

January 2021 Newsletter



Dear Thirsty 13th members, relatives, and friends,

In the last newsletter November 30, 2020, I noted I finally identified all our members by a birthdate but had eight estimates. These estimates, too, have now been positively identified. My focus next was on finding relatives of more members and I found relatives of 11 more.

Items were shared about Goessl, Moyle, and Voorhees. I found a website, colorize-it.com, which allows one to colorize photos (not the best job, but ok), and colorized some photos herein.

Seth P. Washburne, Squadron Historian
January 23, 2021

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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, sethgw1@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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To enlarge the PDF to fill the width of your screen, press the CTRL key and “+” at the same time.

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



1. Additional History

a. 1942-45: Items from Marvin E. Goessl, Draftsman, 7/42-9/4/45

On December 15, 2020, I received an email from a Carl Schroeder, that Marvin's second wife was Carl's Aunt Verna. When Marvin passed away in 2010, Carl received his Thirsty 13th patch, above, copy of book "Two Years c/o Postmaster," and a watercolor painting he did, at right. Goessl is shown above left at Biak, and at left in New Hebrides.

Carl had the painting in a frame, at right, with the painting measuring 10 3/4" x 7 3/4". It was likely made when we sent planes to Fiji in April 1943 to look for lifeboats. This a fine watercolor. The bottom center says "Goessl." The 13th TCS Monthly Report for July 1944 had the photo below, with the caption "Cpl. Marvin E. Goessl at work on a series of watercolors to be included in a South Pacific portfolio." This is at Espiritu Santo, and this one is on the wall. Thank you to Goessl's nephew, Carl, for sharing his patch and painting with us.



0-804699 Manning, Perry D. 1022 2nd Lt
 0-806850 Johnson, Robert P. 1022 2nd Lt
 0-805551 Barnes, Norman W. 1022 2nd Lt
 0-684733 Senteney, Robert W 1022 2nd Lt
 Above 4 Off void asgt and trfd to 64th T
 C Sq, 403rd T C Gp, APO 709, per par 6, SO

0-669433 Alexander, George W 1022 2nd Lt
 0-740021 Aos, Harold T. 1022 2nd Lt
 0-740190 Hendricks, Joseph O 1022 2nd Lt
 0-672389 Moyle, James P. 1022 2nd Lt
 Above 4 Off asgt per par 6, SO 246, Hq,
 403rd T C Gp, APO 708, fr 64th T C Sq,
 403rd T C Gp, APO 709, ja 1400

b. 1943-44: Items from James P. Moyle, Pilot, 12/27/43-11/7/44

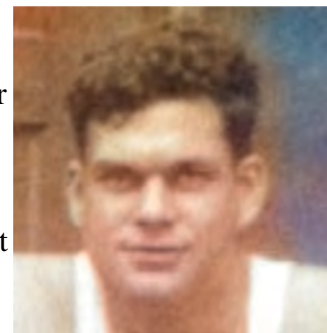
Moyle went overseas 7/17/43, as co-pilot flying C-47 42-23689 in the first group that took the 64th TCS to the South Pacific. He joined us 5 months later, 12/26/43, in a trade of pilots, shown above. We gave up Manning, RP Johnson, Barnes, and Senteney, who joined us 11/25, 11/16, 11/9, and 12/5/43, respectively, so were new to the 13th TCS. We gained pilots GW “Bill” Alexander, Aos, Hendricks, and Moyle.

Alexander wrote in his letters that he wanted to move into the 13th TCS because he thought promotions would be fairer, and perhaps the others felt the same way. Moyle’s photos show these four were friends while in the 64th TCS and were in the same hut in the 13th TCS.

On December 28, 2020, I received a flash drive from Moyle’s son, Jim, with scans of his dad’s photos - 60 from the 64th, 8 from the 13th. Moyle is pictured at right, on rest leave in Auckland in early 1944.



Pictured below, and inset in the same order, are Aos, Alexander, Hendricks, Moyle (close-up at right), and navigator Cover, by their hut in our camp at Pekoa Airfield. Cover joined 12/19/43, seven days before the four pilots. They named their hut “Rover Boys, Buttons Branch,” with Buttons being the Navy code word for Espiritu Santo. The Rover Boys was a book series from 1899 to 1926, about students at a military boarding school engaging in adventures and mischief. This appears more comfortable than a Quonset or Dallas style hut. Below left is Alexander showing they swept the hut and that the hut on the left side had a living area, with a table and a juke box. The five cots would be on the right. As air crew members, some would often be away flying.





Moyle had the photo above left, on the parade ground of Espiritu Santo's Pekoa airfield, of Aos, Cover, Moyle, Hendricks, and Alexander estimated in December 1943 when they transferred in, also inset. Above right is Hendricks and our nose art "Mickey McGuire." Moyle had the photo at right of his 64th mechanic Olson in Fiji posing with a Thompson submachine gun, similar to the ones that we, too, carried, apparently supplied to troop carrier crews in the US before going overseas.



