



"Jungle" Air Force Newsletter

News and Information for Members of the 13th Air Force Veterans Association

FEBRUARY 2009

World War II
Flight Operations:
1943-1945

New Caledonia
Espiritu Santo
Guadalcanal
New Georgia
Admiralty Islands
Noemfoor
Morotai
New Guinea
Netherlands, East Indies
Philippines
Okinawa

Major Aircraft Flown:

B-17
B-24
B-25
P-38
P-61
PB4Y
C-47
C-46

Activated
13 January 1943
Noumea, New Caledonia

"Pay Your Dues" Quotes Robert O'Brien

The St. Louis reunion went well even though the floods made Sully change plans a little bit, but in typical 13th AF style we came through in flying colors. Good Job Sully and Yates!

Now for the bad news and let the chips fall where they may. Remember this, we are not pointing the finger at any one, two or three people, but this situation is something the whole membership should know about, not just the ones attending the reunion. We are in financial disarray, we are applying for a bailout from Congress and it may help, I know what the answer will be. Our finances have gone from approximately \$10,000 to the sum total of \$1,700. Partial explanation being I was informed that I was making the newsletter too large, fancy and also too many pages plus in color. My answer was as follows: Gentlemen and ladies, the only thing the members receive now is this newsletter, not even pins, or membership cards. Well, the newsletter costs approximately \$4 per issue, that includes all the preparation, printing, mailing and postage. The more members there are, the lower the cost per issue. That's pretty darn cheap I think. I feel the members deserve a better break and I will continue to fight for this, if I am wrong please let me know. Another reason for shrinkage of funds: we do not need 6 or 7 members to inspect the site for a reunion. That means we pay for rooms, food, gas, and misc. expenses, we sent people to Oklahoma and also St. Louis to check out this site. Rest assured that was not necessary, I know

because Betty and I have put on enough reunions and one or two couples from the area help, it is work but it also is fun and we enjoy doing it. We are members of the reunion network and if help is needed they are right there.

Ladies and gentlemen we are putting our thumbs in the dike and will be watching the monies spent on reunions, and yes, the newsletter. Also we will get this financial picture turned around and things will be back to normal.

Mr. and Mrs. Reeves of Grand Rapids and also Lenore Daniels are helping Betty and I put this 2009 reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Plans have been made and the date is Sept. 16-20 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel of Grand Rapids. For your information Grand Rapids is accessible by car, train, plane, bus, and also Amtrak, we have many events planned that will keep you busy.

NOTE: I just heard from Treasurer Bob and he informed me that replies to the letter sent out has been real good. Thank you members. I'll bet the reason some of you didn't pay your dues was that you didn't know when they were due. Dues are \$25 per year. Thank You - Phil

HELP!

What is the "Heritage" plan that was introduced to the group in Oklahoma? Members have asked me about it but I could not give them an answer. - Phil



From Your President

I am still aglow with the enjoyment of our reunion in St. Louis, despite Mother Nature's attempts to stymie President Sully. He and Dave Yates went with the flow and shifted gears to change from a cruise to a night at the local casino wolfing down prime rib and an endless array of desserts. Each event was well organized and worth the effort to attend.

The Memorial service found me with goose bumps. The service was outstanding and the color guard were fine examples of the airmen of today. Two of them had service ribbons attesting to their recent service in Iraq. The other young man is scheduled to go this year. Cliff Johnson, as usual, led us in prayer and brought home to us the message of a memorial service. Finally Dave Yates saw to it that we were provided a most excellent box lunch and topped that off by his having talked Wal-Mart and others into paying for it. The sounding of Taps was a fitting end to a most moving memorial service. Enough said.

The tour of the Budweiser plant fittingly ended in a colorful room where free beer and pretzels awaited us. Another excellent tour of the original state capital of Missouri was also outstanding. The old buildings

demonstrated the designs of years ago and were interesting and made for excellent photography.

What impressed me most was the comradeship of our group. It is so touching to renew the friendship with buddies that has grown over the years. The first thing I do is hope that all from last year will be here again but that is a desperate hope for us in our golden years.

Talking about age, how about those tap dancing sweeties at our banquet? I would not have lasted 3 minutes at the pace they were going. The young vocal group also caught our hearts with the songs they rendered that brought us back to the war years.

