

December 2020 Newsletter



Dear Thirsty 13th members, relatives, and friends,

Since the newsletter August 31, 2020, I was out of town until October 25 but the very next day got back to work on the Thirsty 13th. I reviewed the 213 men for whom I had not yet found a relative and made amazing progress. I also identified our last nine unidentified members. Many relatives of members were great to share items with us.

The 13th TCS was activated at Wright Patterson Field in Ohio, on December 1, 1940, which was thereafter celebrated as **Activation Day**. I wrote about this 5 years ago on the 75th anniversary, and **Tuesday, December 1, 1940, is the 80th Anniversary**. Photos in New Hebrides show them drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon, so I plan to toast them with a glass of PBR.

Seth P. Washburne, Squadron Historian
November 30, 2020

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This is the newsletter for the U.S. Army Air Corps 13th Troop Carrier Squadron, 1940-1946, nicknamed “The Thirsty 13th.” This is prepared by Seth P. Washburne, the son of John C. Washburne, navigator 11/42-7/43. Please direct any comments to him at: (212) 289-1506, sethpw1@gmail.com, or 5200 Meadowcreek Drive, Apt. 2060, Dallas, TX 75248.

Page numbers referred to are in the book “The Thirsty 13th” unless otherwise stated.

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Please click the hand symbol to make it easier to scroll down.

	OCT.	NOV.	D.C.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL	TOTALS
LT. FRANZ								95:50
LT. GIVENS			64:25	74:35	55:40	65:30	61:10	321:20
LT. HAY					60:00	70:20	74:05	204:25

1. Additional History

a. 1943: Logbook of Fred J. Franz, Pilot, 2/13/43-4/15/43

In November 2008 I first obtained the squadron monthly reports from Maxwell AFB, and found a list of flying time for our 1942-1943 pilots, which continued on a second page as shown above. Franz did not appear anywhere else, so I could never learn his first name.

In July 2019 at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis I photographed microfilm images of our roster from 1943, and learned his full name was Fred J. Franz. I contacted a relative on Ancestry.com but did not hear back. On November 17, 2020, I tried again, and found a phone number for his son, Dave, left a message, and he called me back. He shared a fun story:

Franz (Pilot, 2/43-4/43, per his son): "Dad was flying a single-engine fighter [P-39] out of Tontouta [New Caledonia], and wanted to fly the P-38, which was 2-engine, so put in for 2-engine. "One day he was taxiing out, and was told over the radio to taxi back, because his transfer was approved. He expected this was for the P-38, but learned the 2-engine plane he was going to be transferred to was the C-47!"

David emailed me images of three pages of his dad's logbook. In 1942 in his prior unit, his dad flew October 12 over Guadalcanal for 40 minutes of combat. This was during the most intense weeks of the Japanese attack. He flew his P-39 next on December 4 in New Caledonia, as shown below, from Magenta to Koumac, and January 22-23, 1943, from Ora Tom to Magenta. On January 27-30, 1943, he practiced formation flying and aerial gunnery out with his P-39 squadron of Tontouta. On February 3, 1943, he wrote "with 13th Troop Carrier Sqdn."

Franz flew 52:35 hours with us in February- 22nd highest of our 32 pilots, and 43:15 in March. He flew four missions to Guadalcanal, three stopping first in New Hebrides, and the fourth, on March 6, 1943, flying the longer 6.5-hour direct route. He flew three times to Plaine Des Gaiacs, described as "transport - cargo" and twice to Sydney, the second time for rest leave March 11-23. He logged 33:05 as pilot, 62:45 as co-pilot, and 95:50 total with us. Franz then came down with avitaminosis, a vitamin deficiency, and was hospitalized, and recovered. He was then returned to the U.S. I added his flights to the list I prepared earlier this year.

Thank you to Fred Franz for being a pilot in the 13th TCS, and to his son, Dave, for sharing his logbook with us.

12-4	MAGENTA-KOUMAC-RETURN	P-39	U.S.A.C.	3-5	4 05
1/22/43	ORATOM-MAGENTA	P-39	U.S.A.C.	3-5	4 00
1-23	MAGENTA LOCAL	P-39	U.S.A.C.	3-5	2 05
1-27	TONTOUTA	"	P-39 U.S.A.C.	3-5	2 15
	2/3/43-	WITH	13 th TROOP CARRIER SQDN.		124 10
2-5	TONTOUTA-POG-RETURN	C-47	U.S.A.C.	5	3 20
2-9	TAB-EGON-BEVY-RETURN	" "	"	5	2 55
2-10	" "	" "	"	5	11 10

We the enlisted personnel of the Thirteenth Troop Carrier Squadron, cordially invite you to attend our "FIRST-YEAR ANNIVERSARY" stag party commemorating the initial arrival of the Air Echelon to the South Pacific Area.

The "Bivouac" area will be the 361st Air Base Officers Club, with activities commencing at 6:30 PM., Monday, October 11, 1943

M E N U
BEER BEER BEER BEER BEER BEER
Bologna Liverwurst
Salami Ham
Potato Salad
Pretzels Potato Chips
Punch !!!

BEER BEER BEER BEER BEER BEER
ENTERTAINMENT
Camp Barnes' Orchestra and fast moving stage show
Cpl. Johnny DeArco as Master of Ceremonies
PLUS !!
Various impromptu numbers from members of our own organization.

b. 1943: First Year Anniversary Party

On November 22, 2020, the son, Bob, of 1942-1943 Link Trainer instructor Odell Setliff emailed me the image above of an invitation to a party 10/11/43 to commemorate the First Year Anniversary of the air echelon arriving in the South Pacific.