On September 10, 2020, Jim shared the following story:

Moyle (Pilot, 12/43-11/44, per his son): "One of the pictures in my dad's album was of two young women and written on the back was a last name and Morrinsville, New Zealand. I found a link to the Morrinsville Chamber of Commerce. They identified one of the women in the picture. She was 93 and was able to identify her friend and where they were – at the horse track. She didn't remember my dad but remembered all those American boys and great days she had at the races." [Moyle went to Auckland with the 64th in October 1943, and with us five times in Jan-Jun 1944. Jim added 'Great to make connections like that,' and I agree. He sent the photo to the woman.]

Jim shared the photo, below, of his dad's footlocker, as sent back to the US in 11/44 (no zip codes until 1963). This had a return address of the 13th TCS at APO 920 [Biak], and a list of contents, being 4 khaki pants, 4 khaki shirts, 20 pairs of socks, 1 field jacket, 4 bath towels, 10 rolls of exposed film, 1 wool rug, 1 dictionary, handkerchiefs and 1 pilot's information file.

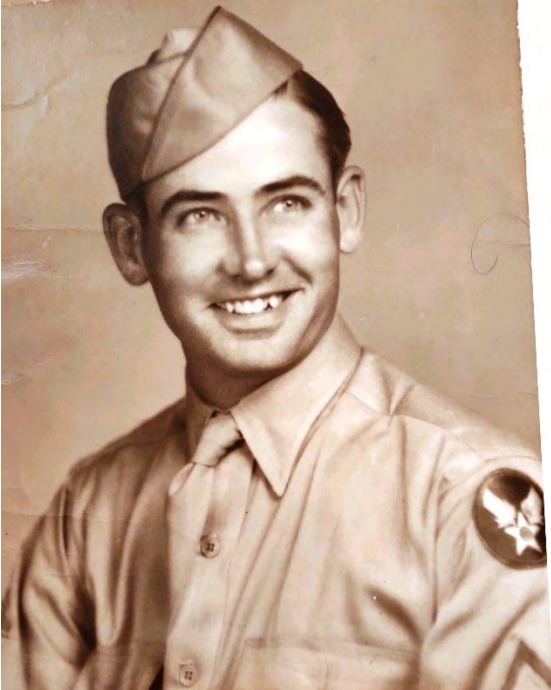
Jim remembers in 1968 going with his dad to Minnesota to watch a Twins game, and visiting Cover's family in St. Paul, and said Cover provided a big meal of steak and corn on the cob.

Thank you to Moyle for being a pilot in the 13th TCS, and to Jim for sharing these items with us.

JIM MOYLE, O-672589
13th Troop Carrier Squadron
APO # 920 c/o Commander
San Francisco, California

CONTENTS:
4 Khaki Pants
4 Khaki Shirts
20 Pr. Socks
1 Field Jacket
4 Bath Towels
10 Rolls Film (UnExp)
1 Wool Rug
1 Dictionary
Handkerchiefs
1 Pilot's Information



