



"Jungle" Air Force Newsletter

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

AUGUST 2011

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Why Mr. Rogers Wears a Sweater...

There was once a wimpy little man (who passed away) on PBS, gentle and quiet. You would least expect that Mr. Rogers as being anything but what he now portrays to our youth. But Mr. Rogers was a U.S. Navy Seal, combat-proven in Vietnam with over twenty-five confirmed kills to his name.

He wore a long-sleeved sweater on TV to cover the many tattoos on his forearm and biceps. He was a master in small arms and hand-to-hand combat, able to disarm or kill in a heartbeat.

After the war Mr. Rogers became an ordained Presbyterian minister and therefore a Pacifist. He vowed to never harm another human and also dedicated the rest of his life to trying to help lead children on the right path in life. He hid away the tattoos and his past life and won our hearts with his quiet wit and charm. America's real heroes don't flaunt what they did; they quietly go about their day-to-day lives, doing what they do best. They earned our respect and the freedoms that we all enjoy. Look around and see if you can find one of those heroes in your midst. Often, they are the ones you'd least suspect, but would most like to have on your side if anything ever happened.

Captain Kangaroo passed away on January 23, 2004 at age 76, which is odd, because he always looked to be 76. (DOB: 6/27/27) His death reminded me of the following story:

Some people have been a bit offended that the actor, Lee Marvin, is buried in a grave alongside 3 and 4-star generals at Arlington

National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (PVT) and service (USMC).... nothing else. Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time, why the heck does he rate burial with these guys?

Well, following is the amazing answer: I always liked Lee Marvin, but didn't know the extent of his Corps experiences.

In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces often in rear echelon posts

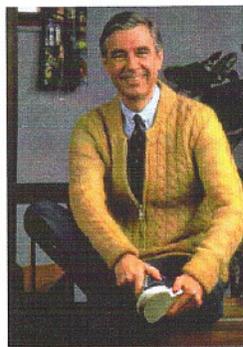
where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award... the Medal Of Honor!

If that is a surprising comment on the true character of the man, he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery. *Dialogue From "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson"* His guest was Lee Marvin... Johnny said, "Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima....and that during the course of that action you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded."

"Yeah, yeah....I got shot square in the bottom and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about half way up Suribachi. Bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys getting shot hauling you down. But Johnny, at

Iwo, I served under the bravest man I ever knew....we both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap in comparison.

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That dumb guy actually stood up on Red Beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. Bullets flying by, with mortar rounds landing everywhere and he stood there as the main target of gunfire so that he could get his men to safety. He did this on more than one occasion because his men's safety was more important than his own life. That Sergeant and I have been life-long friends. When they

brought me off Suribachi we passed the Sergeant and he lit a smoke and passed it to me, lying on my belly on the litter and said, 'Where'd they get you Lee?' 'Well Bob, if you make it home before me, tell mom to sell the outhouse!' 'Johnny, I'm not lying Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew. The Sergeant's name is Bob Keeshan. You and the world know him as Captain Kangaroo.'



Letter from your President

13th Jungle Air Force President Cliff Johnson and wife, Pam, are **LOOKING for YOU!**

One of the important purposes of this special Dayton Reunion is to be reminded of our association's remarkable 13th Jungle Air Force marble memorial in the U.S. Air Force Museum's incredible Memory Gardens. This is one of the great events planned for our October get together. **Also...** a wonderful favorite happens again! The special buffet dinner "Under the Wings" which is actually under the wings of a B-52 surrounded by many other famous aircraft.

Our speaker will be Lt. Gen. Loren Reno, USAF. This officer is truly a gentleman and officer and was a well received guest and speaker at the reunion in St. Louis. Many thanks for the help of several of our members; Phil and Betty Dyer, Dick Phelps, and Ray Perkins and others including Tom Bonney, Jr., and the skill of our bookkeeper Eileen Luck, an immeasurable help in caring for the Association's finances.

The Hotel - The spacious and "neat" Holiday Inn within two miles of the Air Force Museum will be our "home away from home" and includes our 13th AFVA Hospitality Room and Registration.