The party is at the Tontouta 361st Air Base Officers' Club. Setliff transferred out of the 13th TCS 7 months before on 3/15/43 but was still in New Caledonia, so it is nice the squadron stayed in touch with him. Master of Ceremonies Johnny DeArco was a comedian, not in the 13th TCS.

c. 1944-45: Story from the Son of Alan Stoltzmann, Pilot

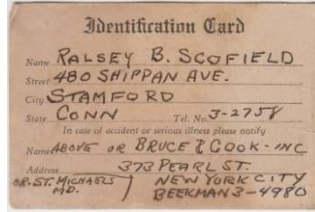
On September 3 I received a reply to the last newsletter from the son, Dave, of our 1944-45 pilot Stoltzmann. He wrote:

Stoltzmann (Pilot, 1944-45, per his son): "I remember my father once talking about how flight school taught him some skills that few of us would even consider. "He mentioned that during flight training, the pilots had to be tested at their desks while all sorts of ruckus was being fed into the room in the way of noise or other distractions. Could the pilots be counted on finishing the test, or the task, while being bombarded with lots of other things going on? They learned to do that, and of course that training was to help them keep their wits while facing enemy planes or other problems. All of the Thirsty 13th members found out the hard way what was going to be demanded of them."

d. 1945: Story from son of Jay Marchant, Glider Pilot

On September 3 I received a reply to the last newsletter from the son, Brad, of our 1945 glider pilot Jay Marchant. He wrote:

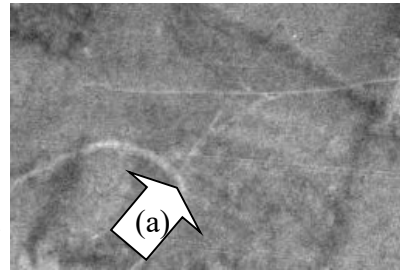
Marchant (Glider Pilot, 8/45, per his son): "His glider unit went from Maxton, North Carolina, to San Francisco prior to departing for the South Pacific. They took the train and passed through Ogden, Utah, on the way, not far from his home. "Their gliders were under wraps in crates on the same train. When they would come into a town they had to lower the shades and couldn't get off the train if it made a stop. They also had many other security measures. It was a secret that a glider unit was headed to the South Pacific. When they got to the port the gliders went right into the hold of the ship. "The day they got to New Guinea, Tokyo Rose welcomed them by unit name to the South Pacific. So much for all the security measures."



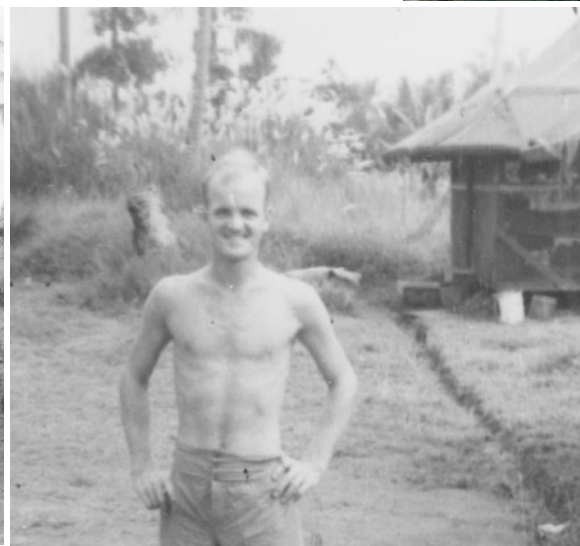
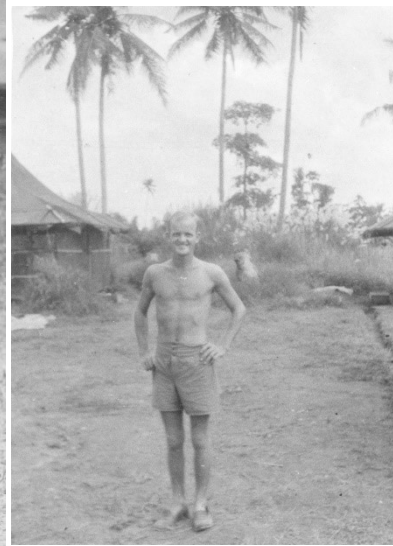
e. 1945: Photos from Ralsey B. Scofield, Pilot, 4/1/45-9/22/45

On June 29, 2020, the daughter, Nancy, of 1945 pilot Ralsey B. Scofield, emailed me she found a box of her dad's photos, and mailed them to me. I was away but received these and scanned them October 26. Scofield is shown at right. He was from Connecticut and his parents also had a house in St. Michaels, Md. (where he lived later in life), as shown on his identification card, above.

Scofield had the photos on this page from September 1945 in our first camp in Dulag, on the book's pages 696 and 706, where I have wanted more photos, to determine the layout of the officers' tents. Below left is our jeep 13-1, but with a different serial number than our #1 in 1942. This is overlaid on a blurrier print to show more on the right and is estimated in the direction of arrow (a) at right (before the tents were built). Below right shows a slight hill right of the jeep. Pilot Hackney told me "there may have been a hill in the upper right" so this is it. This is three rows of tents, rather than the two I estimated in the book.



Scofield had the photo at left also in this camp, of, standing, Jim Buchen, Paul Thomas, LeVine, Trout, DeCoursey, and Scofield, and in front Kelty and H. Johnson. This is the first photo I have of Thomas and Kelty. The images below are looking east from near this location, showing Trout, and a drainage ditch, where there appears to be a ditch today, here.

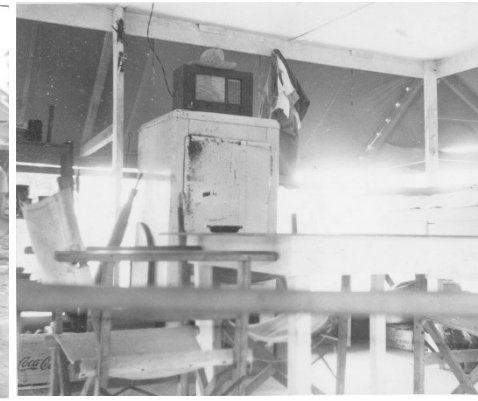




13th TCS Second Dulag Camp

*Officers Area - Mafag -
63rd TCS*

On 9/22/45 Scofield was transferred to the 66th TCS, then to the 63rd TCS, which on 11/1/45 was renamed the 13th TCS. He had the photos on this page of the officers' area of this second 13th TCS camp. My May 2016 newsletter had the location and aerial photo from July 1945 at right. Scofield had the photo above estimated from October 1945, in the direction of the red arrow but the grass is slightly different. His tent, below, in this camp is in the direction of the yellow arrow. The second image is the 63rd's Ted James. He wrote on the third "Don't let the icebox fool you - the darn thing won't work up a cold sweat."



*Mess Hall
63rd T.C.S.
Mafag*

Below left was labeled Mess Hall 63rd TCS, in the direction of the green arrow. The square building is bigger now. Below right is "Operations, Orderly Room, Intelligence" estimated in the direction of the blue arrow.

*Orderly Room
operations
Intelligence
63rd T.C.S.
Mafag*

I first heard the name "Ralsey B. Scofield" in 2009 when I started this research, and he has been a part of my life. It was nice to learn a little more about him. It is also great to have more photos in these two camps. Thank you to Ralsey for being a pilot in the 13th TCS, and to his daughter, Nancy, for sharing these photos with us.