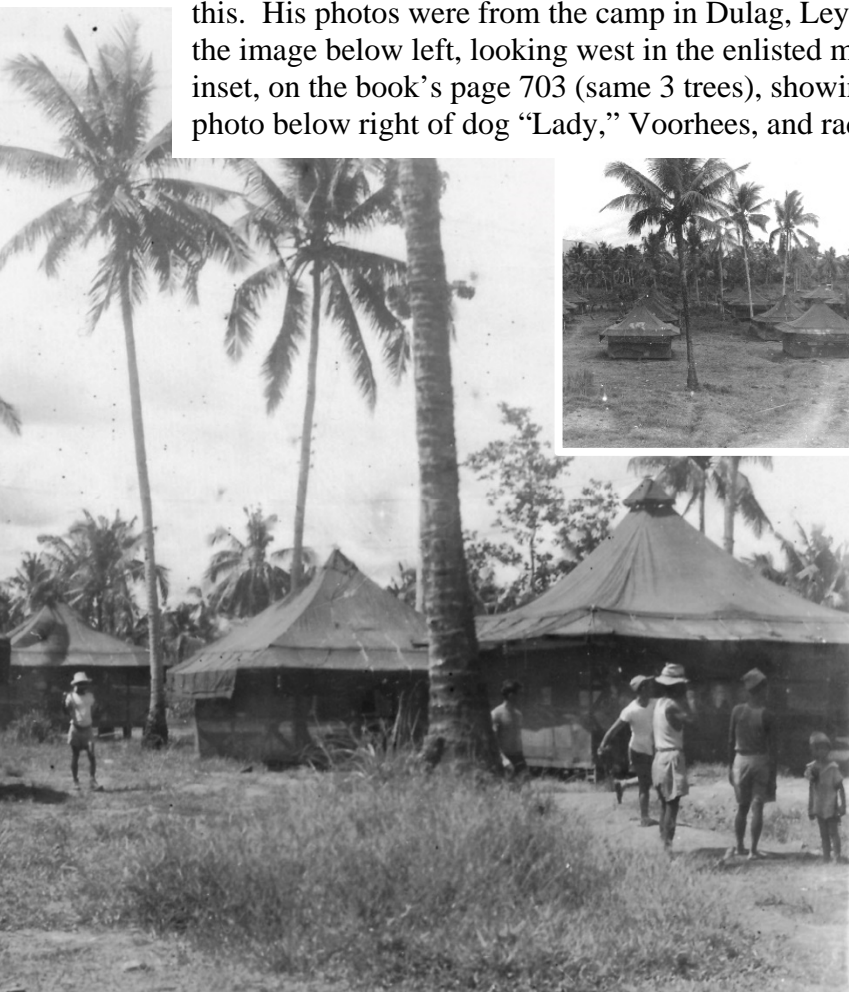


c. 1945: Items from John B. Voorhees, Radio Operator, 8/28/44-10/16/45

On December 14, 2020, the son, Clay, of our radio operator Voorhees, above, emailed me photos of 9 of his dad's photos (then sent me the originals to scan), and three of his flight jacket. His squadron patch is one of the best preserved I have seen. Above right he wrote on the jacket lining his serial number and "Thirsty 13TH." At right, he later added the 1st Troop Carrier Command patch on the right side of his jacket. He had a 13th Air Force lighter, at left.



Although Voorhees joined in 8/44, his photos were from August-October 1945, after Japan surrendered. Many men thought they were not allowed to take photos, and perhaps he observed this. His photos were from the camp in Dulag, Leyte, to which he moved 8/23/45. Voorhees had the image below left, looking west in the enlisted men's area, in the same direction as a photo, inset, on the book's page 703 (same 3 trees), showing Filipinos visiting the camp. He had the photo below right of dog "Lady," Voorhees, and radio operator Ben Gold "in front of our tent."



Voorhees had the photo at right in the Dulag motor pool area, and in the center is commanding officer Nasset.

Clay relayed two stories:

Voorhees (Radio Operator, 8/44-10/45, per son):

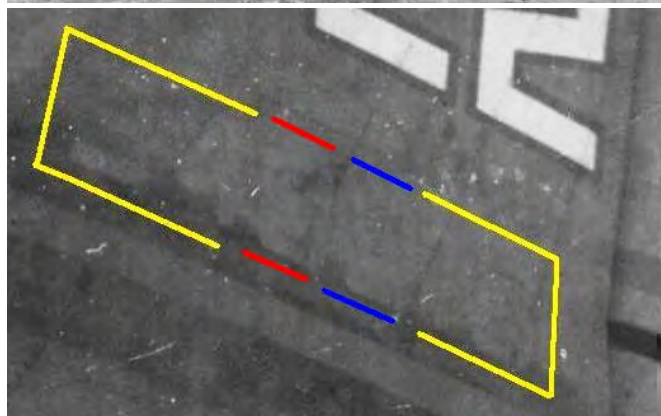
“It was dad’s job when landing in the Philippines to stand by the door with the Thompson submachine gun, or his .45, in case they found the field in hostile hands.

“Sometimes they did not get good fighter cover, but they did when they had the beer ration onboard.”

He had the photos below from the air strip at Dulag. The first is Voorhees, then Voorhees with his #34, with serial number 43-16321. This is with orthochromatic film, so the serial number is dark. #34 is on the book’s page 603, and I don’t know the nose art. He wrote “Me and ‘Old Faithful.’”

Voorhees had the image below right of Ben Gold and dog Lady by “his ship,” our 2nd #22, for which I do not have a serial number. This, too, is with ortho film. As shown at right, the serial number seems to be 349_16, i.e., #43-49_16. I searched the Joe Baugher database and narrowed it down to perhaps 216, 418, 516, or 518, but cannot confirm which.

Voorhees’ son Clay recalled that many years later Gold, from New York, owned laundromats, and was in the Quad Cities on business and called. Voorhees and his wife drove up from Oquawka, Ill., to meet Ben for dinner.





Voorhees had the photo above titled "view of part of our ships, Dulag Airstrip, Leyte." As noted on the book's page 734, in September 1945 we had 17 aircraft: 9 C-46s, and this is two of them, and 8 C-47s, and this is four of them. Sadly, none of these have nose art. The closest C-46 has a field number below the nose ending in 2, estimated to be 32.

view of part of our ships Dulag airstrip Leyte, P. I.

The photo below was titled "Stateside bound!!", and the top row is radio operators Reberry, Edwards, and Kovek, and the first row ends with ROs Viscusi and Voorhees. These five left with airplane mechanics Elfman, MacDonald, Payne, Tozzini, Waker and Zerovich, and radio operators Brady, Doukas, Driedger, Fatula and Thear, and were the last mechanics and ROs in the 13th TCS. Their papers are in envelopes. Driedger wrote that the train from San Francisco stopped in Burlington, Iowa, and Voorhees met his father, who drove over from Oquawka, Ill, where he was sheriff of Henderson County. "They could talk only briefly, then we pulled out and crossed the Mississippi."

Clay said his dad went to only one reunion, in 1985, when he knew he was ill, 2 months before he died, and friends talked to him as if no time had passed. He was very happy he went.

Thank you to Voorhees for being a radio operator in the 13th TCS, and thank you to his son, Clay, for sharing these photos with us.



Stateside bound!!

2. History Related Activities

a. Table of Organization for 403rd TCG

The 403rd Troop Carrier Group oversaw the 13th TCS, the 63rd, 64th, 65th, and 66th, and had a camp next to us at Biak. Some of our enlisted men joined from the 403rd, or left to it, so I have wondered how it was organized.