The cost of the room includes a full buffet breakfast in a large, classy dining area. (A full service restaurant with a very nice menu is also available when needed.) Special handicapped (register early) rooms are available. The parking area is large, well-lighted and right next to the hotel. Our Hospitality Room is spacious and convenient. The hotel is in a secure, corporate business area near many restaurants and a half mile from the large Fairfield Commons Mall. A unique opportunity will be sharing the Saturday evening "Under the Wings" Buffet Dinner with the 39th Troop Carrier Squadron, a group much like ours in age and service experience. The 39th is also staying at our hotel as is another group, the Vietnam Security Forces veterans. We will have opportunities to exchange stories and experiences with our fellow veterans at breakfast, at the hotel, and Saturday Under the Wings. The room cost is

a bit more this year. (What costs aren't up!) We determined that the many advantages and conveniences of this facility and the opportunity to interact with two other groups of veterans will make it absolutely worth it. Arriving at the Dayton Airport (DAY)? Contact the hotel for pick-up. Questions? Contact Cliff Johnson 937-766-5398 or E-mail: johnsonc@cedarville.edu

There's More - Remember when, at our 2006 Dayton Reunion, the Cedarville Jazz Band lifted our spirits?

They perform at our special Friday Banquet with WWII hits at the hotel banquet room. More arrangements are complete to enjoy a modest banquet and a Cedarville University theatrical production of a famous Agatha Christie murder mystery. The Cedarville Theater Department is well known for its wonderful plays and the campus is within a reasonable bus ride. The traditional Ladies Luncheon is definitely included on Saturday and we plan to get the men together for a lunch (somewhere!) at the same time. Since Dayton is the home of so much aviation history, we will offer a remarkable trip to sites which honor the Wright Brothers' legacy and the famous Aviation Trail.

We do want all our members, associate members, family members and significant others to come to the 13th AFVA Reunion. If a member is hard pressed financially, we have a way to help. Contact one of the association's officers for more information.

Thanks are due to so many of our members who attend each year at some considerable sacrifice. Thanks, too, for the remarkable assistance and attendance of love ones. Remember not only that, Ray Perkins is already busy planning for the 2012 reunion, and Phil and Betty have agreed to be the coordinators for the 2013 reunion.

**SEE YOU IN DAYTON!!!
WE WANT YOU THERE!**



Letter from the Editor

I am going to ramble on so please bear with me. The date for the Dayton reunion is rapidly approaching so let's get those reservations in, not next week, but right now. Cliff and Pam have worked real hard to make this reunion a success so let's show our appreciation by attending. Ladies and gentlemen let me just add this, "if we don't get a good turnout for the reunion this could be our last one."

While on the subject let me say it is getting more difficult all the time to publish this newsletter because I get very little news from you members. What do you want me to do, reach out to the sky and get news? All I can say is, "no news, no newsletter". Putting this newsletter together used to be a load of fun but now it is a lot of work.

Talk about work... I just invested in a new septic business, sign on the truck reads:

CAUTION:
TANK FULL OF POLITICIANS' PROMISES

News from our bookkeeper, Eileen Luck, as of July 19, 2011 the bank balance was \$6,835.38. Over \$1,000 of this was from the Tom Bonney Fund. Cliff and Ray be sure to spend the money wisely because it is going to be interesting to see the balance sheet after the reunion. The obituary page has only two or three this time but let me say that Betty and I have lost a very good friend with the death of Jim Brazzil on June 28th. Whenever I felt down in the dumps or things did not go good putting the newsletter together I would call Jim and get things ironed out. He had great words of wisdom. You be sadly missed by all Jim.

Phil & Betty

A High-School Student stared thoughtfully at the second question on his exam, which read, "State the number of tons of coal shipped out of the America in any given year." Suddenly, his brow cleared, and he wrote, "1942: None."

Executive Board Meeting Agenda (Tentative) Wednesday, October 5, 2011 - 8:00 pm

Attendance at the meeting typically includes the Association's Officers. If you have suggestions, please get them to the board members

AGENDA: 13th AFVA Board Meeting

1. Several administrative matters should be discussed some for presentation to the Annual Business Meeting, Saturday, October 8 at 11 a.m.
2. The minutes of the 2010 annual meeting should be recommended for approval as will the Treasurer's report and the bookkeeper's report. The board needs action to express thanks to those so deeply involved in our finances.
3. Decisions should be made about dues for 2012. It seems helpful to continue to mail a postcard reminder after the October Reunion. Should we consider increasing costs of dues?
4. Consider nominations for 2013 officers.
5. Approval for recommendation for the location for 2013 Reunion. Seek possible locations for 2014.
6. Choose who will receive the proceeds from the last year's 50/50 project used to get quick cash for the organization. (Discover what the proceeds were.)
7. Discuss future of organization and possibilities of merging.