2. History Related Activities

a. The Legacy of Emerson Paul King, Pilot, 11/16/43-11/11/44

King, at right, died in our fourth plane crash, described on the book’s page 502. He was an only child, and his parents’ tombstone, above, says at the bottom “Emerson their son died in WWII.” Pilot Blount told me he and King had talked on the day he died about trying a barrel roll in the C-47, and expected King tried, when flying from Morotai to Noemfoor. Also lost were Quillian Brown (cp), Samuel Reeves (m), and Harlan Fister (ro).

On the book’s page 505 I include a quote from pilot Petmecky in 2010, but I modified it. The original quote was “King was an exceedingly-good looking man and told me ‘I got 3 girls pregnant at the same time in college. I married one, one got and abortion, and I don’t remember what happened to the other.’” Radio operator Driedger in a story on page 504 said “King’s wife was a champion swimmer at Cornell.” For 10 years I have wanted to contact his widow, and son or daughter, and share photos of King, and what I know about the crash.

On January 2, 2019, I finally determined the name of his wife, and found a private family tree on Ancestry with no names of children, and sent a message, but did not hear back.

On November 17, 2020, I spent hours again on King, and found an obit for his wife, at right in nursing school, from 2002. She remarried. Searching on her children, I found one died in 2009, with an obit providing names and towns for his siblings. I left messages for both the oldest son and daughter, asking about their mother’s child from a prior marriage.

On the evening of November 17, I was amazed to get a call back from King’s wife’s oldest daughter, Judy. Without me even mentioning swimming, she used the same words as Driedger “My Mom was a champion swimmer in school,” pictured at right. King went to Syracuse, and her mother went to nursing school, but not at Cornell or Syracuse. Judy said in those days one could not be in nursing school if they were married, because it would take a job away from a woman who did not have a husband, so her Mom had to drop out, but completed it later.

Judy said she had heard of the first husband, and that his name was Emerson, and thought he had been shot down over Corregidor by a Japanese Zero. Regarding King’s child, Judy said she never heard of this. King married 8/1/42 so the baby would have been born by April 30, 1943. He joined us 11/16/43, so would have seen his baby before leaving, and the child would have been 18 months old when King disappeared. His widow remarried in 1946. Petmecky and Driedger did not mention King having a child, and at least King’s parents would have stayed in touch with a child, so I expect the wife miscarried King’s child, and so none existed.



Judy also said her mother’s entire nursing class was wiped out in the war. She had ten children with her second husband, eight pictured at right, and was happily married for 56 years. King marrying her saved her life and dying produced all these children.



The 13th Troop Carrier Squadron now has ALL 815 members identified by a birthday (with 8 officers estimated)

3. Members and Relatives

a. Identifying All of the Members by a Birth Date

In September 2015 I started trying to record a birth date for every member, to distinguish each from others who might have the same name. I devoted 2 months, 7 days a week, 15 hours a day, to this, and found birth dates for 624 of our then-677 members. The November 2015 newsletter was the first showing what I call my dashboard of progress on birth dates, death dates, and contacts with relatives.

The table at right shows amounts recorded in dashboards in newsletters for the last five years. The total number of members was 679 in the book, jumped in 7/17 to 756 when I found the Walter Bridges order listing men present 9/22/45, decreased in 2/18 to 737 when I took out glider pilots and mechanics, and in 1/19 to 703 when I took out others who joined in August-October 1945. In 1/20 I added back everyone who was on the morning reports I found in June 2019, no matter for how many days or when they joined, for the final total 815 members.

Exactly identifying each man who was in the squadron is the most basic task of a historian. I didn't want there to be a man who served with us who was not remembered, lying forgotten in his grave. The number of men I could not identify by a birth date, in the green column at right, has bothered me for five years. In the newsletters I wrote of the discovery of the identify of some of these men. The 1/20 addition of 108 men increased my "need-5" by 6 more hard-to-identify men.

From November 5 to 28, 2020, I devoted full time, 7 days a week, from when I woke until I went to bed, to finding relatives of members, but also identifying the 9 unidentified. The last five were mostly found Saturday, November 28, from noon to 10 p.m. – Baker, Lucas, Johnson, Reed, and Levine. The last threw me for a loop and took another hour the next day. At right is yours truly at 1:04 p.m. November 29, after definitively identifying the last, Samuel Levine. These discoveries are described below. Other discoveries are in later sections.

Members, Birth Dates, Contacts

Date	Mem.	BD	Need	Cont.
11/15	677	624	53	272
3/16	677	636	41	301
5/16	679	639	40	306
6/16	678	653	25	324
12/16	676	651	25	378
2/17	676	654	22	406
3/17	677	651	26	471
4/17	679	659	20	481
5/17	680	666	14	483
7/17	756	735	21	509
11/17	759	739	20	514
11/17	759	739	20	516
12/17	758	742	16	530
1/18	758	745	13	565
2/18	737	726	11	554
4/18	738	727	11	557
10/18	722	712	10	560
1/19	703	697	6	568
3/19	703	697	6	568
7/19	703	697	6	569
10/19	707	702	5	568
1/20	815	804	11	601
5/20	815	806	9	602
12/20	815	815	0	632



Identifying the Last 9 Unidentified

1. Jack E. Stephens, Pilot, 5/27/45-9/23/45 - On 4/25/20, while going over the morning reports for 8/27/45, I noticed Jack E. Stephens had the rank of Captain. In December 2019 I realized it helped when searching on Newspapers.com to include a rank, e.g. to search on "Capt. Jack E. Stephens" to narrow down the results. I did this and found a Capt. Jack E. Stephens, in the Air Force after the war, and contacted a son. The son confirmed his dad was a pilot but has not had been able to find his papers to confirm his serial number. He is an example of someone I consider found, but still "estimated" until I can confirm his serial number.

2. Charles C. McGill, Ground Officer, 7/42-1/43 - On November 8, 2020, I searched again on our Charles C. McGill, a ground officer (stayed in the camp, oversaw the motor pool), as a 2nd Lt. Ancestry.com lists 9 men named Charles C. McGill, born from 1883-1922, and I was able to eliminate 8 of these, which left me with one, 7/24/14-7/14/06. This one's obit says he was in the Army, in the Pacific, as a 1st Lt, but with the 24th Infantry. This unit was in Hawaii until May '43.

