two aerial kills of WW2.... and he is in contact with the man who actually painted all the nose-art for the 548th, including Lady and Midnight Miss. I'm trying to at locate sources, if not actual data, on the 548th and its activities. Kendall is also in contact with the CO of the 548th, who has both a photographic memory and a bunch of actual hardcopy documentation. I'm trying to get that stuff, too.

Other specifics I'm interested in include:

- 1) a source for copies of the actual combat patrol records: they have to exist somewhere.
- 2) a roster of 548th personnel say from late war, eg mid 1945
- 3) a list of the aircraft tail numbers for the 548th and the crews to which they were assigned (none of my photos of Arvid show his tail number, and the 548th unit diary (I have a microfiche copy form USAAF records) is very skimpy and incomplete... it has some photos, and some lists, but much of the data are screwy!... plus it

contains NO write-ups of crew actions on missions. Apparently those data were "secret".

What I need most at the moment is a list of tail numbers and their crews assigned, for the 548th.... I have the microfilm of the squadron log, and in one place they list all the ac and crews, but the page is blurry. None of the numbers I can retrieve agree with either of the two numbers usually assigned (in art and words) to Lady in the Dark.... 4239713 (which wasn't built until Lady had been flying for a year and which went to and was destroyed in China), and -404 (simply does not appear in that page of numbers).

Any help would be greatly appreciated.... happy to pay all costs of copying anything you feel might be even vaguely interesting to me.

Thanks!

Eric Shulenberg, PhD JD

Director, Multidisciplinary Research Development
University of Washington, Seattle, 98195 (Box 352180) 206-685-1457

ericshul@u.washington.edu

318th Fighter Group - Hello, I am a historian following up on the discovery of a crashed P-47 recently found on Guam. It was found near Mt. Santa Rosa. I know that 318th Fighter Group P-47s flew missions against Mt. Santa Rosa on 5-6 August 1944. Do you know where I could find records of any shot down or crashed. Thanks. Colt Denfeld e-mail is duanedenfeld@usa.net.

21st Fighter Group - Hi, My name is Allan Standish. Does anyone with your organization have any information on my uncle Murray Standish from Wisconsin. He passed away in about 1962 and his headstone says 21st Fighter Grp. We know he served on Iwo Jima but know very little else.

Any information you may have on him or anyone he served with would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much

Al Standish ahandad@earthlink.net

p. s. The headstone says radio or radarman.

7th Fighter Command 1941 - Mark the information that I am requesting is the squadron commanders of the 15th Pursuit Group, 18th Pursuit Group and the 18th Air Base Group.

Enclosed is my latest organization chart of Wheeler Field.

Please verify commanders and provide me information on the 24th and 25th Material Squadron

Dec 7, 1941
WHEELER FIELD
7th FIGHTER COMMAND
Commander, Col. William J. Flood

14th PURSUIT WING
Brig. Gen. Howard C. Davidson

15th PURSUIT GROUP (Fighter)
Major Paul W. Blanchard
H.Q. 15th Pursuit
Lt. John J. Webster

45th Pursuit Squadron Capt. Aaron Tyer	46th Pursuit Squadron 1st. Lt. Lewis M. Sanders
47th Pursuit Squadron Capt. Gordon Austin	72nd Pursuit Squadron Lt. James O. Beckwith

18th PURSUIT GROUP (Interceptor)
Major Kenneth N. Walker
H.Q. 18th Purs. Squadron
Capt. James W. Chapman

6th Pursuit Squadron 1st. Lt. James R. Watt	19th Pursuit Squadron 1st. Lt. Joe A. Morris
44th Pursuit Squadron Capt. Ken P. Bergquist	73rd Pursuit Squadron 1st. Lt. John Evans

78th Pursuit Squadron
Capt. William Clingerman

18th AIR BASE GROUP
Col. William J. Flood

H.Q. 18th Air Base Squadron
Col. S. W. Fitzgerald

17th Air Base Squadron
Unknown Commander

24th Material Squadron <i>Unknown Commander</i>	25th Material Squadron <i>Unknown Commander</i>
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Louis Bontya III
#7 Wagon Wheel Dr.
Sickerville, N.J. 08081
856-728-9555
E-Mail: Tinapriceless@aol.com

318th Fighter Group - I'm trying to find information on my father, Steve D. Treharne (deceased), who was in the Headquarters Squadron of the 318th Fighter Group during WWII. I'd particularly like to find individuals who

knew him, and who can relate stories about his experiences; but I recognize that's likely going to be nearly impossible.

Would appreciate any assistance you can provide.

Thanks

Chris D. Treharne, ASA, MCBA, BVAL
Gibraltar Business Appraisals, Inc.
1430 Nelson Road, Suite 223
Longmont, CO 80501
voice: 303 449-8550
toll free: 888 4-A-Value (888 428-2583)
<mailto:ctreharne@4avalue.com>

46th Fighter Squadron - My father, former Cpl Carlton Bailey, 21st Ftr Grp, 46 Ftr Sq was wounded in a last stand charge by the Japanese while on guard duty at the NW Guard post #1, the morning of March 26th, 1945. He's still living and we talk about his World War II experiences often. He was radio operator on a C-47 that Col. Powell flew to Iwo from Hawaii, the Mariana's, and Iwo. I enjoy the 21st Ftr Grp website and refer to it often. As I look at the map of Iwo Jima I am curious as to where the bivouac site for the 21st group was in relation to the airfields, or wherever it could have been when the attack came on March 26. Would you know where they were bivouacked on that morning in by chance? Thank you for any info pertinent to the 21st Ftr Grp that day.

