

April 2022 Newsletter



Dear Thirsty 13th members, relatives, and friends,

The March 1, 2022, newsletter summarized findings from the February NY and MA scanning visits. I showed photos from Mullin at one of two New Caledonia award ceremonies. Since 2011, I have wanted to make those more exact and tried from February 28 to March 8. On 9/14/20, the son, John, of one of our 13 original navigators, Joseph Block, emailed me “I came upon a few pics from the Thirsty 13th. Hoping you haven’t seen these yet.” One was the only front photo of the 8/2/43 ceremony. This was key, and John is the only one who has this.

In February, while looking for a photo of Gornbein, I was surprised to find the daughter of McDonough. She emailed scans of 7 photos, including two great ones of a King Neptune ceremony, four of her dad and one with Irwin Cohen. She mailed me the originals to scan here, and included 2 orders, and both had Abramowitz. He and Cohen were in the last newsletter.

On October 13, 2021, the daughter, Joann, of one of our radar mechanics, Gunderson, mailed me a letter and noted she found her dad’s 1945 diary which she had never seen before. She made copies and mailed these to me 2/7/22, and on 3/2/22 emailed me color scans. Her dad had chapel programs I had never seen. These items provided great additional insights into life at Biak.

With best wishes,
Seth P. Washburne, Squadron Historian
April 1, 2022

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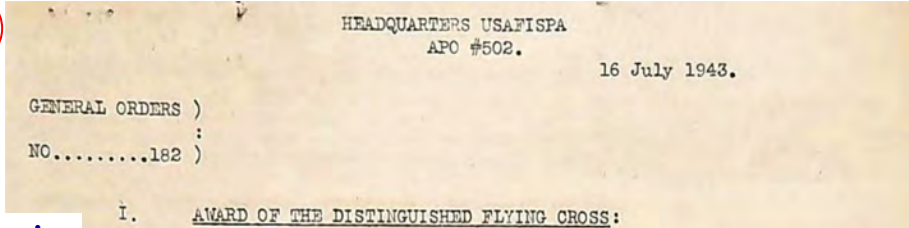
This is the newsletter for the U.S. Army Air Corps 13th Troop Carrier Squadron, 1940-1946, nicknamed “The Thirsty 13th.” This is prepared by Seth P. Washburne, the son of John C. Washburne, navigator 11/42-7/43. Please direct any comments to him at: (212) 289-1506, sethgw1@gmail.com, or 5200 Meadowcreek Drive, Apt. 2060, Dallas, TX 75248.

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

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



1. Additional History

a. 1943: Two 1943 Award Ceremonies

The book on page 332 notes from July 16-21, 1943, the USAF in the S Pacific Area issued General Orders (“GO”) #182, above right, and 183. These awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, and Oak Leaf Clusters (OLCs) to our first overseas air crew members, who flew missions to Guadalcanal. The ceremonies were July 22 and August 2, 1943. In the book, I wrote these were near the end of runway 11. This re-examines the locations and attendees.

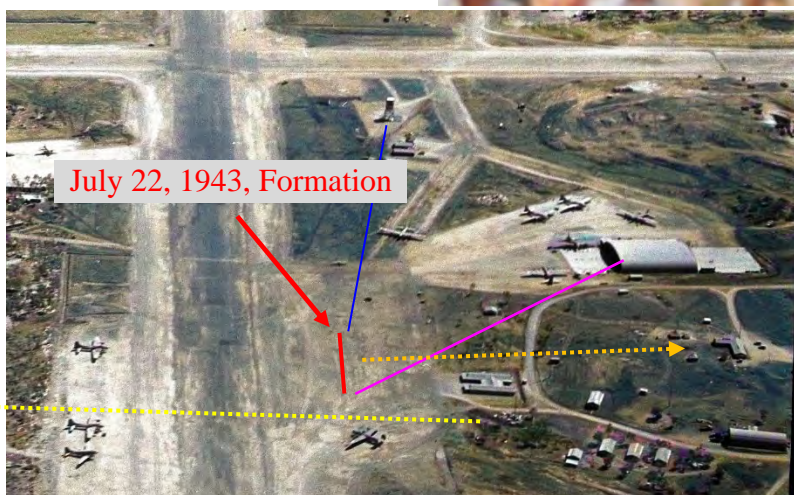
Bergstrom’s daughter, Jan, in June 2020 shipped me a box with her dad’s photo album with 180 photos. I put 35 of his photos in the June 2020 newsletter. He had 17 photos of an award ceremony but they were blurry and so I did not share them. Now they are they key to the 7/22 ceremony.



The **7/22/43 ceremony** is above left, and the mountain has a peak at the red circle which is the same as in the image top left. These are views in the direction of the blue arrow below across what was runway 03. Below is from a panorama of Tontouta Air Base in New Caledonia 10/7/43. The photo above left also shows at the blue circle the roof of the control tower, below right. Bergstrom had the photo above right and the mountain peak is west of our line, roughly from the green arrow.



At left is the arm of Valley, last in line. In the distance are a mountain, telephone pole, and the roof of the 13th Air Depot. The pole is estimated to be that outlined in pink below left, west of a building. The line in pink on the aerial below right is from Valley, end of the formation, to the pole and depot. Bottom left are high poles, those outlined in aqua above it. The trees below left are also below right. The image at right has an L-shaped building, and this is the orange line direction below right. The 7/22/43 formation was therefore where shown in red.





July 22, 1943, Attendees per GO 182

The formation on the prior page is shown again above. This is 13 officers wearing hats, then enlisted men wearing barracks caps. GO 182 listed 38 **officers**, numbered at right, in the right column, and the 13 who attended, listed at right, are shown in a front view below.

July 22, 1943, Award Line-Up per GO 182
(blue font=in a photo; p=pilot, n=navigator)

#	Officers	Last Name	First	Award	Ord
1	Captain	Bruce	Robert D.	p	DFC 2
2	Captain	Fraser	Wilton Mc	p	DFC 3
3	Captain	Remaklus	John P. Jr.	p	DFC 5
4	1st Lt	Brandt	William M.	p	DFC 6
5	1st Lt	Brauns	Robert L.	p	DFC 7
6	1st Lt	Brewer, Jr.	Benjamin	p	DFC 8
7	1st Lt	Drake	Robert W.	p	DFC 10
8	2nd Lt	Baldry	Gordon L.	p	DFC 21
9	2nd Lt	Bernard	Roger J.	p	DFC 24
10	2nd Lt	Frey	Richard S.	n	DFC 27
11	2nd Lt	Gilbert	Bruce	n	DFC 28
12	2nd Lt	Johnson	Robert E.	n	DFC 30
13	2nd Lt	Mogush	John Jose	n	DFC 33



Bergstrom had photos of Bruce and Fraser at this. At left is Remaklus, #5 on GO 182. The next must be the GO's #6 Brandt, 7 Brauns, and 8 Brewer, then Drake. At right are Baldry, Bernard and Frey, twice, then Gilbert, Johnson, and Mogush.