Unknown World War II Trivia

By Col. D. G. Swinford
USMC (Ret.) and history buff
Courtesy of David J. Marinelli

1. The first German serviceman killed in WWII was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937). The first American serviceman was killed by the Russians (Finland, 1940); highest ranking American killed was Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps. So much for allies.
2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.
3. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika". All three were soon changed for PR purposes.
4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, your chance of being killed was 71%.
5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese Ace Hirooyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.
6. It was common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics (at long range) so if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your

- rounds were missing. Worse yet, tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.
7. When allied armies reached the Rhine, the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act).
 8. German ME-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City, but they decided it wasn't worth the effort.
 9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.
 10. Among the first Germans captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.
 11. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 United States and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands. Twenty-one troops were killed in the assault on the island. It could have been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.

Witness this Spectacular Skyline For Yourself!

Please attend the Dayton 2011 Reunion. Meet new friends and, above all, see your old friends. We are all getting older so, this may be our last chance to see each other and see our bench and memorial that is on display at Wright-Patterson. We are planning on holding a live auction in the Hospitality Room with memorabilia being auctioned off. If you have something, please bring it to the reunion or send it to Cliff or Phil.

Let's have some fun for a change and, above all, have a good time!



REUNION SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Arrival at the Holiday Inn, Fairborn, Ohio (Dayton suburb, Just off I-675)

- 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. Registration in the Hospitality Room
 7:30 p.m. Reception, Introductions and Remarks
 2:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open
 (8:00 p.m. - Executive Board Meeting)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 6:30 - 8:45 a.m. Breakfast
 9:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. Carillon Historical Park, Aviation Exhibits, Lunch there on our own
 2:30 p.m. Rest and Relaxation, Hospitality Room Open
 4:30 p.m. Leave from Hotel for Cedarville University, Dinner Served in a CU Event Room. Then the Agatha Christie Mystery Play, "And Then There Were None" from Her World's Best Selling Mystery Book
 11:00 p.m. Back at the Hotel. Sleep Well!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 6:30 - 8:45 a.m. Breakfast
 9:00 a.m. Leave for the National Museum of the US Air Force (Scooters Available)
 Visit the Memorial Park and the Remarkable 13th AFVA Memorial.
 Visit Exhibits including Vietnam, Korean, WW II, Berlin Airlift Presidential Hanger, IMAX Theater, Lunch, Museum Café on our own, Back to Hotel
 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Rest and Relaxation - Hospitality Room Open
 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. 13th AFVA Official Reunion Banquet at Hotel, Cash Bar Available, Dinner at 6 p.m.
 Program includes awards, introductions, the CU Jazz Band and presentations by ROTC Students

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 6:30 - 8:45 a.m. Breakfast
 9:30 a.m. Memorial Service at the Hotel - Room tba
 11:00 a.m. 13th AFVA Business Meeting - Room tba
 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Luncheon at the Hotel - Banquet Room
 12:30 p.m. Gentlemen's Lunch. Modest cost on our own. (Location to be decided)
 2:30 p.m. Afternoon Rest and Relaxation - Hospitality Room closes at 3:30 p.m.
 5:00 p.m. Leave for the USAF Museum
 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. Enjoy the Museum Gift Shop
 6:00 p.m. Doors open to the Banquet area. Cash Bar Opens
 7:00 p.m. Under the Wings Banquet with the 39th Troop Carrier Group. Includes the AF Band of Flight, Speaker: Lt. Gen. Loren Reno, United States Air Force.

Letter from Washington D.C. to members of 13th AFVA

Everyone read carefully, who knows.....we could be next

Drafting Men Over 60

I am over 60 and the Armed Forces thinks I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 42 to join the military. They've got the whole thing backwards. Instead of sending 18 year olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join a military unit until you're at least 35.

For starters: Researchers say 18 year olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more that 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy.

Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is dangerous. "My back hurts, I can't sleep, I'm tired and hungry!" We are impatient and maybe letting us kill some people that desperately deserve it will make us feel better and shut us up for a while.

An 18 year old doesn't even like to get up before 10 am. Old guys always get up early to pee so hey. Besides, like I said, "I'm tired and can't sleep and since I'm already up I may as well be up killing some fanatic."

If captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank and serial number would be a real brain teaser.