On November 18, 2020, Bob Richardson, son of a 64th TCS navigator, emailed me Table of Organization 1-312 for Troop Carrier Groups. This was the Feb 15, 1943, version, and I reproduced and reformatted it, at right.

The top section shows they had 22 officers, all high-ranking: 1 col, 2 Lt cols, 7 majors, 4 captains, 9 1st lts, and no 2nd lts. They had 1 warrant officer, and 75 enlisted men, a total 98. The chaplain, medical corps, and ordnance, for 9 more, were separate, as was a 20-man “enlisted men cadre,” for a total 127.

The next section has the officers’ specialties, and these are 7 pilots, 1 glider pilot, 1 in communications, 2 engineering, 3 intelligence, 1 weather, 2 in statistics, and 6 administrative.

The 75 enlisted men specialties were 33 in administration, 20 in communications (including 17 radio and teletype operators, 2 sections of MOS 756), 3 airplane inspectors, 2 cooks and 2 helpers, 6 vehicle drivers and 1 in vehicle repair, 2 messengers, and 6 others.

In the equipment section, everyone is allocated a gun, except 1 in headquarters, and except all the medical staff. The only other equipment is 2 jeeps, 4 trucks, and 2 trailers.

In the book on page 510, I show the 403rd camp at Biak had 13 tents in its officers’ area, which for 22 men would be ~2 per tent, perhaps because these were of higher ranks. They had 24 tents for enlisted, the same ~4 per tent as we had, for their 75 EM +5 others +20 cadre = 100.

Thank you, Bob Richardson.

Rank	Strength Section										Total	Other Areas			EM		
	Group Staff							Special Staff		Pes Line		Chaplain	Medi cal	Ordnance			
	HQ	Com mand	Pers- onnel S-1	Intellig ence S-2	Plans /Train. S-3	Supply Tech S-4	Engrg	Com muni's	Trans port'n								
1 Colonel		1									1						
2 Lieutenant Colonel		1									2						
3 Major			1	1	2	1	1		1		7		1				
4 Captain		2		1	1						4	1	1				
5 First lieutenant (2 cover 2 areas)	(per)	1	2	1	2	1	1			(ord)	8					1	
6 Total commissioned		5	3	3	6	2	2		1		22		1	2	1		
7 Warrant Officer									1		1						
8 Master sergeant		1							1		2						2
9 Technical sergeant				1	1				2	1	5						4
10 Staff Sergeant		2								3	11			1			4
11 Sergeant		4		2	2	5	1		1	7	22						4
12 Corporal		3	1	1	2	1	1		1	6	17		1	3			6
13 Private and Pfc		3		1	2		1	1	1	7	18						
14 Total Enlisted		11	4	5	8	8	4	6	24	5	75		1	4			20
15 Aggregate		11		8				9	25	5	98		2	6	1		20
Role		MOS	Rank	Qualifications Section							Total						
1 Engine Pilot	Col		1								1						
	Lt Col		1			1					2						
	Maj					1					1						
	1st Lt					2			1		3						
2 Glider Pilot	Capt				1					1							
3 Communications	Maj									1							
4 Engineering	Maj								1		1						
	9915 W/O									1	1						
5 Intelligence and Public Refns	Maj				1						1						
	Capt				1						1						
	1st Lt				1						1						
6 Weather	Maj					1											
7 Statistical	Capt		1								1						
	1st Lt		1								1						
8 Administrative & Adjutant	Maj			1				1			2						
	Capt		1								1						
	1st Lt			2				1			3						
7 Total commissioned & W/O			5	3	3	6	2	3	1		23						
Administrative and Technical Clerk Group																	
8 Admin & Tech Clerk	501 Sgt		1			2	4	1									8
	Cpl	1	1		1	2	1	1	1	1							9
	Pvt				1	2				1	1	1					6
9 Administrative NCO	502 MSgt		1														1
	TSgt				1	1	1										2
	SSgt	1	2		1	1	1					1					7
10 AAF Tech Supply NCO	526 SSgt							1									1
	056 Sgt				1												1
11 Army Mail clerk	524 Cpl																1
12 Chaplain's Assistant	674 SSgt													1			1
13 Message Center Chief	621 Sgt	1															1
	237 Cpl																1
	Pvt																1
16 Cryptographer	805 Sgt													1			1
	Cpl													1			1
	Pvt																1
17 AAF Radio Mechanic	754 SSgt										2						2
	Sgt										1						1
	Cpl										1						1
	Pvt										1						1
18 AAF Radio Operator	756 Sgt										2						2
	Cpl										2						2
	Pvt										2						2
19 AAF Radio Operator &	756 TSgt								1								1
	Sgt									2							2
20 Communications Chief	542 TSgt										1						1
21 Teletype Mechanic / Op	239 Sgt										1						1
22 Airplane Inspector	513 MSgt									1							1
	TSgt									1							1
	Sgt									1							1
23 Cook	Sgt	1															1
	Cpl	1															1
24 Automotive Equip Mech	928 Sgt	1															1
	929 Cpl	1															2
	Pvt	1													3		4
26 Classification Specialis	276 Sgt				1												1
27 Draftsman	070 Sgt					1											1
28 Cook's Helper	521 Pvt		2														2
29 Messenger	675 Pvt										2						2
30 Total Enlisted		11	4	5	8	8	4	6	24	5	75		1				20
31 Aggregate		11	9	8	11	14	6	9	25	5	98		1	0	0		
Other Arms and Services - Officers																	
Chaplain, Corps of Chaplains	Capt															1	
Dental	Capt																1
Flight Surgeion	Maj																1
Ordnance, motor maint.	1st Lt																1
Other Arms and Services - Enlisted Men																	
Administrative and tech	501 Cpl																1
Dental technician	555 Cpl																1
Medical NCO	673 SSgt																1
Surgical technician	561 Cpl																1
Equipment Section																	
Carbine, cal.30		9	4	4	7	7	4	5	22	5							
Gun, submachine, cal.45		1		1	1	1			1	2							
Pistol, automatic, cal.45			5	3	3	6	2	3	1								1
Sub-total		10	9	8	11	14	6	9	25	5	97		1				1
Truck, 1/4-ton, 4x4		2															
Truck, 3/4-ton, 4x4, weapons carrier		2															
Truck, 3/4-ton, 4x4, command		1															
Truck, 2 1/2-ton, 6x6, cargo with win		1															
Sub-total		6															
Trailer, 1/4-ton, 2-wheel		2															
Trailer, 1-ton, 2-wheel, cargo		1															
For basis of issue of other arms and equipment, see T/E 1-312																	