I only hope that I can match the great events that Past President Cliff Johnson and his coordinator Ray Perkins or President Sully and his coordinator Dave Yates brought us. I have requested the help of Phil & Betty Dyer to make our Grand Rapids 2009 Reunion as good. Again my thanks for your confidence in me and I am honored to represent this group of buddies and their lovely ladies. My phone is always open to you all as is my door. If I can assist in any way please let me know.

Sincerely Yours – Bob O'Brien

From Your Past President

It's great to be back in the mountains, reflecting on friendship of old and new alike, what was and what could have been for our reunion this past September in St. Louis. I am and will be forever grateful to you wonderful folks that came forward and together, overcame adversities presented by both weather and man. This act of working together is what it takes to get the job done. This act is responsible, on reflection, for the fellowship that we have come to enjoy these many years after we got it done over there.

There are many who have come forward and helped carry on this fellowship for many years. Let us remember those who have served and are no longer with us, we owe to them the dedication they so richly deserve. I, for one, will be ever thankful to you, you're the ones that come and helped make this thing of ours, the 13th Jungle Air Force Veterans Association a lasting effort to perpetuate.

I must acknowledge the time and expense, the dedication of Dave Yates, his wife Carolann, brother Steve and nephew Nathan, all who played a huge part in making our reunion so enjoyable. Dave's father was the nose gunner on my crew and we flew some 42 combat missions together as snoopers with the 868th BSH. His father, Wilson D. Yates, has passed on and now Dave and I have completed a mission and I am most grateful.

Who? I ask could have presented our Memorial service with more reverence and sincerity than our Past President Cliff Johnson. Thank you Cliff and thank you Pam for your great assistance. You both are loved by all.

I am indebted to my friend, Bob O'Brien, for his advice and help and for his wit, we all need a laugh. I wish him every success in 2009 and I can assure you that he is hard at work right now with plans for Grand Rapids. Thanks Bob.

(Continued on next page)



Past President's letter continued from page 2

Then there is one other with dedication and fortitude who has given us pleasure and guidance (no dues no news). Thanks to Phil Dyer and Betty, if there ever was one who overcame adversity, well you name him or her. Thank you Phil and Betty. I'm looking forward to a great newsletter!

There are many to recognize for their help and probably some are not known for they're behind-the-scenes; for those please know that you are appreciated thanks to BC and Sherri Pipes and to Lenore Daniels (now there is

a gal that will tackle anything and make it work). Lucian Doyle for his advise, and on and on. Thanks to you all, it has been an honor to serve and call you friends.

I sincerely wish and pray that each of you have a joyful holiday season and that God will minister to your needs and add his blessings to your lives.

Most sincerely and with eternal thanks for your support.
- H. Thomas Sullivan

13th "Jungle" AFVA Letter to Fellow Officers

Dear Fellow Officers,

I regret to inform you that our pot is running low. In the past our reunions were conducted in a manner to end up with a cash surplus which went into our general fund to bankroll the routine yearly activities of the club. The last two reunions were splendid but they did not make any profit or break even, so our general fund is relying on dues to keep us operating between reunions.

Unfortunately our dues system leaves much to be desired. We have received about 10 dues from members for 2009 and there are still many who have not paid either their 2007 or 2008 dues!

Currently the newsletters show the year the members dues are paid up to in the address block but we have been unable to do this for the past year. We are preparing a mailing to all members to show where they stand on dues. It is our hope that by doing this we will receive

enough money to keep our club in the black.

There are about 311 members presently and if everyone paid their dues we would have over \$7,000 to operate and we would be in good financial shape. It appears that we need to go back to regular procedures for dues in which each December we send out a notice to each member and request that they pay their dues at that time. This would help many of us older members, such as me, remember that we owe money and sent it in.

We will also have to be more budget-minded on future reunions and make them pay for themselves. I will keep you each posted on our progress. Phil Dyer says he will give us a great reunion in Grand Rapids and it will pay for itself and maybe even make a little for our general fund.