Perhaps our McGill while on the way home in 1/43 was borrowed by this other unit. Some men's obits only list the last unit they were with. He is another example of someone I moved out of missing, to being an estimate, and think this is a good estimate. He was in the Army (the Air Corps was part of the Army), as an officer in the Pacific, and I eliminated the other 8 possibilities.

3. Robert P. Johnson, Pilot, 11/29/43-12/27/43 – On 11/27/20 I was trying to identify Donald W. Rice, and it occurred to me to go through the award orders to see if he was listed with a home address – he is not on the list in Two Years of men with awards, but perhaps received this with the 13th Air Depot he went to after us. I found an Air Medal award order for Hetzler from 12/19/44, and it did not list Rice, but had Robert P. Johnson. These orders can list people from other units, and when I first reviewed this in 2017, I had not heard of Johnson, so skipped over him. Since late 2017 he has been on my unidentified list. The order, shown in part below, named his father as Mr. Phillip F. Johnson, Box 9, Monmouth, Maine, and I found his dates.

Second Lieutenant ROBERT P. JOHNSON, (O-806850), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 29 April 1944 to 2 June 1944. Home address: Mr. Phillip F. Johnson, Box 95, Monmouth, Maine.

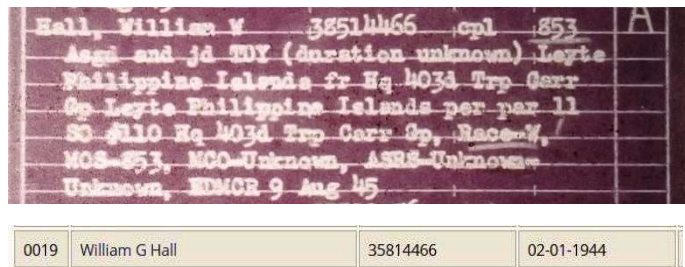
4. Robert G. McClure, Pilot, 8/27/44-5/29/45 - Colburn had a short snorter, at right, with his signature, and "Fort Wayne." Fort Wayne was the headquarters of the 1st Troop Carrier Command, so he could have moved there with his wife for work but been from elsewhere. On November 27 I searched again on Ancestry, looking for all Robert McClure's in the US with draft registration cards born 1915+/-10 years, 277 of them, and noticed for those with middle initial G there were 11, but only one in the 8.5 years from 7/15/16-12/7/24, born 1919. This one was from Manchester, Indiana, 35 miles west of Fort Wayne. The signature on the draft card was similar, at least in the "obert" part, and the "G." I then noticed the Fort Wayne census in 1940 had the entry at right, with a Robert 21 years old, born in 1919, so this 1919 one was ours.



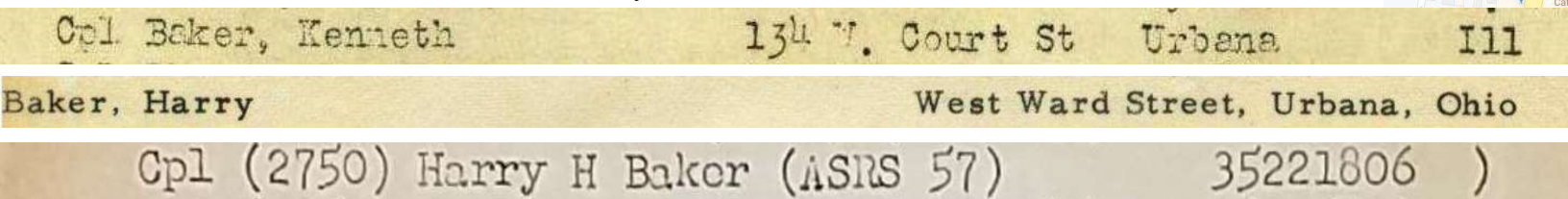
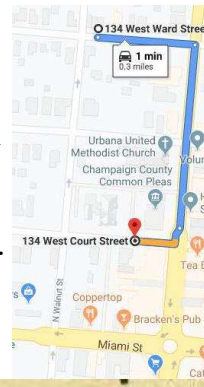
5. Charles A. Lucas, Pilot, 5/27/45-8/6/45 – On November 28, I listed the 13 Charles A. Lucas's on Ancestry.com born 1915-1920, and researched each, eliminating all but one, e.g. some were in the infantry, or Navy, or had obits with no mention of service. One was in the Air Corps, worked for Lockheed before the war, and was the right age, and had a grave marker on a wall of heroes. His high school photo, at right, looked slightly like ours in Two Years. I consider him found but is still estimated.



6. William G Hall, Radar Repair, 8/16-9/23/45 – He is listed on the morning report at right coming into the squadron as William W. Hall, with number 38514466. He is listed on a morning report 9/23/45 leaving the squadron, with the same serial number, but middle initial G. On November 28, on ww2enlistment.org I found him as shown at right, with his serial number's 2nd and 3rd digits reversed, and middle initial G, and found a birth date.



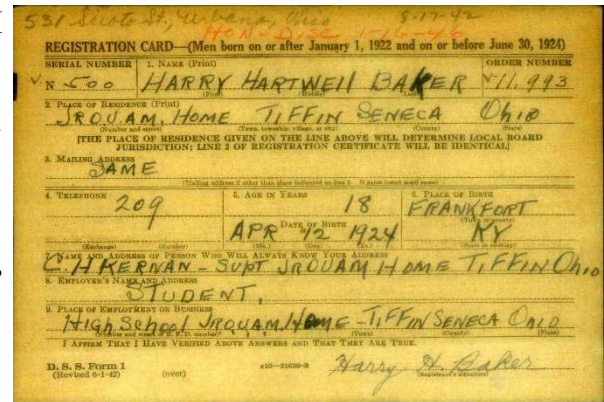
7. Harry H. Baker, Mechanic, 12/20/44-9/20/45, has been impossible to resolve forever. In 2010 I found the Zerovich roster, below, listing a Cpl Kenneth Baker at 134 W. Court St., Urbana, Ill. Urbana, Illinois, does not have a Court St., so I expected this was Urbana, Ohio. I looked at the 1940 census, but at this address was a family named Diehl, with an 11-year old son – no daughter who could have been a wife (men sometimes used their wife’s address). Later I found a 1957 reunion roster, below, listing a Harry Baker, from West Ward Street, in Urbana, Ohio, 2 blocks north of W. Court St as shown at right, and wondered if this was the same person. In 2015 I found the Bridges 9/22/45 order, also below, for Harry Baker, providing for the first time a middle initial, H, and serial number. This number is one of those not in online databases. I could not find a Kenneth, or a Harry H Baker associated with Urbana, Ohio.