U.S., World War II Hospital Admission
Card Files, 1942-1954
SOLDIER, VETERAN & PRISONER ROLLS & LISTS

Name **Chester E Davis**

Name: Chester E Davis

Race: White, includes Mexican (White)

Rank: Enlisted Man

Admission Age: 36

Birth Date: abt 1908

Admission Date: Oct 1944

Discharge Date: Oct 1944

Military Branch: Air Force, Auxiliary/Troop Carrier
Units

Diagnosis: Diagnosis: Furuncle;
FirstLocation: Phalanges of
middle finger

Type of Injury: Disease

Injured in Line of
Duty: In line of duty

Type of Discharge: Duty

Length of service: 1 Year(s), 9, 10 OR 11 MONTHS
Month(s)

Service Number: 35114413

U.S., World War II Hospital Admission
Card Files, 1942-1954
SOLDIER, VETERAN & PRISONER ROLLS & LISTS

Name **Chester E Davis**

b. WWII Hospital Admission Records on Ancestry

On December 13, when searching Ancestry.com for Chester E. Davis, I was surprised to find two results, above, from the “U.S. World War II Hospital Admission Card Files, 1942-1954.” The first one had the result at right, that he was admitted to a hospital in October 1944 for a furuncle (a boil on the skin) on a finger. This did not appear in the morning reports, so was probably while on detached service on Wakde, but the second one was in the morning reports, for a hand injury.

For Everette G. Robertson, in Instrument Repair, the morning reports show he went to a hospital on 12/20/43, was dropped from our rolls 12/31/43, and never returned. Ancestry.com has this record, that in December 1943 he had an ulcer, and was in the hospital until 3/44.

The records were missing many 1943 hospital admissions, and so may be mostly for 1944-45.

c. Additional Details Learned

Date of Major Wilson Speech – On 12/13/20 when reviewing a morning report, I noticed on 11/27/43 it states: “Major Wilson actively assumes command, addresses troops in Squadron Mess Hall.” This speech was referred to in “Two Years,” and so now we have the date.

Move to Wakde – On 12/13/44 when finding morning reports for Chester E. Davis, I noticed he went on temporary duty to Wakde 9/30/44 with 15 others including commanding officer Park. In the book I say our C-47s moved there 10/4, so this was an advance group to prepare the area. My movements spreadsheet in 1/20 shows the first 2 (C.Arthur and Christie) moved there 9/26/44.

Good Conduct Medal for 1 Year - On 12/13 when sharing an order about the Good Conduct Medal, I read that while this usually required 3 years of good conduct (what I stated in the book on page 738), during war time this can be awarded for 1 year “of honorable and faithful service.”

Colorizing Photos – On 12/23/20 Bob LaLonde emailed me a link to HowdiColour Image Recovery in England which colorizes photos. Howdi had colorized the photo below left, of a New Zealand C-47 at Bougainville, to look as shown below right. I may colorize photos if I create a 2nd edition of the book and contacted Howdi. Thank you, Bob LaLonde.



3. Members and Relatives

a. All Eight Estimates are Now Confirmed

In the last newsletter I noted I had identified 100% of our 815 members, but for 8 officers there was more than one person with the same name, and I had picked a “best estimate.” After sending that letter, I tried again to confirm those 8, and, with help, confirmed them all.

1. Norman W. Barnes, Pilot, 11/16/43-12/27/43 – on December 2, 2020, I was able to reach the son (born 1948) of the one I estimated, and he confirmed his dad was a C-47 pilot in the South Pacific! He said, “When I was growing up, I didn’t have a stuffed teddy bear, I had a stuffed koala bear and stuffed kangaroo.”