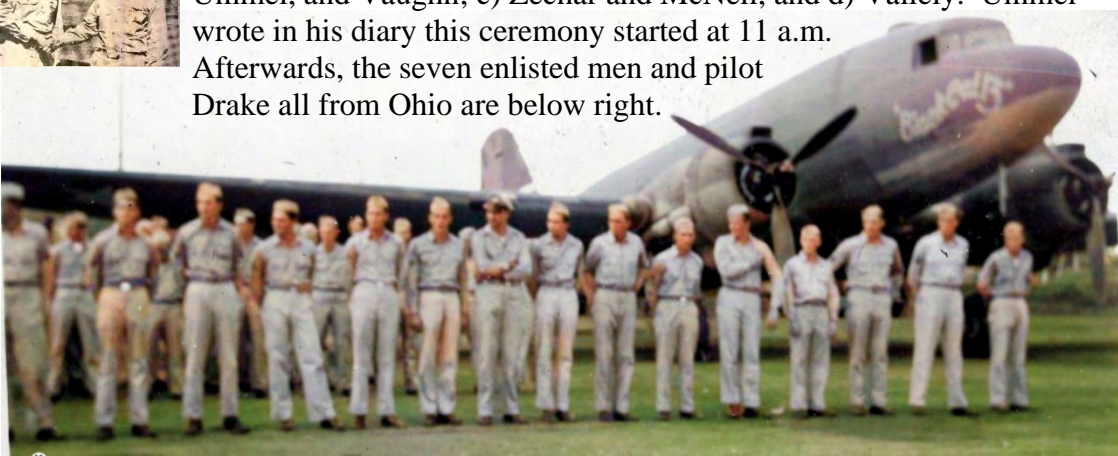
The left C-47's nose art, above left, seems to Blankinship and Bernard's plane "Sally," at right.

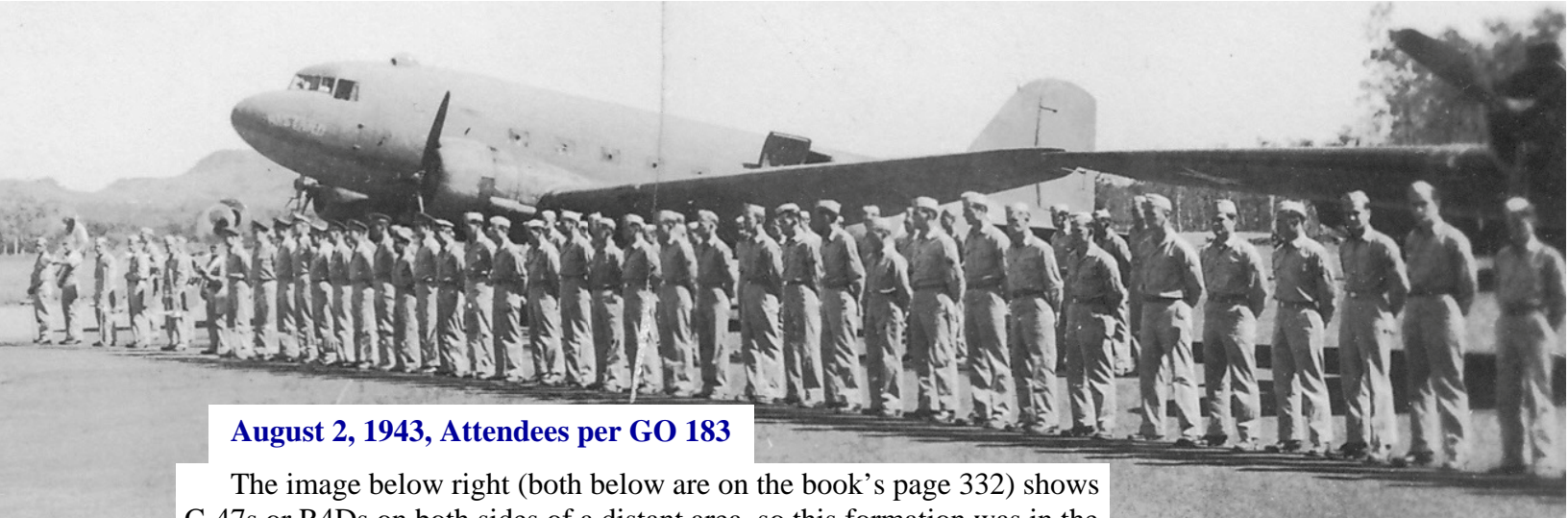
GO 182 listed 23 **enlisted men**, and the 15 present are shown below and in the table below right. Cole is in a newspaper photo from this at left. I recognize the next 3. At the bottom here are a) Merriott, Watts, and the hat of Duffy (who was supposed to be after Mihalega), b) Stiver, Ummel, and Vaughn; c) Zechar and McNeil, and d) Valley. Ummel wrote in his diary this ceremony started at 11 a.m. Afterwards, the seven enlisted men and pilot Drake all from Ohio are below right.



July 22, 1943, Award Line-Up per GO 182
(blue font=in a photo; m=mechanic, ro=radio op)

#	Enlisted	Last Name	First	Award	Ord
1	Sergeant	Cole	Howard L.	ro	DFC 39
2	Sergeant	Foster	Frank Jaco	ro	DFC 40
3	Sergeant	Goldstein (tr	Fred H. (A	ro	DFC 41
4	Sergeant	McCullough	Emery L.	ro	DFC 42
5	Sergeant	Merriott	Garland C	ro	DFC 43
6	Sergeant	Watts	Charles T.	ro	DFC 44
7	Captain	Duffy	Robert C.	eo	AM 49
8	Corporal	Mihalega	Frank T.	(ro	DFC 47
9	Tech Sgt	Rhodenbaug	George L	m	AM 53
10	Tech Sgt	Stiver	Bernard J	m	AM 55
11	Tech Sgt	Ummel	Clark B.	ro	AM 56
12	Tech Sgt	Vaughn	John Ashl	m	AM 57
13	Tech Sgt	Zechar	Edward L.	m	AM 58
14	Staff Sgt	McNeil	James M.	m	AM 59
15	Corporal	Valley	Bernard X	m	AM 60





August 2, 1943, Attendees per GO 183

The image below right (both below are on the book's page 332) shows C-47s or R4Ds on both sides of a distant area, so this formation was in the parking area off the taxiway by runway 11, as shown in yellow on page 5. The north C-47 is Bastard, and south one, on the next page, had no name.