Sincerely, Randy Bailey rbail06@dellepro.com

P-40 Identifications - I have been in contact with a C. Buzby in Australia who is researching the P-40 aircraft that were assigned to the 7th Fighter Command. He has the aircraft serial numbers for the P-40's that were assigned to the 7th and is trying to match up the aircraft serials with the squadrons and pilots that flew them. His work is non-profit and his desire seems sincere and he will share all of his work with us. If you have information and photo's of P-40's that might help him make that link, please contact me at the address on the back of the newsletter. He is especially interested in the early P-40's.

P-61's - Sirs; I would like to inquire about help. I am working on my second book for Schiffer books, which will concern the P-61 Black Widow. I am still in a lot of need to find photos and information on these aircraft.

The book itself will list all of the 742 P-61s built by serial number and will have a detailed history of each individual aircraft. I need help in finding photos of each squadron's plane and serial numbers, etc.

Thank-you for your time and I hope to hear from you in the future.

Jeff Kolln 17125 Briar Street SE, Yelm, WA
98597. 1-360-458-9793 Blkwidw421@aol.com

458th FS 506th FG- My dad flew P-51's off Iwo Jima in 1945. I think he was with the 458th FS. I would also like to contact anyone left from the 302nd FCS because the Brother Agate beacon they operated allowed him to navigate from Japan back to Iwo solo.

Mark Starin kb1kj@usa.net

47th Fighter Squadron - I am trying to get information on the following flyer for his cousin.

1st. Lt. Jule Cames Mitchell, Jr. serial no.-
14122218 Killed over Nagoya on 15, July 1945
Ford Watson at FORDWATSON@aol.com

ASSOCIATION DONATIONS

As you are aware there are no required dues in the association and all activities and in particular this newsletter are dependent on your generous donations. If you have enjoyed this newsletter and would like to see more like this, we need your help. There has also been some renewed interest in holding some regional 7th Reunions. We currently have only enough funds to publish this newsletter. It is understood that many of you are on fixed incomes, but If you are able to help, a suggested donation of \$10.00 would be appreciated. **Please send any donations to:** Robert Russell, 732 Broadway, Vero Beach, FL 32960. Make all checks payable to the 7th Fighter Command Association. All donations are tax deductible.

COMMUNICATION

In order to better stay in touch it is requested that you provide us with an e-mail if you have one. This could be your own e-mail or one of your families who could then pass on information to you. This would be another method to help defray costs in that it would allow some of the newsletters to be distributed via e-mail. Please

e-mail the editor at mail@glorene.com with your e-mail.

TAPPS

The following list indicates those comrades who have passed on since the last issue of Sunsetter.

Ayres, Frank 47th 7/15/98
Bridge, Art, 7/8/01
Brophy, Vincent 333rd 3/22/98
Brucker, Wilber 78th 1999
Callaghan, Julian 506th 2/3/98
Capps, Gordon 14th 47th 5/27/98
Carico, G.C "Jose" 45th February 2001
Duerr, Richard 78th 45th notified 2/19/99
Dunlap, George 45th, September 2001
Duren, Gary 333rd notified 2/1/01
Emfinger, J.D. 307th 1998
Esneault, Linus 333rd 2/16/98
Fitzsimmons, Joe 78th 73rd 6th notified 2/1/01
Gibbs, Jack 73rd 10/18/99
Habe, Rudy 78th 4/29/01
Haywood, Clayton 78th 3/16/00
Heifner, Olin 72nd 45th 12/1/01
Henry, Marshall 6th 1/3/97
Hueter, Charles 78th 3/12/99
Marshall, Max 78th Summer 2001
McCullough, Tom 78th 3/11/01
Mills, Roman 78th 8/9/00
Meads, William 78th 11/9/98
Moffitt, John 333rd 3/2/98
Nelson, Merrill 78th 5/28/00
Nix, Charles 462nd notified 2/19/99
Outland, James 462nd 1/26/98
Pancoast, Harold 47th 2/19/98
Plotz, Joseph 78th notified 2/1/01
Rainwater, Charles 46th 12/2/98
Ridosh, William 47th 2/1/97
Ritala, Robert 47th 8/8/99
Schmidt, Charles 333rd notified 2/24/01
Shoemaker, Jack 333rd notified 2/19/99
Stelly, Jules 73rd 10/18/99
Sweatmon, Robert 78th 2/22/00
Wright, William 19th 78th June 1999
Yeager, Jack 73rd 8/7/98

SUNSETTER'S GAZETTE
14629 SE 198th St.
Renton, WA 98058-9405

Address Correction Requested
Newsletter of the
Seventh Fighter Command
World War II

Mark Stevens – Editor
mail@glorene.com

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Please send you dues and contributions to Bob Russell. We only have enough funds to mail out this Gazette and if you would like to see more like it please contribute if you are able.

Name _____ Squadron _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Mail to : Robert Russell, 7732 Broadway, Vero Beach, FL 32960