2. George E. Schaefer, Pilot, 9/27/44-1/27/45 – I reviewed him again December 2 and realized I identified him November 21, 2019. I had searched Newspapers.com on “Lt” and found an engagement announcement, then a wedding announcement with the note at right, that this one was “now a pilot of a C-47 in the South Pacific.” I still have not found an obit, grave, or any relatives.

Lt. Schaefer was graduated from the University of Illinois, where he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Formerly stationed at Bergstrom field, he is now pilot of a C-47 in the South Pacific.

3. Thomas, Paul P., Navigator, 4/12/45-10/19/45 – On an April 2017 scanning trip, I visited the daughter of Walter Bridges, and he had a diary he used as an address book. He had the entry at right for Paul P. Thomas, at 13416 Chelsea, Detroit. I estimated he was a Paul Peter, born 5/27/22.

FRI., FEB. 18
Paul P. Thomas
13416 Chelsea
Detroit, S. Mich. Arlington 1140

On December 2 I reviewed him again, and found the draft registration card at right, dated 6/30/42, for this one, with wife Maxine, and on the back had his height of 5’8”. The Scofield photos in the last newsletter showed ours, and he was about this height and wearing a wedding ring. This card had an address, the red peg at left, only 2 miles from the Bridges’ address, suggesting he or his wife moved between 6/30/42 and 1945. I consider him confirmed now. I could not find an obit, resting place, or relatives.

20
21-1168

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1950)

SPECIAL NUMBER 85 NAME (Print) PAUL PETER THOMAS ORDER NUMBER 12873

1. NAME (Print) 18055 SCHEENHEK WAVE MIA

2. PLACE OF BIRTH (Print) (THE PLACE OF BIRTH GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LIST IF OF REGISTRATION OTHERWISE WILL BE IDENTICAL)

3. MARITAL STATUS Same

4. SEX M

5. AGE IN YEARS 20

6. PLACE OF BIRTH Kitchener ONT.

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO PROVIDED ADDRESS (Print) MRS. MAXINE THOMAS Same as above

8. PLACE OF BIRTH (Print) James above

9. PLACE OF BIRTH (Print) James above

10. SIGNATURE (Print) Paul Thomas

4. Donald W. Rice, Pilot, 11/19/43-4/3/44, o-745749 –I reviewed him on December 2. There were 21 Donald W. Rice’s born 1915 to 1925, and I could eliminate 16, but that left 5.

On December 2, I emailed Stephen Burris, in Kansas, building a database of air force pilot officer backgrounds. To my amazement, he replied 5 hours later with an article from Newspapers.com from the Star Tribune in Minneapolis, dated 5/30/43. titled “Commissions, Promotions, for Twin Citians.” This had the paragraph at right, listing “Donald W. Rice, Robbinsdale, at Marfa, Texas, flying school.” “Donald” was hyphenated which may be why I did not find this. The next paragraph lists William R. Leonard being commissioned at Roswell, N.M., flying school, and he joined us 5 days after Rice, so if two Rice’s were pilots, this one had the timing of ours.

Webster M. Bull, Wayzata; Donald W. Rice, Robbinsdale, and Leonard C. Swedlund, 2612 Harriet avenue, all at Marfa, Texas, flying school.
Elvin C. Erickson, 3911 E. Fifty-fourth street; Kenneth A. Johnson, 601 W. Franklin avenue; William H. Johnson, 4809 Bryant avenue S.; William R. Leonard, 3432 Third avenue S., all at Roswell, N. M., flying school.

Without Steve, Rice would have stayed estimated for years, and it would have taken me years to research all the WWII flight schools to identify which Donald W. Rice was an Air Force pilot. A huge thank you to Steve Burris!

5. Charles A. Lucas, Pilot, 5/27/45-8/6/45, o-677079 – On December 2 I searched on Ancestry.com for all the men named Charles A. Lucas, born 1915 to 1925, and there were 13. I could eliminate 11, leaving two possibilities. One born 1919 from Los Angeles, has a cemetery marker on a “wall of heroes,” but says nothing about his role. The other, born 1924 in Missouri, had an obit saying he was “an officer in WWII,” but with no service branch. The 1924 one had a family tree I could contact to potentially eliminate him, but I would still know nothing about the Los Angeles one. I was embarrassed to again bother Steve Burris, but sent another email to him, and he replied, saying he looked up the serial number in his database, and could confirm ours was the one pictured at right, in the Moore Field Class of 43D. Thank you again, Steve Burris!



6. Jack E. Stephens, Pilot, 5/27/45-9/23/45, o-668364 – On December 2 I reviewed him again, and listed 13 possibilities, and eliminated 10. The one born 1916 from Trees, Louisiana, who lived in Jefferson, Texas, was an Air Force pilot, and so seemed obvious, and I am in touch with his son, but the son does not have his dad’s serial number. The other two could also have been Air Force pilots. Steve Burris replied December 4 that this serial number went with my estimated one, from Beaumont, Texas, pictured at right. Thank you, Steve!