Boot camp would be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we're used to soft food. We've also developed an appreciation for guns. We've been using them for years as an excuse to get out of the house, away from the screaming and yelling.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course, however. I've been in combat and I didn't see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training. Actually, the running part is kind of a waste of energy too. I've never seen anyone able to outrun a bullet.

An 18 year old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave and to start up a conversation with a pretty girl. He still hasn't figured out that a baseball cap has a brim to shade his eyes, not the back of his head.

These are all great reasons to keep our kids at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off into harm's way.

Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten coward terrorists. The last thing an enemy would want to see is a couple of million old dudes with attitudes and automatic weapons who know that their best years are already behind them.

Sent to Editor by a Member

Remains of Eleven WWII Airmen recovered in New Guinea

BERKLEY, Mich (AP) - The remains of a Michigan man and 10 other World War II airmen whose plane crashed in what now is Papua New Guinea have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial, the Pentagon announced.

The airmen include 1st Lt. Richard T. Heuss, 23 of Berkley, Michigan. He and nine of the men will be buried as a group March 24 at Arlington National Cemetery.

A funeral is scheduled Friday at Arlington for Army Air Forces Technical Sgt. Charles A. Bode, 23 of Baltimore.

The crew's B-24 Liberator disappeared after taking off from Jackson Airfield in New Guinea on November 20, 1943. The others are 2nd Lt. Robert A. Miller, 22, Memphis, Tenn; 2nd Lt. Edward R. French, 23, of Erie, PA; 2nd Lt. Robert R. Streckenbach Jr., 21, of Green Bay Wis.; Tech. Sgt. Lucian I Oliver Jr. 23, of Memphis; Staff Sgt. Ivan O. Kirkpatrick, 36 of Whittier, Calif. Staff Sgt. William K. Musgrave, 24, of Hutsonville, IL; Staff Sgt. James T. Moran, 21, of Sloatsburg, N.Y.;

Staff Sgt. James B. Moore, 21, of Woburn, Mass; and Staff Sgt. Roy Surabian, 24, of Medford, Mass.

The government of Papua New Guinea notified U.S. officials in 1984 if a World War II crash site in a ravine in Morobe Province, the Defense Department said. A US search team located B-24 wreckage and some human remains but couldn't complete the mission because of the dangerous terrain.

*At right -
The casket
containing the
remains of the
11 servicemen
was drawn
behind six
white horses in
route to burial
at Arlington
Cemetery.*



Phil Dyer was led from jungle by man who was to be neighbor

Reprinted from
Ludington Daily News
Tuesday, March 24, 1992

by Paul S. Peterson

Small world? Just ask Phil Dyer. The Hartford, Conn., native joined the Air Corps early in World War II, wound up halfway around the world where he was rescued from a jungle by a man who later would become his neighbor in Scottville, Michigan.

"I couldn't believe it," Dyer said relating his experience as a B-25 radio operator. "The man who helped get me out of the jungle after my plane had been shot down was none other than Carl Beckman, who was serving with the Rangers." Beckman, who died in 1983, was a Scottville resident and one of the area's best-known and most-liked conservation officers. "Of course, I didn't know him at the time," Dyer said, "And even after I came to Scottville and got to know Carl, I didn't learn for some time that he was with the group of five Rangers who found me and led me to safety. As a matter of fact, Carl was the first guy to reach me."

Beckman, who Dyer said could track anything anywhere had come upon Dyer's parachute, he followed his tracks for almost 10 miles before he found the downed airman.

"Then Carl, myself and four other Rangers walked about four hours through the jungle until we came to a clearing near the beach," Dyer said "They (the Rangers) had driven a jeep to that point and then they had stashed it in the jungle. No one would ever have found that jeep. We got in and they drove me back to an American base."

After the war, Dyer eventually went to Scottville where he owned and operated a dry-cleaning business for a number of years.

"Carl and I would go out in the woods looking for mushrooms or hunting, and he would spot a broken twig and be able to tell if an animal or human broke it and which way he was going. He was amazing," Dyer said.

Dyer enlisted in the Army Air Corps in December 1942 and was assigned to a school to learn about Pratt Whitney aircraft engines.

"I had been there six months when the Air Corps needed volunteers for radio and radar operations, so I volunteered," he said. "I was sent to a school at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and then on to Lowrey Air Base outside Denver for more training as a flight radar



Ground Technicians with the US Army 13th Air Force draw names for a chance at early rotation back to the states for furlough and reassignment. After serving 29 months overseas, just seven lucky servicemen from this group would be selected for an early trip home that month. (photo courtesy of the US Army)

operator and also on a mobile ground radar unit."