August 2, 1943 Award Line-Up per GO 183
(blue=confirmed in a photo; p=pilot, n=navigator)

#	Officers	Last Name	First		Award	Ord
1	2nd Lt	Farmer	Roy Charl	p	DFC	2,2
2	Captain	Fraser	Wilton Mc	p	AM	4
3	Captain	Remaklus	John P. Jr	p	AM	6
4	1st Lt	Brauns	Robert L.	p	AM	7
5	2nd Lt	Adams Jr.	Alva Ted	p	AM	14
6	2nd Lt	Alexander	Jack Davi	p	AM	15
7	2nd Lt	Bell	Jack Ball	p	AM	17
8	2nd Lt	Blankinship	John J.	p	AM	20
9	2nd Lt	Block	Joseph Hen	p	AM	21
10	F/O	Abernathy	Floyd H.	p	AM	28
11	F/O	Brown	Eugene G	p	AM	29

This formation is shown close-up above (Joseph H. Block Collection). The first 11 wear officer-style hats, and the next 22 wear garrison caps. Men have the sun on their backs and are photographed from their left.

GO 183 listed 29 **officers**, and the 11 above right attended. Some of these received the DFC on 7/22 and wore it to get the Air Medal. Below are a) Remaklus, J. Alexander and J. Bell, b) Blankinship, Block, Abernathy, and Brown, and c) Brown, and the first of the enlisted men, Burden.



August 2, 1943 Award Line-Up per GO 183
(blue=in a photo; m=mechanic, ro=radio operator)

#	Enlisted	Last	First		Award	Ord
1	Tech Sgt	Burden	Dennis W	m	AM	30
2	Tech Sgt	Johnson	Arnold K.	m	AM	32
3	Staff Sgt	DeLoss	Anthony E	m	AM	33
4	Staff Sgt	Jurkewicz	Anthony S	m	AM	35
5	Staff Sgt	Killebrew	George W	m	AM	36
6	Staff Sgt	Lowery	Joseph A	m	AM	37
7	Staff Sgt	Mann	Thomas C	m	AM	38
8	Staff Sgt	Meuret	Roy E.	m	AM	39
9	Staff Sgt	Rapp	Andrew C	m	AM	40
10	Staff Sgt	Reddick	Roger Her	ro	AM	41
11	Staff Sgt	Watkins	John Willi	m	AM	42
12	Sergeant	Coker	John T.	(T	AM	44
13	Sergeant	Cole	Howard L.	ro	AM	45
14	Sergeant	Goldstein	Fred H.	(A	AM	46
15	Sergeant	Kelley	Vincent R	m	AM	47
16	Sergeant	Lach	Hendrick	m	AM	48
17	Sergeant	Lawyer	Robert Pa	m	AM	49
18	Sergeant	McCullough	Emery L.	ro	AM	50
19	Sergeant	Meadows	John Henr	m	AM	51
20	Sergeant	Merriott	Garland C	ro	AM	52
21	Sergeant	Mullin	James Mi	m	AM	53
22	Corporal	Allen, Jr.	Franklin S	m	AM	54
23	Corporal	Anacker	Vearyl Ori	m	AM	55
24	Corporal	Beck	Peter A.	ro	AM	56
25	Corporal	Linkenhog	Floyd Bov	m	AM	58
26	Corporal	Mihalega	Frank T.	(ro	AM	59
27	Pfc	Burgess	Alfred Ern	m	AM	60
28	Pfc	Powell	Douglas L	ro	AM	61

GO 183 listed 31 **enlisted men** and the 28 at right, plus 2, attended. Watkins was in a post-awards photo but does not seem to be in line. #24-#27 are not visible in any photos but are assumed to have been here.

Below are a) A.Johnson, DeLoss, and Jurkewicz, b) Kelly and Lach, c) McCullough, d) Meadows, Merriott, Mullin, F. Allen, and Anacker, and e) Powell, Laming, and Ingalls. Laming was on GO 187, 7/22/43. Ingalls is on one of two additional orders, GO 186, as noted on the next page. These two were added at the end.

Added

29	Corporal	Laming	Russell C	m	AM	n/a
30	Corporal	Ingalls	Lawrence	ro	AM, + OL	5,13



Men Not Present

At right are the men on GO 182 & 183 who were not at the respective award ceremonies. The 10 officers and 3 EM shaded yellow missed both ceremonies, perhaps being on missions. Those in blue are on both orders, for the DFC, and then the AM, and went to one ceremony. Those shaded red were on a mission; green were in the US.

General Orders 184 & 186

GO 184 issued July 19, awarded the AM to Adams, and OLC to Fraser and Baldry. GO 186 issued 7/21 awarded Air Medals or OLCs for: a) the reef landing, b) a Guadalcanal drop mission, and c) finding lifeboats. These were given at these ceremonies.

Below are a) men from Ohio after the 8/2 ceremony; b) the east C-47 with no name, and c) non-award recipients who attended the 7/22 ceremony.

Officers on GO182 but Not In 7/22 Formation

Unexplained - blue shade means at 8/2 ceremony						
1	1st Lt	Fitzgerald	Wm. R.	(c p)	DFC	12
2	1st Lt	Givens	Richard E.	p	DFC	13
3	1st Lt	Jay	William H.	p	DFC	14
4	1st Lt	Preston II	Forest	n	DFC	17
5	2nd Lt	Bell	Jack Balla	p	DFC	22
6	2nd Lt	Blankinship	John J.	p	DFC	25
7	2nd Lt	Block	Joseph H.	n	DFC	26
8	2nd Lt	Lippitt	John Phill	n	DFC	31
9	2nd Lt	Moritz	Walter R.	n	DFC	34
10	2nd Lt	Shook	Howard B.	n	DFC	35
11	1st Lt	Smith	William E.	p	AM	50
12	2nd Lt	Hay	David Mar	p	AM	52

On a mission

1	1st Lt	Sprout	Marion E.	p	DFC	18
2	2nd Lt	Alexander	Jack Davi	p	DFC	20
3	2nd Lt	Bergstrom	Don J.	p	DFC	23
4	2nd Lt	Hammett	Robert A.	n	DFC	29
5	2nd Lt	Meade	John W.	n	DFC	32

Back in the U.S.