Respectfully yours - Bob

Looking for info on the 42nd Bomb Group

I am Phaon R. Herb from the 75th Bomb Squadron 42nd Group and I'm trying to get the 42nd Bomb Group History which I understand is not published as yet. I did have some kind of history of this group some years ago and do not know who had it or where I was at that time but sure would like to get one if possible for my sons and grandsons to enjoy. The mission that I was on November 1, 1943 over Shorthand Island is listed in that book and we had to ditch a short distance from that island and were picked up by a PBV and flown to the Naval Hospital at Tulage. On returning to our base on Treasury Island all our belongings were packed and ready to be shipped home and that is when my father received a telegram that I was MIA. Unfortunately this is

not listed on my discharge and have been informed that my records in St. Louis were destroyed by fire. I do have the Air Medal with 9 OLCs, Purple Heart and 4 Bronze Stars for the different campaigns that I took part in. The mission I mentioned was only my second. I flew 58 more after that and was relieved at Cape Sansapor in New Guinea where I left to come home. Any information I can get on this mission would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

Phaon R. Herb
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Gone But Not Forgotten



Charles S. Boudier

Charles S. Boudier, 84, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania entered into an eternal rest unexpectedly, Sunday, August 24. Born in Lancaster, he was the son of the late Joseph and Mary (Shank) Boudier. He was a retired printer from the former *Lancaster Press*.

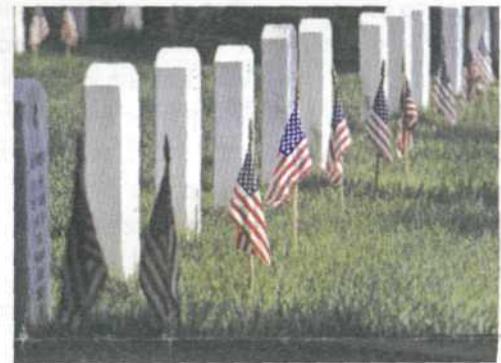
He served as a Staff Sergeant in WWII. He was a tail gunner with the 13th Air Force in a B-24 Bomber that was part of the 370 Bomb squadron, 307th bomb group in the South Pacific from

Guadalcanal to Borneo and islands in between. While flying 51 missions, he was shot down twice, once being MIA for 8 days. He was awarded the Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, the distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters and several other medals.

Emile J. Beauregard

Fairhaven – Emile J. Beauregard, 89, of New Bedford, husband of Sophie (Smusz) Pelletier-Beauregard and the late Margaret (Thackeray) Beauregard died at Our Lady's Haven on October 25, 2008. He was the son of the late William Beauregard and Alexina (Gagnon) Beauregard.

He worked at Employment Security as a principal interviewer. He served in the Air Force, Yankee Division, Pacific Theater, as an engineer-gunner on B25-S. His awards included the Purple Heart, Air Medal with Clusters, World War II American Defense, the Good Conduct Medal, plus others. Emile was membership chairman of the 13th Air Force.



"It is, in a way, an odd thing to honor those who died in defense of our country in wars far away. The imagination plays a trick.

"We see these soldiers in our mind as old and wise. We see them as something like the founding fathers, brave and gray-haired.

"But most of them were boys when they died. They gave up two lives; the one they were living and the one they would have lived.

"When they died, they gave up their chance to be husbands and fathers and grandfathers. They gave up their chance to be revered old men. They gave up everything for their country, for us.

"All we can do is remember."

President Ronald W. Reagan,
Arlington National Cemetery, Nov. 11, 1985

Some Figures from WWII

- 9,707,109,000 gallons of gas used from January 1942 to August 1945
- 459,750,000 rounds of ammunition expended overseas from January 1942 to August 1945
- 107,886,000 hours of flying time from January 1943 to August 1945
- 7,952,020 bombs dropped overseas from 1943 to 1945
- 2,057,244 tons of bombs dropped overseas from Dec. 1941 to Aug. 1945
- 2,362,800 combat sorties from Dec. 1941 to August 1945
- 299,230 aircraft accepted from Jan. 1940 to August 1945
- 808,471 aircraft engines delivered from January 1940 to August 1945
- 799,972 propellers delivered from January 1940 to August 1945
- 40,259 enemy aircraft destroyed from February 1942 to August 1945

Barrett Tillman is an aviation author of note and is researching WWII losses for a new book. Tillman also writes for Tailhook Magazine.