During the 2019 scanning trip, after a stop in Kenton, Ohio, I was leaving another town and saw a sign “Thank you for visiting Urbana, Ohio,” and remembered Baker, and excitedly turned around, found West Ward Street, at left, and knocked on the door of 134 W. Ward St, below left, but should have been Court St, no answer. I talked to a neighbor, but it did not lead anywhere.



On November 28 I searched again for him. Paul “Honeyboy” Harp told me in 2009 “Baker was an orphan, from Urbana.” This time my search on Ancestry found a draft registration card, at right, for a Harry Hartwell Baker, born 4/12/24, from Tiffin, Ohio. His contact was “Superintendent, Jr. OUAM Home, Tiffin, Ohio.” Googling this, I learned it was an orphan home! Tiffin, though, is 86 miles, an almost 2-hour drive, north of Urbana. Incredibly, though, at the top of the card, someone wrote in the margin an updated address as of 8/17/42 “531 Scioto St., Urbana, Ohio”! Whew, I finally identified our Harry!



Looking again at Kenneth, I realized he was not in the morning reports, so the person who created the May 1945 roster wrote Harry as Kenneth, despite him being present at that time. I found an obit for Harry, with two daughters and spoke to one. This was all huge for me to resolve him finally. To find draft registration cards one must leave out the middle initial.

8. Harold E Johnson, Glider Mechanic, 8/9/45-9/2/45 – His serial number was not on ww2enlistment.org, but was on the NARA Display Partial Records site, and I identified him.

9. Samuel Levine, Clerk, 8/16/45-9/23/45 – On Saturday, November 28, at 7:30 p.m., I started searching again on Samuel Levine, which was exciting as he was the last one I needed to identify, but was daunting. I first learned about him and started trying to identify him in May 2017 and again June 2017. His serial number, **32394314**, is not in any online databases, or the NARA Display Partial Record site. The second number 2 means from NY, NJ, and DE, and in 2017 I filled 130 lines of a spreadsheet with Samuel Levine’s from these states. In November 2017 it occurred to me to search NARA Display Partial Records site for similar serial numbers to look for commonalities. All of them were from Passaic County, NJ, and enlisted 7/18/42.

I made a list from Ancestry of the Samuel Levine's, with no middle initial, from Passaic County, NJ, who completed draft registration cards for WWII, and there were eight, born 1897 to 1920. I researched each to find something saying Air Corps, but four had no death dates, and none had BIRLs info with the service branch or anything useful. I looked at the date they completed these cards, being 10/16/40 for four, 7/1/41 for one, and 2/14/42 for three, and read about this, that these were three required registration dates, so this was no help.

Samuel Levine, 22 Martha Place.

I searched Newspapers.com on "Samuel Levine," 1942 to 1948, hoping to find a marriage or leave announcement saying one was in the Air Corps, and limited the search to papers in Passaic County, NJ, and started to review the 270 results. Lo, and behold, I found a list of names, including that above. This was from a paper dated July 16, 1942, two days before ours enlisted, and so appeared to be a list of men required to report, providing an address for ours. I searched Ancestry for this address and found Samuel was born 2/12/09. This was at 9:54 p.m. and I was thrilled to identify the last one. His obit said: "A World War II Army veteran, he served as a staff sergeant." Ours was corporal, but he could have advanced later.

Samuel Levine, 122 Market Street.

Newspapers had another result, August 1, 1942, at right, for a 2nd Samuel Levine who lived at 122 Market Street, but this was two weeks after ours enlisted. At 10:45 p.m. I decided to confirm that the men with serial numbers close to ours were on the same newspaper list as ours. They weren't! I looked at the August 1 list, and they were all there.

On November 29, reviewing these articles more closely, the 7/16 newspaper was the Passaic County Draft Board #7 (Second Ward) sending men to Newark Wednesday, 7/22/42 – four days after ours enlisted. The 8/1/42 article was Draft Boards #8 (Third Ward) and #9 (Fourth Ward) sending men to Fort Dix who "two weeks ago passed their physical examinations at Newark and were inducted into the Army" with the names with similar numbers, so ours was this second one.

I found an 8/7/42 article, below right, listing Fourth Ward men's classifications, and listed those with serial numbers (not in the article) similar to ours' 4314: Theophilus J. Parysz ending in 4310, Samuel W Roper 4313, Herman S. Zeigler 4316, and Frank A. Rabakozi 4319. Next to Levine was 2553. This is in the upper right of the draft registration card, below, so this one was ours! His father was Morris, and he worked at 140 Market. The 122 Market Place address above was for a hat store his father owned, as shown at right. I found an obit for his mother, which provided the town Samuel lived in later in life, then finally a death date for him and an obit.

Hat and Cap Dealers—Retail
(See also Men's Furnishings)
Adam Hat Stores 8 Lexington av P
Levine Morris 122 Market P
Sam The Hatter 226 Dayton av C

I finally had identified all 815 squadron members.

(Fourth Ward, Passaic)
July 21.
1-C

SERIAL NUMBER 2373	1. NAME (Print) SAMUEL — LEVINE		ORDER NUMBER 2553
2. ADDRESS (Print) 59-61 QUINCY PASSAIC PASSAIC N.J			
3. TELEPHONE NONE	4. AGE IN YEARS 35	5. PLACE OF BIRTH BROOKLYN N.J	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS (MR) MORRIS — LEVINE		8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON FATHER	
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 59-61 QUINCY PASSAIC PASSAIC N.J			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME SELF-			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 140 MARKET PASSAIC PASSAIC N.J			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. FORM 1		<i>Samuel Levine</i>	

- 2395 Robert M. Cantor
- 2477 Leo L. Brzostek
- 2553 Samuel Levine**
- 2571 Joseph G. Wutch
- 2572 Frank A. Rabakozi**
- 2578 Walter Babula
- 2581 Reuben Zacharewitz
- 2600 Michael Dzurble
- 2604 George J. Levit
- 2608 Aaron Horowitz
- 2612 Milton Kron
- 2618 Isadore Pinck
- 2619 Stephen Kraska
- 2641 Sandor Weiss
- 2647 George S. Buzinski
- 2654-V John J. Lucas
- 2655-V Phillip A. Bitterman
- 2660 Julius G. Chorba
- 2667 Theophilus J. Parysz**
- 2673 Walter Bieck
- 2682 Walter Marthouse
- 10052 Herman S. Zeigler
- 10146 Nicholas A. Cannata
- 10153 Spencer Vandalinda
- 10163 Samuel W. Roper, Jr.