1	Major	Cullum	Felder W.	co	DFC	1
2	Captain	Petty	Cecil E.	(p	DFC	4
3	1st Lt	Carroll	Virgil M.	(p	DFC	9
4	1st Lt	Ecklund	Eugene	p	DFC	11
5	1st Lt	Kolas	Peter J.	p	DFC	15
6	1st Lt	McCarroll	John Jr.	n	DFC	16
7	1st Lt	Washburne	John C.	n	DFC	19
8	2nd Lt	Cruncleton	Charles E.	p	AM	51

Enlisted on GO 182 but Not In 7/22 Formation

Unexplained - blue shade means at 8/2 ceremony						
1	Tech Sgt	Dolney	Joseph F.	m	DFC	36
2	Corporal	Flynn	Louis A.	(ro	DFC	45
3	Corporal	Ingalls	Lawrence	ro	DFC	46
4	Corporal	Wallace	Kenneth	(ro	DFC	48

On a mission

1	Corporal	Versdahl	Oscar J.	m	AM	61
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Back in the U.S.

1	Staff Sgt	Heckerson	Burton E.	ro	DFC	37
2	Staff Sgt	Saylor	John Lewi	ro	DFC	38
3	Tech Sgt	Smyth	Coral B.	m	AM	54

Officers on GO 183 but Not In Aug 2 Formation

Unexplained - blue shade = at 7/22 ceremony						
1	1st Lt	Davis	Clifton Ca	p	DFC	1
2	Captain	Bruce	Robert D.	p	AM	3
3	1st Lt	Brewer, Jr.	Benjamin	p	AM	8
4	1st Lt	Preston II	Forest	n	AM	11
5	1st Lt	Drake	Robert W.	p	AM	9
6	2nd Lt	Baldry	Gordon L.	p	AM	16
7	2nd Lt	Bernard	Roger J.	p	AM	19
8	2nd Lt	Frey	Richard S.	n	AM	23
9	2nd Lt	Mogush	John Jose	n	AM	25
10	2nd Lt	Shook	Howard B.	n	AM	26

On a mission

11	1st Lt	Sprout	Marion E.	p	AM	12
12	2nd Lt	Bergstrom	Don J.	p	AM	18
13	2nd Lt	Meade	John W.	n	AM	24

Back in the U.S.

14	Captain	Petty	Cecil E.	(p	AM	5
15	1st Lt	McCarroll	John Jr.	n	AM	10
16	1st Lt	Washburne	John C.	n	AM	3, 4
17	2nd Lt	Zieman	Gilbert W.	p	AM	27

Enlisted on GO 183 but not In Aug 2 Formation

Unexplained						
1	Sergeant	Clawson	Lloyd Gra	m	AM	43

On a mission						
2	Corporal	Kilzer	George A.	ro	AM	57

Back in the U.S.						
3	Tech Sgt	Claydon	James (nc	m	AM	31
4	Staff Sgt	Heckerson	Burton E.	ro	AM	34

GO 184 Awards

Blue shade means at 7/22 or 8/2 ceremony						
1	2nd Lt	Adams Jr.	Alva Ted J.	p	DFC	2
2	Captain	Fraser	Wilton Mc	p	AM-OLC	3
3	2nd Lt	Baldry	Gordon L.	p	AM-OLC	4

GO 186 Awards

To the Commanding Officer for Leadership						
2	Major	Cullum	Felder W.		AM	2

For Reef Landing 10/20/42						
1	Captain	Petty	Cecil E.		DFC-OLC	1
2	Staff Sgt	Meuret	Roy E.		AM-OLC	12
3	Corporal	Ingalls	Lawrence	ro	M, + OL	5, 13

For Guadalcanal Drop Missions 10/30-11/1/42						
1	1st Lt	Washburne	John C.		AM-OLC	7
2	2nd Lt	Alexander	Jack David		AM-OLC	8
3	2nd Lt	Baldry	Gordon L.		"MAM-OLC	9
4	Staff Sgt	Heckerson	Burton E.		AM-OLC	10
5	Staff Sgt	Watkins	John William		AM-OLC	11

For Finding Lifeboats, 5/1-5/16/43						
1	1st Lt	Brewer, Jr.	Benjamin Ca		AM-OLC	6
2	1st Lt	Fitzgerald	Wm. R.		AM	3
3	Tech Sgt	Dolney	Joseph F.		AM	4
4	Corporal	Ingalls	Lawrence	ro	M, + OL	5, 13

8/2/43 Formation Location Today – The aerial image below is from 11/9/43, looking northeast across Runway 11 at Tontouta Air Base. It provides a close-up of the 8/2/43 ceremony location, and the C-47 or R4D parking areas on the near taxiway bend. In 2022, the formation was where shown below right. The 1943 west taxiway is outlined in red.

August 2, 1943, Formation



8/2/43 photo has C-47s or R4Ds in 2 places





b. 1944-45: Photos from Richard J. McDonough, Radio Operator, 12/7/44-9/23/45

Six 13th TCS Flight Crews (24 men) on the USS Admiralty Islands

Officers	
1 Begg	p
2 Bridges	p
3 Colburn	p
4 Cowles	p
5 Creelman	p
6 Davenport	p
7 Domarski	p
8 Finkbeiner	p
9 Freudenthal	p
10 Harpster	p
11 Howard EJ	p
12 Johnson HL	p
Enlisted	
1 Abramowitz	ro
2 Aversa	m
3 Burdiss GH	m
4 Caldwell	ro
5 Clouse	m
6 Darling	m
7 Davis LE	ro
8 Gornbein	ro
9 Kosovich	m
10 McDonough	ro
11 Sunderman	m
12 Vento	m

The majority of squadron members took a ship to the South Pacific. A highlight was crossing the equator. The Navy historically celebrated this with a King Neptune Ceremony, inducting men into the Ancient Order of the Deep. The book on page 128 has stories from those who went over in November 1942, and Szafir described men tossed in a tub.

McDonough went over on the USS *Admiralty Islands* with the men at left, and had two photos. Above left, an inductee waltzes for King Neptune between sailors who throw water at his back. Above right, an inductee is about to be tossed into the tub. This ship's deck was wood. The photos' backs had "Official photographs, U.S. Navy," #93 and #99.

McDonough is at right, before the Thirsty 13th. He had the photo below left with Clunie in our Biak camp, on the east side of the chapel, estimated with a Japanese gun. Below center he is with Kosovich and I. Cohen holding the Japanese flag which was in the last newsletter.

McDonough flew 17 multi-day missions with us as a radio operator, including to Guadalcanal, and after the surrender perhaps to Tokyo. He is at the blue arrow below right at Biak of 12 of our 40 radio operators.

Thank you to McDonough for being a member of The Thirsty 13th!



MILITARY HISTORY		
23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT	24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	25. P...
2 OCT 42	5 JUL 43	F

c. 1945: Diary of Norton A. Gunderson, Radar Mechanic, 1/30/45-9/17/45

Gunderson, a Norwegian, born 9/1/1907, grew up on a farm in Minnesota. After high school, he worked putting up poles to bring electricity to western Minnesota. He enlisted in the national guard 6/7/27 for 9 months. On 8/23/1927, when 20 years old, he drove to Minneapolis to see Minnesota-native Lindbergh, on his tour. Fifteen years later at 35, Gunderson enlisted, as shown above, but did not enter active service until 7/5/43, as summarized below by his daughter, Joann.