In February 1943 he went overseas with a Signal Corps outfit and was assigned to a replacement depot on New Guinea. Dyer was a radio operator on B-25s, always as a replacement, which meant he did not figure into the Army's rotation schedule for going home because he would fly some, and then be on the ground for a while awaiting his next plane.

But business wasn't slow... "I flew 28 missions, operating out of a base on New Guinea. We were a low-level bomber, sometimes coming in just above treetop level. We could carry a load of five bombs, if they were big, or 50 if they were the small anti-personnel bombs," he said. Dyer flew missions over Manila and much of the Philippine Islands where the Japanese forces were dug in, using tunnels and caves from which to fire on advancing U.S. troops. At the end of the campaign, however, the Japanese found another use for the tunnels.

"At one place, we came upon a tunnel in which the Japanese had put a number of American prisoners and then they set fire to it. I can still smell it, and it still bothers me," he said.

continued on next page

Led from the jungle... continued

Dyer was returning from a raid on Hollandia in the northern part of New Guinea, when his twin-engine bomber was hit by ground fire.

"We had just finished the bomb run and were very low, maybe less than 1,000 feet. The pilot knew we wouldn't make it so he climbed to get us to parachute altitude. He made it to about 1,000 or 2,000 feet when we jumped. Everyone got out," he said.

Dyer came down in some palm trees and was relatively unhurt. But he was alone in the jungle with a compass and some K rations, and a .38-caliber pistol.

"The pistol obviously would be of no help," he said, "but I found berries and drank water from the streams, ate

the K rations and the few candy bars I had. I made out OK." One day, Dyer said a Japanese patrol passed within a few yards of where he was hiding, but the jungle was so thick they couldn't see him.

Dyer's commanding officer was Capt. Al Smith, son of the New York governor and Democratic candidate for president in 1928.

"He was a great guy. When he was sent home, he took the names of everyone in our outfit and then called all of our parents, wives and what have you from this home and said we were ok." After the war, Dyer came to Scottville to open his business and met the man who led him out of the jungle to safety.



Here is a picture of us, in 1945 Samar, Philippine Islands 13th AF 31st Bomb Group

Top Row Left to Right

Hull	Navigator
Ernie Stang	Co-Pilot
Phil Bayer	Pilot
Dick Maas	Bombardier

Bottom Row Left to Right

Vic Strysko	Ball Turret
Fred Paul VanDeren	Engineer
Bill Virts	Tail Gunner
Grant	Waist & Nose Gunner
Geno DeMusio	Waist & Nose Gunner
Dick Glew	Radio Operator



Billie and Sheri Pipes

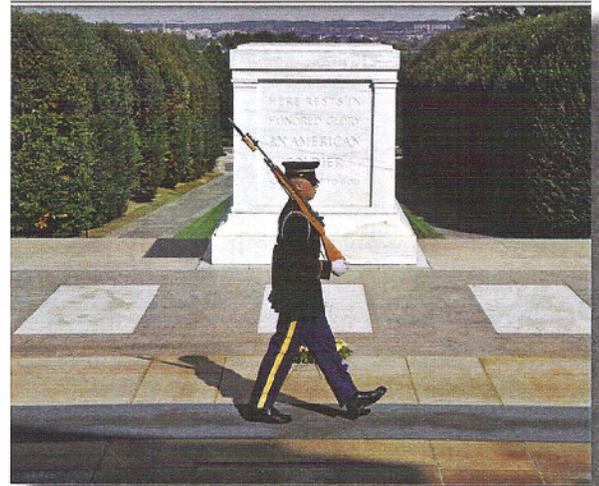


The Jeopardy Question No One Could Answer

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was "How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns" --- All three missed it.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknowns and why?
21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.
2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?
21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1
3. Why are his gloves wet?
His gloves are moistened to prevent losing his grip on the rifle.
4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?
He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the Tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
5. How often are the guards changed?
Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.
6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?
For a person to apply for guard duty at the Tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.