My Unresolved List

My new “unresolved” list is at right with:

- 8 officers only estimated to be ours
- 4 men without death dates
- 2 with birth years but no month or day.

The May newsletter stated 5 men were estimates, but there were 8: Barnes, Rice, Greene, and Thomas, plus Jaggar, Newcomb, Reed, and Browne. I reduced estimates by 4 by confirming Jaggar (the squadron had his name spelled Jagger), Newcomb, Reed, and Browne, but increased estimates by 4 for McGill, Lucas, and Stephens from the prior section and changing Schaefer from exact to an estimate. I changed my estimate for Barnes. The estimates are all officers. For Donald W. Rice, I scanned through about 3,000 PDF pages of 13th AF award orders but could not find one for him. This is a much shorter unresolved list.

Finding the Birth Month and Day when Only the Year is Known

For 10 men I had only a birth year, e.g. from an enlistment record or census, and have wanted the month and day. I added the month and date of birth for 8. I found this from draft registration cards on Ancestry I never saw before on November 5 for Gagliardi and Platt, and November 6 for EP King, and Garnett Quillian Brown (one must drop the first name). On November 5, for Earl R. Haseleu, who I added in January, I realized I had his last name as Haselen, and found the correct spelling, and his details. For Jaggar, I found him as Jagggar. Regarding the other two:

1. Charles L. Brown - I had a birth year as 1920, and his mother’s name from an award order. On November 6 I spent many hours again on Ancestry analyzing all those by this name and contacted on Ancestry the nephew of the most promising one. He was the family historian and confirmed his uncle had been in the air corps in the South Pacific, and Brown’s mother’s name. After hearing back from C.L. Brown’s nephew, when gathering files to send to him, I realized that when Brown joined his MOS was 1034, which was a navigator. I listed him as a pilot in the book and in the recent roster and flight list and have now corrected this.

2. Irwin Cohen - I have spent dozens of hours on him. From his serial number, I knew he was born in NY in 1925, and had no middle initial, but there were 4 possibilities. On November 6, in searching again on Ancestry, I found draft registration cards for these 4, and compared signatures on these to that of ours on a short snorter Hedges had, at right. I found the first one at right that seemed close. Another was way off. I clicked on a third, and was amazed that that signature, at right, was exactly like ours. I noticed at the top of this second draft registration the handwritten address, “2309 Holland Ave.” This is the same as on the Zerovich 1945 roster below! I still do not have a death date or contact with any relatives but am elated that ours is finally uniquely identified by his exact birth month, day, and year, from this draft registration card. I searched for his exact birth date for years.

Members with Estimated Dates (by month joined)

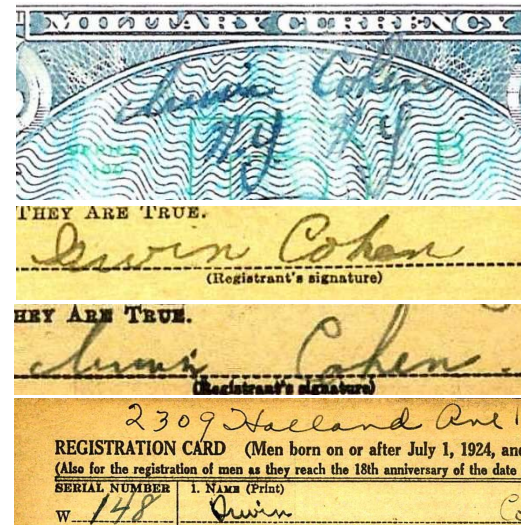
#	Role	Last	First	MI	Birth	Death	From	To
1	Ground Officer	McGill	Charles	C.	7/24/14	7/14/06	7/42	1/43
2	Pilot	Barnes	Norman	W.	3/11/18	4/29/73	11/43	12/43
3	Pilot	Rice	Donald	W.	4/28/17	3/11/99	11/43	4/44
4	Pilot	Schaefer	George	E.	7/15/13	11/21/00	9/44	1/45
5	Radar Officer	Greene	Leonard	R.	6/24/21	10/24/85	11/44	4/45
6	Navigator	Thomas	Paul	P.	5/27/22	6/21/92	4/45	10/45
7	Pilot	Lucas	Charles	A.	9/28/19	3/6/71	5/45	8/45
8	Pilot	Stephens	Jack	E.	11/26/16	9/28/65	5/45	9/45

Members with no Death Date (excluding still-living)

1	Ground Enlisted	Cohen	Irwin		2/16/25	n/a	8/44	2/45
2	Navigator	Kelty	Thomas	R.	8/8/18	n/a	5/45	6/45
3	Radio repair	Platt	E. Andrew		1/26/22	n/a	6/45	9/45
4	Crew Chief	Gagliardi	Joseph	A.	8/30/24	n/a	6/45	9/45

Have Birth Year - Need Birth Date

1	Line Chief	Rinaldi	John Jr.	F.	1911	1/13/43	5/42	1/43
2	Radio Operator	Stratton	James Stanley		1919	1/13/43	7/42	1/43



b. Seeking Relatives of Members for Whom None Had Yet Been Found

As of the last newsletter in September, there were 213 members whose relatives had no idea of the items I have about their dad, including morning reports, orders, PDFs of camp locations, and sometimes photos. These 213 also might have items their offspring could share with us, such as letters, orders, or photos, which could add to the squadron history. I hope to finish this project one day, but it won't be done until I have made a best effort to find a relative of everyone, and to find the items out there.

On November 4 I turned 61 years old, and the next day started research mostly from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. to find relatives of these 213 members. As summarized at right, this took 19 days, and I reviewed 194 members, skipped 16 glider pilots and mechanics, 3 who were in September 14-28, 1945. This is mentally demanding, thinking of different ways to search on Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, FindaGrave, Spokeo, Google, and other sites, reviewing hundreds of newspaper articles for clues, and then calling scores of phone numbers. But I was amazed at the success I had.

For the members in the book who I have searched on since 2008, I found relatives of 12 more, listed below. Franz, King, McAllister, and Saylor were a particular thrill.

Baker H	Brown CL	Burgess V	Cava	DeAmbra	Franz
Greco	King EP	McAllister	Robertson E	Saylor	Staggs

For men who I learned about after finishing the book, many from the morning reports in 2019 who I had searched on just once, I found relatives of 18 more, listed below, some with their number of days in the squadron. Some of these were in for a short time, e.g. TR Peterson 4 days, yet all the relatives were happy to have a least one datapoint where their dad, grandad, or uncle was during WWII. Combined with the 12 from the original list, this was 30 new contacts.