- | <u>Date</u> | <u>To</u> |
|-------------|---|
| 9/42-3/43 | University of North Dakota to study electricity and radio. |
| 10/2/42 | Enlistment in the Signal Corps Enlisted Reserve Corp. |
| 3/43 | University of Minnesota for a course in pre-radar. |
| 7/5/43 | Fort Snelling, Minn., for active duty. |
| 7/15/43 | Miami Beach, estimated for boot camp. |
| 11/8/43 | Fort Monmouth, N.J. |
| 2/19/44 | Camp Murphy, Fl., a top-secret school for radar and Long Wave Detector. |
| 6/23/44 | Boca Raton, Fl., studied IFF, radio altimeter, homing beacon and Loran. |
| 10/25/44 | Kearns, Ut, where they checked the skills of men going to the Pacific. |
| 11/19/44 | Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, Ca., to await a ship. |

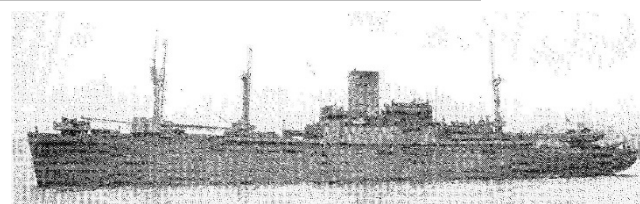


Gunderson's Description of the Pacific Crossing, with Supplements

Gunderson wrote the following about his Pacific crossing. On 2/23, I found online the diary of Leo Guabello, who went over on the same ship as Gunderson, to our sister squadron, the 63rd TCS. I include his notes in light blue to supplement Gunderson's notes.

Gunderson (Radar Mechanic, 1/45-9/45, from Diary): [From Camp Stoneman, in my 2017-11b newsletter.] "Dec 5: alerted for shipment. On way to barge at 9 a.m. Couple mile hike. "Reach Frisco about 4 p.m. Get aboard SS *Cape Mendocino* [pictured below, not APA-100], a converted cargo ship, at 5 P.M. Underway at 6 p.m. No escort. About 1400 men aboard. "Have 2 meals and a lunch each day. Not very good food. Saltwater showers and 2 canteens a day of drinking water. Play cards and read a lot, chief pastimes. Cross the equator on the 16th. "Have a torpedo attack on the 19th, but luckily escape."

Guabello: "Australian B-34 warned us of sub. A Jap submarine tormented us for a day, but we lost it at nightfall. One of our guns fired at possible torpedo wake. Nothing happened. "Dec 24: Today we are in the Solomons. Passed & seen Guadalcanal & Tulagi." "Dec 25: Christmas day, what a way to celebrate it. Do have turkey and all the trimmings, and a gift bag from the Red Cross. Sight our first land." "Dec 27: A mighty exciting day for all on board. Landed at Finschhafen, New Guinea to leave five officers off. Are now on our way again to Hollandia. (2 days and 2 nights [by ship].) "Dec 28: In a convoy today. Due to fog last night, we lost the convoy. Skipper kept circling until convoy showed up. A foghorn was heard close-by and a freighter missed us by yards. "Took another 'rain' shower today. Wonderful to be clean. "Dec 29: Landed at Hollandia. Waiting our turn to disembark. Must be a hundred merchant vessels docked and anchored with Destroyers by the dozen. Hoping we get off ship tomorrow. "Dec 30: Spent the day docked in the bay. Still on board, but blackout has ceased. Had a movie on deck at night. Now have reception from the States on the radio. Good music. "Dec 31: Were taken off *Cape Mendocino* & put on LCI [landing craft infantry] & taken ashore. We (60 men) were taken out here to the airport & are in big six-man tents. Beautiful soft-water showers direct from the [Cyclops mountains]."





In Hollandia Gunderson and Guabello were assigned to the 92nd Replacement Depot.

Guabello: “There are a few scattered [Japs] still in the hills. Planes buzz over area 50 feet from the ground, a beautiful sight. The scenery on the island is beautiful. Mountains 7,000 & 8,000 ft. high, with green trees & streams. There’s a waterfall up in the [mountains], [dammed] off, and it’s a swell swimming hole. The water is pure & cold. I like the place a lot

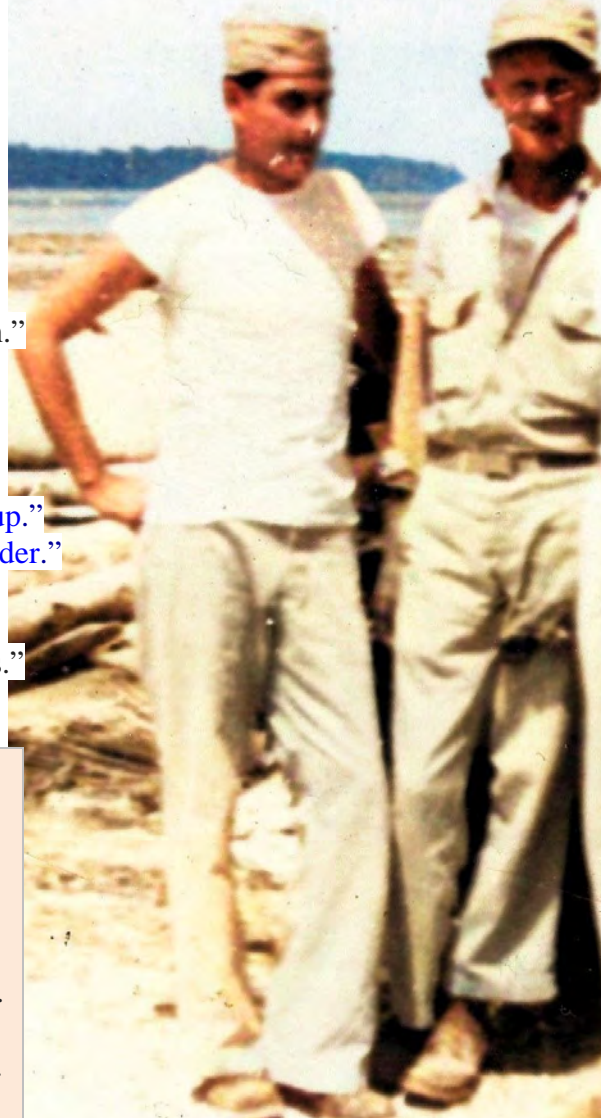
“Jan 6-27: Baseball and softball team going along swell. **Am going to Biak Island to join the 403 Troop Carrier [then the 63rd TCS]. A darn good deal.** Only delay is air transportation.

“Feb. 1: **Flew from Hollandia in a C-47 to the isle of Biak. Wonderful homes, best chow I ever had. The 2-hour plane ride was very thrilling.**”

Gunderson joined us 1/30/45 at 37 years old per the morning report above right. He is at right, on the right, with Epperhart, who joined the same day, as did Getter (photos from Harriss).