They must commit two years of life to guard the Tomb, live in a barracks under the Tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the Tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the Tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe Lewis {the boxer}, and Medal of Honor winner Audie L. Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

In 2003, as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took two days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

Many emails get forwarded, and I'd be very proud if this one reached as many as possible. We can be very proud of our young men and women in the service no matter where they serve.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

My name is Jan Carp. My father, Emile Sheldon Carp was in the 13th Air Force. He died on January 26th of this year, without telling either me or my brother very much about his experiences during the war. Whenever we would bring it up, he would change the subject. I have just finished reading *Unbroken*, and it has made me determined to find out if there is anyone still alive who remembers my father, and who went through the same experiences with him. I don't know how to begin the search and I certainly don't want to upset anyone by bringing up things that they would prefer to forget. Can you please advise? I don't know much about Dad's unit.

Here's what I think I know:

- (1) When he was separated, he held the rank of Captain.
- (2) I believe there was a "Meet Me in St. Louis" party in Morotai in June of 1945. My grandmother cut a picture out of the St. Louis paper, so it seems they must have repeated the party in St. Louis. Among the men in the picture were: Ho Man Quen, Robert Doyle, David Nulsen, William Stolberg, Jerry Pelat, Frank Edelmann, Edward Dorsey and Walter Whitney.
- (3) Dad's pilot was Captain David Wallace, who Dad credited with saving his life.
- (4) We have a letter from George C. Kenney, Lieutenant General, U.S.A. Commander dated Feb 22, 1945 telling the family that Dad was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in the Southwest Pacific Area from Sept 17, 1944 to October 18, 1944. We also have his Purple Heart medal.
- (5) I have what seems to be a photograph of a fire in the ocean, with a plane's shadow flying away and a calendar for June 1945 at the bottom. At the top of this page are the words 868th Bombardment Squadron (H).
- (6) An article from the St. Louis paper said Dad was a Liberator navigator. I know for sure he was a navigator, and I think the Liberator was a B-24. The article said he was awarded a Silver Star, but his discharge papers do not say that, they awarded him the Bronze Star. I would love to know the truth of that also, because we have a box that says "Silver Star" on it, but no medal. When I

MAILBAG



wrote to request copies of his medals, the government wasn't very helpful. Most have to be back ordered, and they wrote to try again in 180 days.

(7) There is another article, quoting Dad, which I repeat in full here because it again raises the question of the Silver Star. If he did indeed earn this medal, I would like to have it for his granddaughters.

Capt. Emile S. Carp, 20 years old, who served as a navigation officer for a Liberator bomber group in operations from Morotai to Okinawa, yesterday told of the raid for which he received the Silver Star. "We took off from Morotai after midnight last Dec. 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor," he said. "Our target was an oil refinery on Borneo which had not been hit before. We flew over water for 950 miles and checked our position by comparing the radar picture of the shore line with our maps when we approached land just before dawn. We took the target completely by surprise, coming in at 50 to 75 feet in the dim light and dropped 15 bombs, 250 pounders. We returned to strafe the place seven times, and when we got through, our plane had about 75 holes in it. Two of the crew were slightly scratched from shells which exploded in the waist of the plane."

Members of the bomber's crew, credited with achieving what might have been expected of an entire group of bombers, during 15 months received three Silver Stars, 10 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 10 Purple Hearts, including Oak Leaf clusters, besides the Distinguished Service Medal awarded to the pilot, Captain R. D. Wallace, of Maine. Capt. Carp, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Carp, 72 Lake Forest, Richmond Heights, had completed two years at Washington University when he was inducted into the Army Air Forces at the age of 18. He became navigation officer responsible for briefing of navigators for his unit. Later he was injured in an enemy raid on the base at Morotai.

Thank you for any help you can give or any direction in which you point me to learn more about Dad and his unit.

Editor's Note:

If any member of our organization can be of any help in this matter... please notify Cliff or Phil.

Dear Editor:

You asked for this. An article in your last bulletin mentioned the 421st Service Group. That struck a memory chord with me since I was assigned to the HQ at Morotai. One of its functions was to act as paymaster for the combat units on the island. I was assigned duty to A-3 which was directed by a Captain who, before the war, was a buck sergeant in the Regular Army (who also was a professional gambler). I was one of his "gofers" (go for this and go for that). When this Captain would find out which squadron was getting paid, he would go out and get in a poker game and when he had over 50-60% of the money he would leave. At this point, I often wondered why he never got shot. He did this over and over again. The next day, he would get his stable of gofers a \$100 and sent them to the Post Office for a Money Order for his wife who lived in Texas. As you can recall the Officers could sign their own mail without any overview from the censors. I have no idea how much he sent home to her. I asked him how he became so skilled at this and he said that for many years, he would get in a game and lose his months pay in a few minutes and then have to stay on base where he watched others to continue to play. He did learn rather well! Since I was only there for a short time before being transferred, I had not thought of this until the article on the the 321st article in the Bulletin triggered my memory.