7. Charles C. McGill, 2nd Lt Ground Officer, 7/42-1/43, o-365354 – I wrote in my last newsletter that my estimated one had an obit saying he had been in the 24th Infantry Division, which was in Hawaii in 1943, so ours would have had to have stopped off there on the way back and joined them. On December 2, 2020, I reviewed him again, and noticed his obit said the 24th Infantry Regiment. This unit was moved to New Hebrides May 4, 1942, and in 1942-1943 had a company working in Nouméa, New Caledonia, close to the 13th TCS camp! This makes it even more likely that this one was ours, and I consider him confirmed. I contacted his relatives.

8. Leonard R. Greene, Radar Officer, 11/19/44-4/4/45, o-514175 – On December 2 I searched Ancestry for “Leonard Greene,” born 1913+/-10 years, then searched each page of results for “Leonard R,” and listed eight men with this name. I could eliminate 7, and the last seemed perfect – a college graduate, from Lehigh University, studied Engineering Physics, was in the Chess Club, enlisted 3/10/43, released 4/29/46. I am considering ours to be this one, from Brooklyn, 6/24/21-10/24/85. I cannot find an obit or any relatives.

Estimates Previously Confirmed

I forgot to write about the following two in my last newsletter and want to do so now.

Floyd R. Jagger – This name has been on my mind since June 2017. The only record I could find of him was in the 1940 census, that he was born in 1925 and lived in Yakima, Wash. There are many Floyd Jagers, but this was the only Floyd R. so I assumed he was ours, but he was also in my category of having no birth month or date, which was another open-item.

On November 29, in searching again for an exact birth date, I found a census with a similar last name “Gaggers.” I thought “Ah ha!” but searched on this and did not find him. I also tried Jagers and did not find him. Similar to the technique I used for Samuel Levine, I searched the NARA Display Partial Records site on serial numbers near Jagers’, and found the men were from St. Louis City, and enlisted August 13, 1942, at Jefferson Barracks.

Searching Ancestry.com for last name Jagger, no first name, military records, 1942, anything Missouri, somehow a family tree popped up with the last name Jagggar ending in “ar.” I cannot even duplicate this now. I searched on Jagggar, and instantly I found Floyd Raymond Jagggar! I have tried to identify him for 3.5 years, so this was exciting! He was born 5/26/24, not 1925.

The morning report on 9/23/45 had his serial number as 37377425, which was instead for a Charles Garner, also in the squadron. Another morning report had a variation of this, also of no help. A report noticed on November 29 had his correct number, 39204534, but I did not find that earlier. I now have his name, and birth and death dates, and messaged a family tree contact.

Wayne D. Reed, Decontamination Equipment Operator, 6/1/45-10/11/45 – His Army serial number was 37240013, and the second digit meant he was from the Northern Plains. I previously searched Ancestry for “Wayne D. Reed” born 1905-1925 and there were only two – one from Michigan, who would have a “6” in his serial number, and one born in Kansas, a “7,” in 1923. I contacted a relative, but he said his Wayne D. Reed spent WWII in New Orleans.

On November 28 I searched again on Ancestry with no middle initial and found 1,538 results. There were 207 military results. I searched on these for “Wayne D,” and there were only two – the one above born 1906 in Kansas, and a draft registration card for a Wayne Delight Reed born 1911, also in Kansas. This card had his full middle name, so did not appear in searches using just an initial. Delight passed away in 1976. His grave marker at right had the same rank of CPL as ours, and “Army Air Forces.” This was our Thirsty 13th member.



b. Lost Two

John M. Peterson, Pilot, 9/10/45-9/23/45 – On November 30, 2020, I received a reply from the son, Marty, of our Peterson, that his dad passed away September 19, 2020, his 98th birthday. He was assigned to us for just 13 days after the end of the war and did not fly a mission with us. I found him in October 2017, and regret that I never arranged to speak with him.

Hank Zarek, Pilot, 4/1/45-9/22/45 – On December 4, 2020, I Googled Hank Zarek, and found an obit that he died November 11, 2020, on Veteran’s day. He was 97.

I first spoke to Zarek in 2009, and he shared photos and stories that are in the book. He is pictured below in the US in January 1945 before being flown to the South Pacific, then by and in his tent in Dulag. The book has several of his photos and stories. I visited him in Florida May 2, 2015, below right, and he was one of my favorites.



c. Compliments from Author Dana Bell

Dana Bell is an Air Force author. Born in 1950, he was an historian and curator for the National Air and Space Museum Archives in Washington, DC, until retiring in 2006 to work on his own research and writing. He has written at least 18 Air Force-related books, with perhaps the most famous being his Air Force Colors series around 1980, providing the exact color schemes used on planes. I contacted him in 2010 when writing my book, to be sure I had the exact color for C-47s. He wrote me something like “Be sure everything you write is accurate, because people will quote your book as an authority,” so in the book I was careful to be exact, or to write “This is estimated to be...”

Dana Bell has been on my newsletter list, and on December 3 he replied and wrote “Hi Seth, just a note to let you know how much I respect the work you've been doing on the 13th over the last many years, and how much I've been enjoying the results. I wish more units had researchers as dedicated as you. In the meantime, all the best to you and yours - stay safe! Cheers, Dana.”