Gunderson wrote notes in a diary every day. Some excerpts:

- 1/30 – “Finally Assigned.”
- 1/31 – “Get settled in new place. Very neat appearing.”
- 2/2 – “Work on radio sets I studied in school in Boca Raton.”
- 3/23 – “Received Christmas package.”
- 4/8 – “Roast beef dinner, first in long time.”
- 5/7 – “At 11 p.m., news of Germany surrender.”
- 6/7 – “Made sergeant after 4 months in squadron.”
- 8/11 – “Awakened at 12:45 a.m., say Japan decided to give up.”
- 8/12 – “Listen to short wave broadcasts regarding Jap surrender.”
- 8/15 – “War officially ends, News at 7 a.m. Happy Day.”
- 8/17 – “Reach Leyte at 1 p.m., stay at new camp, Dulag.”
- 8/19 – “Rather nice camp area, grass, palm, and banana trees.”
- 8/20 – “On detail to put up new building for orderly room.”



At Biak, Gunderson had the following, similar to what all 13th TCS enlisted men experienced:

- **2 days off per week**, eventually Tuesdays and Sundays. He drove around areas of Biak on Sunday 3/25 and Sunday 6/24 with friends who took photos, including that at right.
- A beer ration 2/23, and on 7/14 received 24 cans of beer.
- **Guard duty for 6 hours, 1-2 times/mo.**, as summarized below.
- **K.P. duty 3 times/mo, then 2 times, declining to once/mo.**: 2/3, 2/15, 2/28, 3/10, 3/16, 4/20, 4/29, 6/11, 7/2, 7/27, 8/13, 9/11.
- Carpenter detail 3/22 and 4/24.
- Garbage-burning detail 4/26.
- Mess supply detail 6/2.
- Detail to start taking down the Biak camp for the move to Dulag on 7/18 and again 7/20.

He also had the movie titles, far right, I did not have before.

Gunderson Guard Duty				Biak Additional Movies	
Biak	From	Til	Location	Date	Movie
	2/24	0:00	7:00	3/9	Sunday Dinner for a Soldier
	3/4	19:00	1:00	3/16	Strike Up the Band
	3/13	19:00	1:00	4/3	Meet Me in St. Louis
	4/9	1:00	7:00	4/22	National Velvet
	4/25	0:00	6:00	4/29	Song to Rei Motor Pool
	5/27	1:00	7:00	5/15	Two Down and One to Go
	6/29	19:00	1:00	6/25	Thunderhead
	8/9	0:00	6:00	8/1	Twice Blessed
Dulag	From	Til			
	9/8	19:00	4:00		
			Mess Hall		

Gunderson's role was to adjust, tune, and maintain radar equipment, and teach the air crew how to operate the Loran Navigation Set. His work location was "at the line," i.e., the ramp at the airfield, where he had a shop. His Separation Record said he "Supervised a crew of eight."

His missions included three 1-day trips out and back:

- 3/27 to Morotai to check out pilots on radar set.
 - 4/11 to the Admiralties and back, 11 hours, 1800 miles.
 - 5/12 a 2-hour night flight, his first time in a C-46.
- At right and below (from Getter) he is with a C-46.

He had two overnight missions:

- 3/29-4/2 - to Morotai, where he slept under the airplane wing, then 2 days of 8-hour round trips from Morotai to Samar on Leyte, and an 11-hour round trip to Palawan, then back to Biak 4/1. He noted he received no flying pay for these 5 days, and an estimated 5,000 miles.
- 4/13-4/17 - to Morotai; waited 4 days for a flight back.

His diary notes also included:

- Air raids 3/22 at 9:15 p.m., 4/4, 7/9, and 7/12 (1.5 hrs).
- Award ceremonies 3/24 and 7/5.
- Basketball vs. the 64th: 6/11 won 25-18 (\$10,000 bet on game), 6/12 lost 33-22, 6/14 lost 33-30.
- The funeral on the book's page 694 was 8/1, in the morning – I did not have this date.

Guabello's diary entries include a description of a bombing Gunderson also experienced:

"March 24: 2 Japanese planes took whole island [Biak] by surprise by dropping 14 bombs, causing fair damage in warehouse area, C-54 & 2 P-38s burned up. 40 lives taken, 200 wounded. [On the book's page 629.]

"Next few nights many practice alerts were staged. [Anti-aircraft and combat aircraft] outfits moved in very fast for protection of island. Now tonight [April 4] we had 3 blackouts. Two were our own planes with IFF out, the other was unknown. We have to check IFF of our planes and had a lecture on being extra-precautious now that we are in danger. Still unknown where enemy planes came from on night of raid. Probabilities point to Jap-held New Guinea or Celebes [near Morotai].

"Japs in hills quieted down. We hold about 1/15 of island [Biak]. After 2 weeks of preparation, we're prepared for anything the J--s have to offer."

The diary's entries are retyped on the following pages. After these is a page with four programs Gunderson saved, that for the first time describe the 403rd Group chapel services. Thank you, Norton Gunderson and Joann!



APRIL 1945

Sun 11 hrs flight to Palawan
 1 hr return combat flying
 91
 Easter Sunday
 Dinner over
 Sulu Sea at 9000 ft

11 hrs flight to Admiralties
 & return 1800 miles
 Wed
 11
 101

Diary of Norton A. Gunderson, Radar Mechanic, 1/30/45-9/17/45

Date	Day	Entry (at Hollandia until 1/30/45, then Biak)
1/21	Sun	1 hr detail. U.S.O. show at hospital very good. Wrote P.
1/22	Mon	No detail. Movie 'Saratoga Trunk.'
1/23	Tue	No detail. Swimming a.m.
1/24	Wed	No detail.
1/25	Thu	No detail. Climbed to waterfall.
1/26	Fri	3 hrs detail in kitchen. Movie "Mark of Zoro."
1/27	Sat	3 hrs detail in kitchen.
1/28	Sun	Church at 10 a.m.
1/29	Mon	Alerted for Shipment
1/30	Tue	Up at 3 a.m. Plane landed Hollandia at 3 p.m., reach Biak at 5. Fin
1/31	Wed	{Now 13th TCS} Get settled in new place. Very neat appearing.
2/1	Thu	Out to line
2/2	Fri	Work on [radio] sets I studied in school in Boca Raton
2/3	Sat	K.P. Cig issue, 4 cartons.
2/4	Sun	Chapel. Wrote some letters.
2/5	Mon	On line (the aircraft line at the airfield).
2/6	Tue	Work on sets at gr. Hq. Movie "Winged Victory."
2/7	Wed	On line. Mail from M&H dated Jan 8, 13, 20 th .
2/8	Thu	On line.
2/9	Fri	Day off
2/10	Sat	On line
2/11	Sun	Chapel. Wrote letters.
2/12	Mon	On line
2/13	Tue	At Group. Instructing
2/14	Wed	On line
2/15	Thu	K.P.
2/16	Fri	Went to 105th hospital to check for malaria.
2/17	Sat	Hosp.
2/18	Sun	Hosp.
2/19	Mon	Hosp.
2/20	Tue	Hosp.
2/21	Wed	Returned from hosp., no malaria I guess.
2/22	Thu	On line
2/23	Fri	On line. Beer ration.
2/24	Sat	On line. Guard duty at midnite to 7 a.m. Sunday.
2/25	Sun	Slept until noon. Wrote letters in P.M. Show at nite.
2/26	Mon	Line
2/27	Tue	Line
2/28	Wed	K.P. [Was] paid 170.45 guilders. G.I. show and basketball game.
3/1	Thu	On line. Show.
3/2	Fri	Day off
3/3	Sat	Line
3/4	Sun	On line. Guard duty, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.
3/5	Mon	Day off
3/6	Tue	On line. Movie.
3/7	Wed	Line. Worked in eve.
3/8	Thu	Line.
3/9	Fri	Day off. U.S.O. show. Movie "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier."
3/10	Sat	K.P.