Thank you - Bruce & Mary

MAILBAG



I had planned on having our 2012 reunion in Oklahoma City program ready by this time. The weather in Oklahoma has been uncooperative as we are in a deep drought. The temperature has been over 100 for many days and I have not had any rain all month and we are over 10 inches below normal rain. Our water works has been operating at almost full capacity. We have been advised to stay indoors and not to use gas powered motors due to the ozone level. So much for my excuse for very little planning for 2012.

We have a variety of choices for our reunion. I will mention a few of them. Probably a must see is the Oklahoma National Memorial and Museum of the Murray Federal Building that Timothy McVey blew up in 1995. The 45th Infantry Division Museum also has many items owned by Adolph Hitler. They say the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum is a must see place. There are many museums and botanical gardens in the city. I am told it is not possible to get a tour of Tinker Air Force Base but I am going to try for one anyway. There is Bricktown which is something like the River walk in San Antonio. I have a pamphlet showing all the attractions in Oklahoma City, browse through it at our 2011 reunion, you many want to see some other attraction than what I will have scheduled.

Bob O'Brien bought a \$150 bottle of champagne and it is to be given to the first member that is 100 years old. I need to know if any attending member has reached that wonderful age, it has to be shipped separately and I will not have it at the reunion unless I know someone is eligible. Please advise if you are the one.

Raymond Perkins, 2012 President

Rescue Info Wanted

I am in contact with a Richard S. Cortez Sr, who was a guerilla in the Phillippines when he helped rescue a B-24 crew from the 72nd squadron at Dipolog on Mindanao. He is not sure of the pilot's name but thinks it was Raniey (may not be correct spelling). His crew was rescued ahead of the pilot and they were returned to Morotai by PBY. Mr. Cortez returned with the pilot when he was rescued. Very little is known about this rescue but I can remember we rescued only one crew from the Phillippines, time and date is not known.

If any of you can recall this rescue or any particulars about the rescue please contact me:

Raymond Perkins
6505 S. 93 E. Ave. - Apt. A
Tulsa, OK
Phone: 918-994-6577

MAILBAG



Dear Phil,

First I would like to commend you and the officers for a job well done. I look forward to each newsletter as it reminds me of the past, the good and the bad. What brings me to write this letter has to do with Bob O'Brien. I was ordering a St. Louis convention cap, when we found ourselves talking about our experiences. There was one that Bob found amusing and made the suggestion that I write to you and share the story.

Back in 44, air to ground training in Mt. Home, Idaho. Phil Bayer, the pilot, asked if any of us would like to exchange positions to see what the other guys did. I was the ball turret gunner and the co-pilot, Ernie Strang (who was more my size) volunteered to swap with me. The flight engineer, Paul VanDeren had some flight training so he and Phil Bayer exchanged positions. After a short briefing, Paul as pilot and myself as co-pilot were at the controls. All we had to do was fly in a circle. Well we got pretty cocky watching all the instruments, air speed, compass settings and admiring the scenery, Paul said, "Hey we are pretty good". A half an hour or so went by, when I commented, "Where is the plateau?" We were down into this beautiful ravine when the co-pilot, in the ball turret says, "What's going on", I'm supposed to be shooting down not up. The pilot heard our conversation on the intercom. Before I knew what happened, he reached over my shoulder, pulled back on the stick, I crawled out from under him, allowing him to sit in my seat. He took over flying and not too soon. We had not paid attention to the altimeter and were heading down. While I was sitting on the floor, all I could see was mountains on all sides, "Where's the plateau?" It was only then, did I know what we were in for. The rest of the crew had no idea what took place until we landed. The pilot & co-pilot told their version and Paul and Vic never flew a B-24 again, the whole crew saw to that!

Vic Stryko

13th AF 31st Bomb Group Samar, Philippine Islands

Dear Sir,

My purpose for contacting you concerns the time you were assigned to the 13th Air Force. As a collector of military patches, I am interested in acquiring a 13th Air Force roster. My reason for this inquiry is to write to members in hope they might be willing to part with any memorabilia. I am a disabled veteran, who started collecting military patches from Air Force and Army Air Corps units after retiring from the Air Force. Hopefully, members from the squadron/group will be encouraged to add to my collection. I collect from WWII to present day units, so any patch or patches is greatly appreciated and will become an asset to my collection. I served at eleven different bases during my Air Force career and only wished I had started collecting many years ago as it is getting difficult to find patches. Although my main interest is patches, I collect all type of memorabilia (flight jackets, uniforms, wings, DI's).