Burks, 13d	Carollo, 173d	Crutcher	Fletcher, 6d	Ford L, 115d
Graff, 21d	Hawkins, 277d	Hirst	Johns	Jones, NB
Kuhl	Peterson TR, 4d	Schild	Skarweski 76d	Smoger, 15d
Standridge, 114d	Theodos, 53d	Weston, 119d		

I sent morning reports, PDFs of camps (because out of books), and other items to 26 families.

Even when I did not find a relative, I found obituaries listing children for men I thought had no offspring and had planned to not search on anymore. I used up all my 76 monthly Spokeo searches, and hope to search for and call relatives again starting December 12. Ancestry seems to have a new link to obituaries on Newspapers.com which was not there before.

For men I knew about in 2008-2011, highlights for 23 men include (by month joined):

- Thomas O Mann, mechanic, 4/41-4/8/44 – I found his obit.
- Oscar E Smith, mechanic, 8/41-8/14/45 – found a Find-a-Grave memorial
- J. Van Holbrook, mechanic, 8/41-7/24/45 – found obit when Googled.
- Vincent R Kelley, mechanic, 2/28/42-4/8/44 - found headstone application with cemetery.
- Frank Joseph Barry Jr, mechanic, 5/42-4/28/45 – searched on Francis and found obit.

Date	Day	Rev'd
5-Nov	Thu	4
6-Nov	Fri	7
7-Nov	Sat	1
8-Nov	Sun	12
9-Nov	Mon	10
10-Nov	Tue	19
11-Nov	Wed	16
12-Nov	Thu	27
13-Nov	Fri	4
14-Nov	Sat	0
15-Nov	Sun	0
16-Nov	Mon	8
17-Nov	Tue	11
18-Nov	Wed	3
19-Nov	Thu	19
20-Nov	Fri	13
21-Nov	Sat	21
22-Nov	Sun	10
28-Nov	Sat	9
Total Reviewed		194
Not Yet		
Glider Ps & Ms		16
Skipped		3
Total No Contact		213

- Wayne E. Carruthers, radar mechanic, 7/42-9/4/45 – found obit.
- John Smith, mechanic, 7/42-8/23/45 – found obit, by searching newspapers, limiting search to year, then PA, then local paper.
- Frank J. Foster, radio operator, 8/42-12/10/43 – found an obit on Ancestry. I had marked “skip,” but he had a son and grandchildren.

John Saylor, Radio Operator 8/42-7/3/43 – Saylor, at right, was in the most-honored group that flew the first 13 C-47s to the South Pacific. I was thrilled to connect with his nephew. He shared with me the great photo. He left for the U.S. July 3, 1943, the same day as my dad, perhaps travelling together.



John Saylor

- Elmer R. Oehm, Intelligence, 9/42-9/9/45 – I found his obit.

Chester E. Davis, Sheet Metal, 9/42-7/21/45 – In 2016 I found online his tombstone, and it says “13th Tr Carr Sq.,” which impressed me. In 2017 I drove hours in the middle of Michigan to visit his grave in a small country cemetery. I never found any relatives, and assumed he had no children.

DAVIS, Chester Earl, 61, of 1225 W. Allegheny, passed away May 11th. Survived by his wife, Allie Margaret Davis; daughters, Mrs. H. L. Smith, and Mrs. C. Randall; sons, Donald R. Davis and Richard Davis; and 10 grandchildren. Services will be held at Tucson Mortuary Chapel, Wednesday, 2 p.m., with Rev. Louis Johnson, Tucson Baptist Temple officiating. Interment will be held in Owosso, Michigan.

On November 12, 2020, while searching on Ancestry, I was amazed to find a link to his obituary, at right, listing four children. His children have common names, H.L. Smith, C. Randall, Donald R. Davis, and Richard Davis, and so it will be hard to find relatives. His wife’s obit was short without a survivors list.

James R. Moore, Parachute Rigger, 9/42-8/23/45 – I have spent maybe 40 hours on various occasions on him, first to identify him from others with the same name, and similar to Davis expected he died with no children. On November 12 I was amazed to find an obit for him from 1996, and that he had one son, and three grandsons. I left a message for the wife of a grandson.

1943: Fred J. Franz, Pilot 2/3/43-4/15/43– For 11 years, from 2008 to 2019, I only had the last name “Franz,” so it is amazing to now have him identified, and have scans of his logbook.

- George J. Schissler, telephone switchboard operator, 6/28/43-10/7/45 – I found his obit.
- Willie L. Staggs, motor pool, 6/28/43-10/7/45 – found obit, and relatives
- Marco E. Cirincion, navigator, 11/2/43-9/28/45 – found obit, with grave location.
- Francis J. Friel, radio operator, 12/10/43-7/24/45 – found cemetery.
- Ernest S. King, navigator, 2/20/44-6/19/45 - found obit in Australia.
- John Voorhees, radio operator, 8/28/44-10/16/45 – found his obit.
- Wayne K Warner, navigator, 8/28/44-12/1/44 – found his obit.

1944: Ralph A. Greco, Duty Soldier, 10/13/44-3/27/45 – He did not have children, but has a wonderful niece, Christine, who shared the photo at right. He looks like a friendly young man. Thank you, Christine.



- James Gilbert Schenk, mechanic, 12/14/44-9/22/45 – I realized he was J. Gilbert, then searched on Ancestry to determine ages of offspring, and found a number for his daughter, and left a message.
- George Fatula, radio operator, 3/26/45-10/16/45 – I found an obit.

Progress in Contacting Relatives of Men Added after the Book

For men I learned of in June 2019, I searched for a relative in October 2019 only once, and had passed on some who were in the squadron a short time, but added them all in in January 2020, and now searched on them all. I was amazed to find obits for Bromley, Chandler, Galant, Howell, Willis Miller, TR Peterson, and Theodus. Relatives of others shared photos.

Preston Schield, Link Trainer Instructor, 8/42-3/43 – On November 16, 2020, I found his son. On November 23, his daughter emailed me the photo at right and the article that he was a Link Trainer instructor, in New Caledonia, at Tontouta Air Base, 40 miles north of the capital of Nouméa. His daughter remembered her dad, in Texas years later, visited friend Odell Setliff, another such instructor, listed on a transfer with Schield below right.