Date	Day	Entry
3/11	Sun	Chapel in A.M. Rained all day. Wrote a few letters. Movie at nite.
3/12	Mon	Sick call in A.M. - sore arm. On line P.M. Wrote Hartley
3/13	Tue	Guard duty 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Day off.
3/14	Wed	On line
3/15	Thu	On line
3/16	Fri	K.P. Movie "Strike Up the Band."
3/17	Sat	Day Off
3/18	Sun	Chapel A.M. Wrote letters P.M. Show.
3/19	Mon	On line.
3/20	Tue	Day off. Movie. Shots for typhus & cholera.
3/21	Wed	On line.
3/22	Thu	Carpenter detail. 9:15 p.m. Air Raid. Some damage.
3/23	Fri	On line. Rc'd X-mas package. Air raid alert. No nips.
3/24	Sat	Dress formation to present Air Medals to about 75.
3/25	Sun	Chapel. Drove around island, native villages. Movie in evening.
3/26	Mon	On line
3/27	Tue	8 hrs flying to Morotai & return to check out pilots & copilots on oper
3/28	Wed	Day off
3/29	Thu	4 hrs flight to Morotai. Sleep under wing of plane.
3/30	Fri	8 hrs flight to Samar, Philippines and return.
3/31	Sat	8 hrs flight to Samar and return.
4/1	Sun	11 hrs flight to Palawan + return, combat flying. Have Easter dinner o
4/2	Mon	Return to Biak. Roughly 5,000 mi past week. No flying pay.
4/3	Tue	Day off. Movie "Meet Me in St. Louis."
4/4	Wed	A.M. off. Instruct classes in P.M. Air raid alert.
4/5	Thu	Class all day.
4/6	Fri	Class A.M. Line P.M. Movie.
4/7	Sat	On line. Also work until 11:50 p.m.
4/8	Sun	Chapel A.M. Roast beef dinner, first in long time. Take a few snaps i
4/9	Mon	1 a.m. to 7 a.m. guard duty. Remainder of day off.
4/10	Tue	Day off.
4/11	Wed	11 hrs flight to Admiralties and return, 1800 miles.
4/12	Thu	Day off.
4/13	Fri	4 hrs to Morotai. Stars and Gripes G.I. show at nite.
4/14	Sat	Still at Mor. Awaiting a fit.
4/15	Sun	Same as Sat. Have some very good donuts at Red +
4/16	Mon	Still waiting. Get lots of sack time.
4/17	Tue	Leave Mor at 7:30, ar B at 10:30. Several letters awaiting me.
4/18	Wed	Work on line.
4/19	Thu	Detail area.
4/20	Fri	K.P. Mail gift to mother and Helen.
4/21	Sat	Worked in A.M.
4/22	Sun	Worked in radar shack all day. Show "National Velvet"
4/23	Mon	On line.
4/24	Tue	Carpenter detail.
4/25	Wed	Guard duty [at] motor pool midnite to 6 a.m. Wrote several letters
4/26	Thu	Garbage burning detail.
4/27	Fri	Day off.
4/28	Sat	Radio shack in A.M. P.M. off.

carpenter detail
 Tues
 24
 114

guard duty
 motor pool
 midnite to 6 A.M.
 wrote several letters
 Wed
 25
 115

Diary - Continued

Date	Day	Entry	Date	Day	Entry
4/29	Sun	K.P. time off for chapel. Movie "Song to Remember."	6/17	Sun	Day off. Chapel a.m. Buddy + I take some snaps in P.M. Movie "H
4/30	Mon	Pay day, 57.90 guilders. Work in radar shack. U.S.O. show.	6/18	Mon	on line. Letter from Harley. Write Anna for national Honorable Disch
5/1	Tue	Day off. Rumors of War in Germany ends.	6/19	Tue	day off. Movie "Without Love."
5/2	Wed	On line.	6/20	Wed	on line
5/3	Thu	On line	6/21	Thu	on line
5/4	Fri	On line. Rcc'd package from home.	6/22	Fri	on line. Wrote Al Ostlis (?)
5/5	Sat	Work ½ day.	6/23	Sat	work a.m.
5/6	Sun	Day off. Chapel. Take a few pics in P.M. Movie "[A] Tree Grows	6/24	Sun	chapel. Drove around island in P.M., took some snaps.
5/7	Mon	Work ½ day. 2 shots in P.M., typhoid & tetanus. 11 p.m. news of	6/25	Mon	line. Saw movie "Thunderhead."
5/8	Tue	Day off	6/26	Tue	day off
5/9	Wed	On line	6/27	Wed	on line
5/10	Thu	On line	6/28	Thu	on line
5/11	Fri	On line	6/29	Fri	line. Guard duty 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.
5/12	Sat	1/2 day on line. 2 hr flight at nite in C46, my 1st ride in a C46	6/30	Sat	pay day. 83.25 guilders. Work all day.
5/13	Sun	Mothers day + Helen birthday. Had to work so no church. USO sh	7/1	Sun	work all day on line
5/14	Mon	Area detail	7/2	Mon	K.P.
5/15	Tue	Day off. G.I. movie "2 down and 1 to go."	7/3	Tue	day off
5/16	Wed	On line	7/4	Wed	line. Movie at nite.
5/17	Thu	On line	7/5	Thu	Parade [ground] for presentation of air medal to about 13 men of sqd
5/18	Fri	On line	7/6	Fri	line cig issue
5/19	Sat	Slight cold in nose. Went on sick call.	7/7	Sat	work a.m.
5/20	Sun	Day off. Chapel a.m. Write letters p.m. Move at nite.	7/8	Sun	day off. Chapel in A.M. Write and read in P.M.
5/21	Mon	On line	7/9	Mon	line Air raid alert
5/22	Tue	day off. Movie "Practically Yours."	7/10	Tue	day off
5/23	Wed	line	7/11	Wed	line.
5/24	Thu	line	7/12	Thu	line. 1 1/2 hr red alert, longest thus far
5/25	Fri	line	7/13	Fri	line
5/26	Sat	line worked in p.m.	7/14	Sat	1/2 day off. 24 cans beer. Rumor of moving
5/27	Sun	guard duty, 1 AM to 7 A.M.	7/15	Sun	Chapel. Write a few letters
5/28	Mon	work a.m.	7/16	Mon	line
5/29	Tue	day off	7/17	Tue	day off. 1st men move out to set up new camp in Philippines.
5/30	Wed	line	7/18	Wed	detail to start taking down camp
5/31	Thu	line	7/19	Thu	line
6/1	Fri	line	7/20	Fri	detail same as Wed.
6/2	Sat	Detail, supply for mess	7/21	Sat	1/2 day off. Mail rings to mother for birthday
6/3	Sun	work. Mail pic to mother, Harold. Write Bert.	7/22	Sun	Work on line
6/4	Mon	on line. Write H.R.+ Miss S--, enclose pictures. Mail \$100 home, tre	7/23	Mon	line. detail at nite
6/5	Tue	day off. Wrote T & E.	7/24	Tue	day off
6/6	Wed	on line	7/25	Wed	line a.m.
6/7	Thu	notified I made sergeant only 4 months in outfit effective June 1st	7/26	Thu	line
6/8	Fri	on line	7/27	Fri	K.P. Peace offered, Japan's terms of surrender.
6/9	Sat	line	7/28	Sat	line a.m.
6/10	Sun	chapel a.m. Write letters p.m. Movie	7/29	Sun	Day off Plane cracks up - 3 [died].
6/11	Mon	K.P. Basketball game 64th vs. 13th, 25 to 18 our favor. \$10,000 on	7/30	Mon	line.
6/12	Tue	Day off. Basketball 64th vs. 13th, 22 to 33, their favor. Overtime per	7/31	Tue	Day off write T. Pay \$69.34.
6/13	Wed	on line	8/1	Wed	Funeral A.M. On line P.M. Movie "Twice Blessed."
6/14	Thu	on line. Basketball final, 33 to 30, favor 64th	8/2	Thu	work a.m.
6/15	Fri	on line. Movie.	8/3	Fri	line
6/16	Sat	P.M. off. Apply for agric [agricultural?] discharge	8/4	Sat	line