I replied to Dana and he emailed me December 23 “There have been so many new efforts to document the histories of those WW2 units, and I consider you one of the vanguard of dedicated researchers. Again, I can only wish that others could demonstrate your dedication and skills.” He added “I'm planning to release the first of two self-published books next month - a history of US interior colors will be followed by a history of the US National Insignia.” Thank you, Dana!

d. Contacting Relatives of Members

Chester E. Davis - In the last newsletter I noted I found an obit from 1969 for our Chester E. Davis, and that finding his children would be difficult, because of their common names: Mrs. H. L. Smith, Mrs. C. Randall, and Donald R. and Richard Davis, as shown at right. On December 4, I tried again and was amazed to find a 1940 census with a Chester with two unnamed daughters, and sons Donald and Richard. The children were born in the 1930s, and I could then identify them. Three had passed away. I found names for grandchildren, and made phone calls, but lines were disconnected.

Davis; daughters, Mrs. H. L. Smith, and Mrs. C. Randall; sons, Donald R. Davis and Richard Davis; and 10 grand-

I contacted several family trees on Ancestry. One woman I contacted at 6:16 p.m. December 4 replied at 8:03 p.m. She said her grandmother, 76 years old, had Chester and his wife on her birth certificate, but she was given up for adoption and had never been able to find any of his family. I provided an obit for one of his children, and she, using Facebook, contacted a grandson. He contacted a brother, who contacted me December 11! I finally reached relatives of CE Davis! The grandchildren were excited to learn about their grandfather's WWII service, with us in aircraft sheet metal repair, 7/42-10/45, and amazed to learn they had another aunt!

e. Website Updated

Starting around May 2020 I was unable to add newsletters to the website. I used Microsoft Expression Web, and instead tried uploading my HTML files directly on the GoDaddy site, but it still did not work. At one point it seemed it was because I was still using Windows XP. In August I bought a new computer with Windows 10 but did not have time to address this.

On December 4, I spent 2 hours on the phone with GoDaddy, and a higher-up finally figured out that they moved my files to another folder. This updating problem has now been fixed, and the May, June, July, September and December letters, and flight lists, are now on the website.

f. Latest Dashboards

At right is my dashboard, for the first time referring to no estimates. I increased death dates by 2 for JM Peterson and Zarek who we lost but made no progress on the prior 4 with unknown death dates. I added 7 resting places and 1 FindaGrave link. I contacted relatives of 11 more members.

Members Identified and Contacts Found (of 815)

Members:	30-Nov		22-Jan		Add	Need
Birth Date*	815	100%	815	100%	0	0
Death Date***	802	100%	804	100%	2	4
Resting Place**	735	91%	742	92%	7	66
FindaGrave Link**	554	69%	555	69%	1	253
Contact	632	78%	643	79%	11	172
Have Book	532	65%	532	65%	0	283

** Percent and Need for 2nd to 4th exclude 7 living.

I use Spokeo to find phone numbers, and my subscription allows 75 searches a month, and refreshes on the 12th of each month. In November I used up all my searches, and then found many obituaries listing relatives, but could not search for phone numbers until December 12. When I did, I found relatives of more members. Members who I knew about when writing the book for whom I found relatives are Barry, Clark H, Davis CE, Eastburn, Risky, Schaefer, and Voorhees. Members identified after I finished the book for whom I found relatives are Barnes, Browne, McGill, and Stephens.

I now summarize the no-contact members in the categories at right. Pending are members for whom I contacted someone but have not heard back. These declined from 70 to 32, by 38, due to connecting with the 11 above, moving 4 to “Can pass,” moving 3 to “Very unlikely,” and moving 20 to “Contacted No Reply.” The category “Try again later” is members for whom I have little to go on but am still hopeful. “Can pass” are men in the squadron for, say, 4 days, or joined in September 1945.

13th TCS Members with No Contact

	11/30	1/23	Chg
Pending	70	32	-38
Try again later	26	24	-2
Can pass		4	4
Very unlikely	87	92	5
Not Contacted	183	152	-31
Contacted No Reply		20	20
Total No Contact	183	172	-11

The 92 “Very unlikely” are, for example, men with no siblings, who never married, for whom I can stop searching for a relative. “Contacted No Reply” means I left a message for a direct descendant, or reached them by email, but I have no reply, so will try another time.

For those outlined in red, $32 + 24 + 20 = 76$ members, I hope in 2021 to find a relative of each. Hopefully in 2021 I can get to the point of having contacted all the relatives of all the men I expect to ever contact and having found all the photos and stories related to the squadron.

If you have any items to share, please email me scans, or let me know when I may visit you to scan items - I can do so at a nearby hotel to reduce virus risk. I published the first edition of the book in October 2011 and might try to complete a second edition in 2021. This will be a free online PDF to hopefully last forever, with hardcopies at the printer’s cost. This will be your last chance to get items about your dad, granddad, uncle, or great uncle, into the squadron history.

The December newsletter had the logbook of 1943 pilot Fred J. Franz, who previously flew a P-39 in combat over Guadalcanal. On January 4, 2021, his son, David, emailed me the photo of his dad at right ~1943. Great he was ours.

4. Conclusions and Thanks

Thank you to Carl Schroeder, Jim Moyle, Clay Voorhees, Bob Richardson and Dave Franz for sharing items, and to Steve Burris who identified three more members. With best wishes, Seth