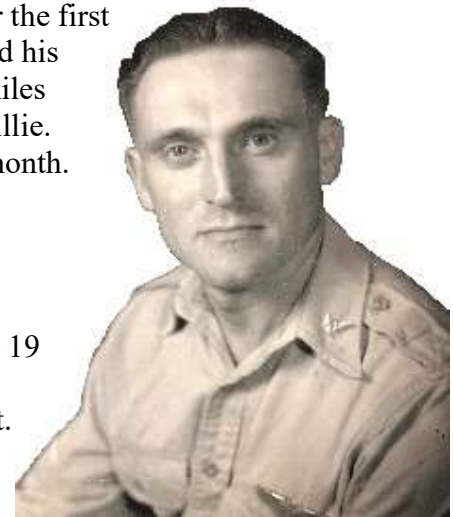
He's back at his old job of Link Trainer instructor, is 40 miles from town and has to pass over three mountain ranges to get there! Two dips of ice cream, in that country, cost 25 cents.

George Kuhl, Link Trainer Instructor, 8/42-3/43 – I found his obit, left a message for a son, and he called me back November 25. He said his dad, too, was a Link Trainer instructor – also on the transfer at right. Kuhl and Schield had been in my “unspecified role” category, and it was great to learn what they do, and reduce the unspecified from 6 to 4. Kuhl stayed in the Air Force and made a career of running flight simulators. He told his son he flew more hours (setting up the Link Trainer) in the war than the pilots.



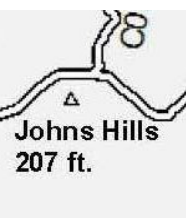
2	TRANSFERRED		
3	Transferred to 347th Fighter Group, APO 502, 4		
4	REGULAR ARMY		
5	CORPORALS		
6	Schield, Preston T.	16005819	Jan 29/41
7	Setliff, Odell E.	7013707	Jun 29/40
8	PRIVATES FIRST CLASS		
9	Kuhl, George L.	13011069	Sept. 27/40
10.			

Aaron Weston, Flight Surgeon, 6/43-10/27/43 – I learned about him for the first time when I photographed the rosters in 2019. On November 8, 2020, I found his daughter, Dolly, and she emailed me the photo at right. Dolly lives just 25 miles from me, and we met November 15 at my airplane hangar to see my C-47, Billie. It was nice to meet her. My dad and her dad overlapped as officers for one month.



1944: Harold E. Hirst, Duty Soldier, 9/22/44-4/3/45 - He did not have children, but his grand-niece emailed me the photo at left.

1945: Robert B. “Bob” Johns, Navigator, 5/29-8/8/45 – On November 19 I spoke to his son-in-law, Marty. I learned Bob has a hill named after him at Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana, at the location shown at left. 207 feet. Robert Johns worked for the forestry service at this national forest for years.



1945: Joseph Skarweski, Airplane Mechanic, 7/10-9/24/45 - On November 15, 2020, the family historian for Joseph Skarweski, Charlene, emailed me the image of him at right and wrote: “Here’s a photo of him in his uniform. My uncle was one of the best guys I ever knew.”

1945: Theophilus Wilburn “Will” Crutcher, III, Pilot, 7/18-10/31/45 - On November 19 I found an email for his daughter, and she sent the photo of her dad at left. He joined as a captain. He was the last officer in the 13th TCS, 10/31/45, and first CO of the new 13th TCS 11/1/45.



c. Latest Dashboard

My latest dashboard is at right, showing the birth dates are now all determined, so all the members are now identified, though 8 are estimates. I found death dates for the 9 who were unidentified, plus McGill, Stephens, and Jaggar, for 12. I am missing death dates for 4, plus the 9 still-living.

Members Identified and Contacts Found (of 815)

Members:	25-May	30-Nov	Add	Need
Birth Date*	806 99%	815 100%	9	0
Death Date***	790 98%	802 100%	12	4
Resting Place**	694 86%	735 91%	41	71
FindaGrave Link**	489 61%	554 69%	65	252
Contact	602 74%	632 78%	30	183
Have Book	532 65%	532 65%	0	283

* Birth and death dates incl. 8 and 8 best-estimates.
 ** Percent and Need for 2nd to 4th exclude 9 living.

For resting places, I spent many hours November 6 on FindaGrave, typing in names and dates of 317 members who did not have resting places yet or FindaGrave memorials, finding 14 resting places. During the searches for relatives I found 27 more, for a total of 41 resting places, increasing this to 735 resting places, for 91% of the squadron. In the Find-a-Grave search, I found 54 memorials, and in the next search found 11 more for 65 men added to my Thirsty 13th virtual cemetery. Contacts increased by 30 to 632, now 78% of the members.

For the 183 squadron members for whom I have not found a relative, as shown at right, there are 26 who are hopeful, but I cannot progress more now. There are 70 for whom I contacted a relative, and I can try another relative. There are 87 men for whom I deem finding a relative to be very unlikely, e.g. if they had no children, nephews, or nieces.

13th TCS w/No Contact

Status	#
Try again later	26
Pending	70
Very unlikely	87
Not Contacted	183

With the work of identifying men mostly over, I hope in the next several months to focus on finding relatives of the 96 members with potential contacts, to share what I have, and learn what they have, and gather all there is by next year. Then I can consider a second edition of the book.

d. John Payne, Airplane Mechanic, 8/27/44-10/16/45, turns 100 Years Old

On November 22, 2020, 1944-1945 Aerial Engineer John Payne turned 100 years old. He is pictured at right, in Columbus, Oh. I visited in 2017.

The squadron had 815 members, and I have death dates for 802 men. The longest living was navigator Moritz, at 101 and 3 months. Payne is the second longest-living. The youngest still-living is Braham, born 11/5/25, so we will not know if he exceeds Payne for another 5 years.



4. Conclusions and Thanks

This was an amazing time for me, identifying and finding obits for so many members I have sought for 10+ years, e.g. learning about King, Baker, and Cohen, and to now have identified all.

Thank you to the son, Dave, of Franz, for sharing his logbook. Thank you to Bob Setliff for sharing the invitation, and to Dave Stoltzmann and Brad Marchant for sharing stories. Thank you to the daughter, Nancy, of Scofield, for sharing her dad’s photos. Thank you to the son, Chris, of King’s wife for sharing family photos. Thank you to the relatives of Saylor, Greco, Schield, Weston, Hirst, Johns, Skarweski, and Crutcher for sharing photos. Thank you to the daughter, Jan, of John Payne, for sharing with us his photo at 100 years old.

With best wishes,
 Seth