2008 St. Louis Reunion



The flooded Lewis & Clark Boat House & Nature Center



Wonderful entertainment!



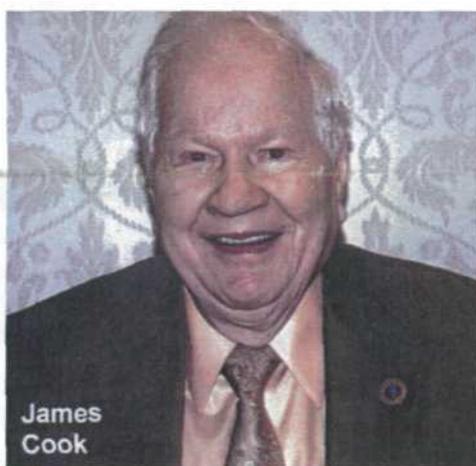
At left is our smiling historian, Mauro Messina.



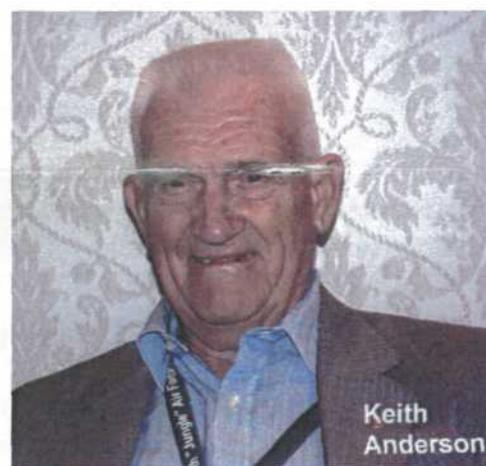
Right - Len Daniels, daughters and friends.



Billie Pipes



James Cook



Keith Anderson

Above are photos that Dave Yates took at the reunion in St. Louis. These photos are available at your request at no charge, in appreciation of your attendance, dedication and support to our 13th Air Force Veterans Association. To receive yours, contact H.T. Sullivan.

Some 13th AF History

Excerpts from Old 13th AF Newsletters

In Case you didn't know...

The 13th Air Force came into being on the island of New Caledonia on January 13, 1943 under command of Major General Nathan F. Twining. Formation of a new numbered air force had been authorized by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to keep vital South Pacific air and sea lines of communications open for America. Two days

after activation, 13th AF B-17 bombers and P-38 and P-39 fighters saw action against five enemy destroyers and a number of aircraft. Just eight days after activation General Twining moved to and set up his headquarters on Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides. For the next two years, the 13th fought the war from remote jungle sites on more than 40 scattered Pacific Islands.





The 13th Air Force Veterans Association
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DUES KEEP THE NEWS!

The Annual Reunion... What Does It Mean?

As 13th AF veterans we are a collection of people related through commonality, regardless of residence.

Membership Supports Activities

When you join the veterans association, the membership fee you pay helps support pertinent activities and makes the relationship official.

Reunion is Special

But the annual reunion, that is something special. That's when members are willing to leave their abode to come together in one place to renew the camaraderie that ties us together.

Reunion is the Purpose

They greet, they hug, they recall, yes, they re-live. Sometimes they even cry. When you think about it, the reunion is the fundamental purpose of membership for old-timers like us.

The 13th VS Japanese Naval Forces

Jungle Air Force aircraft were involved in a number of attacks against Japanese naval forces. In October 1944, 13th Air Force B-24s routed a Jap Navy Task Force in the Battle of Sulu Sea, damaging one of Japan's newest and largest battleships and preventing the warships from shelling our embattled beachhead on Leyte. In Brunel Bay, Borneo, B-24s attacked another Japanese Task Force, sinking a Jap Cruiser, damaging a battleship and leaving a large cargo ship burning.

In March 1945, a lone "Snooper" Liberator attacked and sank a Japanese Carrier in the Makassar Straits between Borneo and the Celebes.

Watch your mailbox...

**The 13th AF Website
is Up-To-Date and Running!**
www.13afvets.org

and tell us what you think, suggestions are welcome too!



"Jungle" Air Force Newsletter
DELIVERY SCHEDULE

First part of March July November