Sincerely,

Jim Perry, MSgt, (Ret), USAF

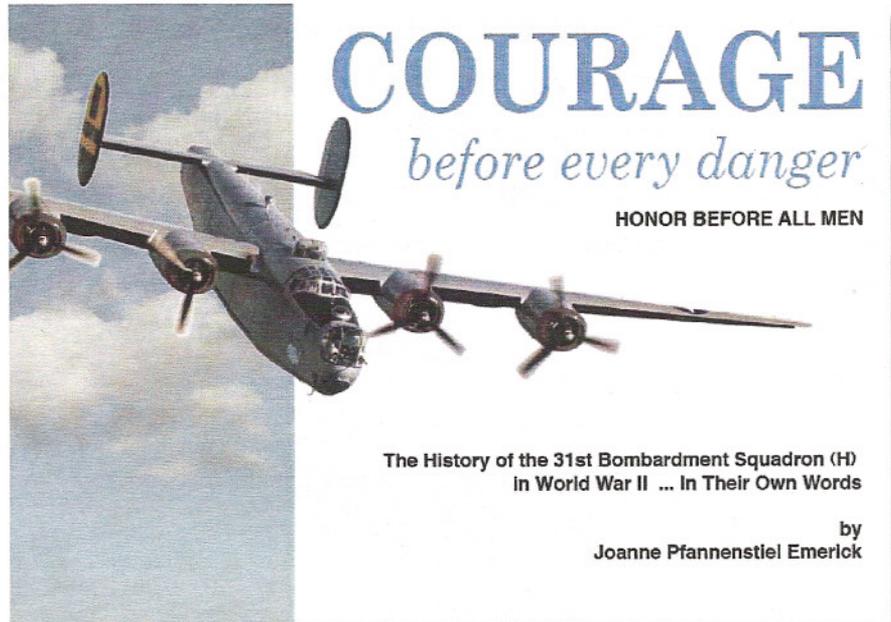
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Home Phone: (843) 771-1143 - Email: jperry48@sc.rr.com

Member of: Association of Military Insignia Collectors (ASMIC), Eight Air Force Historical Society, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Aleutian Veterans Associate, Member of 12th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW), 22nd Bomb Group, 49th Fighter Group, 376th Bomb Group, 41st Bomb Group, 450th Bomb Group, 43rd Bomb Group



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Charley - Before & AFTER

Young people forget that old people had a career before they retired.....

Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Wal-Mart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp-minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk. "Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job when you finally get here; but your being late so often is quite bothersome." "Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it." "Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear."



Seeming puzzled, the manager went on to comment, "It's odd though your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say to you there if you showed up in the morning so late?"

The old man looked down at the floor, smiled and chuckled quietly, then said with a grin, "They usually saluted and said, "Good morning, Admiral, can I get your coffee, sir?"

***It's great stories like this you are going to miss....
IF YOU DON'T PAY YOUR DUES!***



**13th "Jungle" Air Force Veterans Association
2011 Reunion Registration Form
Dayton, Ohio - October 5-8, 2011**

Member First Name _____ Last Name _____
PLEASE PRINT

Spouses Name (if attending) _____ 13th USAAF WWII Unit _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email address _____

OTHER GUEST(S) Use back of form if additional space is needed

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Nickname(s) for Badges: _____

ACTIVITY AND REGISTRATION FEES

Registration Fee (All Attendees) \$40.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____

Thursday

Carillon Park / Aviation Trail \$15.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
(Lunch on your own at Café at Crillon)

Cedarville University Dinner & Play \$30.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
_____ Check here if you need Vegetarian

Friday

US Air Force Museum and IMAX Theater \$10.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
(Lunch on your own at Valkyrie Café at Museum)

13th AFVA Reunion Banquet & Jazz Band \$35.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
_____ Prime Rib _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian

Saturday

Ladies Luncheon \$20.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____
_____ Check here if you need Vegetarian

Buffet Banquet "Under the Wings" AF Museum ... \$35.00 per person x No. _____ = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to: 13th USAAF Veterans Association (13th USAAFV)

Mail this form & check to: Eileen Luck, 13th AFVA Bookkeeper - 145 Oakwood Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Please Register by Friday, September 16, 2011

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