At right is Gunderson's daughter Joann's shadow box display case of her dad's service, including his awards, which are the:

- 1st row: Presidential Unit Citation, US and Philippine
- 2nd row: Good Conduct Award, American Campaign Ribbon
- 3rd row: Asiatic Pacific Campaign with 3 battle stars (the Southern Philippines, Luzon, and Western Pacific), WWII Victory Ribbon, Philippine Liberation.

11



AUGUST 1945

Sat *line 9. M.*
 11 *awakened at 12:45 a.m.*
 223 *say Japan decided to give up their terms of peace they to keep Emp under our control*

on line
listen to short wave broadcasts regarding Jap surrender
 Sun 12 224

Diary - Continued

Date	Day	Entry	Date	Day	Entry
8/5	Sun	day off. Movie. Com service at chapel.	9/23	Sun	Over 6000 men in camp built for 1000. 3000 casuals from U.S. Cho
8/6	Mon	Line. 1st atomic bombs dropped on Japan.	9/24	Mon	No. [number] 1380 shipped.
8/7	Tue	day off. Wrote Wally	9/25	Tue	Rained most day. Marking time.
8/8	Wed	On line. Russia declares war on Japan, should end Oct 1st.	9/26	Wed	K.P. No. thru 1727 shipped.
8/9	Thu	Guard duty, midnite to 6 a.m.	9/27	Thu	Visited old sqdn. No ships is the story for men not moving.
8/10	Fri	Line. Aussie stage show. Japan decides to surrender, but to keep Em	9/28	Fri	waiting.
8/11	Sat	Line a.m. Awakened at 12:45 a.m. Say Japan decided to give up, ou	9/29	Sat	visited Palo market day, the smelliest place I have ever seen, also
8/12	Sun	on line. Listen to short wave broadcasts regarding Jap surrender.	9/30	Sun	slept + read. Numbers from 1787 to 2106 shipped.
8/13	Mon	K.P. Still waiting news of surrender. All think war is over.	10/1	Mon	waiting
8/14	Tue	day off	10/2	Tue	No. 2420 shipped. 3 yrs ago today enlisted, time wasted.
8/15	Wed	War officially ends News at 7 a.m. Happy day. Start to pack eq	10/3	Wed	waiting. Gets terribly hot during day. Nites are cold.
8/16	Thu	Pack remainder of equip for move to Philippines. Orders to leave for I	10/4	Thu	No. thru 3048 shipped. Only 500 ahead.
8/17	Fri	Leave Biak at 2 a.m. Reach Leyte at 1 p.m. Orders cancelled for Ok	10/5	Fri	lots of sack time. Read a lot. No. up to nearly 7,000 now.
8/18	Sat	Will be an elaborate camp when finished. Spent day unpacking.	10/6	Sat	waiting.
8/19	Sun	down to line in A.M. No shop setup yet. Rather nice camp area, gras	10/7	Sun	waiting.
8/20	Mon	On detail to put up building for orderly room. Sqdn notified of Pre	10/8	Mon	alerted at 4:30, no. thru 3687. Pack bags.
8/21	Tue	same detail. Agri discharge reported as disapproved.	10/9	Tue	On trucks at 11 a.m. Leave dock on barge at 12, anchor up at 3:00,
8/22	Wed	down to line as yet no shop set up. Hot weather. Picture from mother	10/10	Wed	APA196 USS Logan, a Navy ship, food good, load tons of mail in 1
8/23	Thu	set up generator, 28 volt.	10/11	Thu	Pick up 800 seamen from Samar. Under way at 3:00 p.m. Make 1
8/24	Fri	down to line. Very little doing.	10/12	Fri	Sea calm, 3 meals a day
8/25	Sat	down to line, rather interesting place after Biak.	10/13	Sat	calm, movies every other nite.
8/26	Sun	chapel in A.M. Heard 4 Philippine girls sing, very good.	10/14	Sun	services on deck at 9 a.m. Calm
8/27	Mon	line. Hardly nothing doing.	10/15	Mon	slight swells
8/28	Tue	line. Start plans for new shop. Movie at nite.	10/16	Tue	calm
8/29	Wed	line. No shop, thus no work.	10/17	Wed	detail to carry rations
8/30	Thu	line. Getting darn lazy as nothing to do.	10/18	Thu	refueled at crew stop Marshall Is. 5 hrs time needed, continues hot i
8/31	Fri	line. Food getting rather poor, would think we lost the war. Flew to	10/19	Fri	slightly rough, windy, also rough
9/1	Sat	line in A.M. Not much doing.	10/20	Sat	Cross 180° Meridian at 4 o'clock. A 2nd Sat, thus chance to live sar
9/2	Sun	chapel in A.M. V-J day. Japs finally sign. Slept and read most of day	10/21	Sun	services on deck, movies last nite on deck, every other nite, read + s
9/3	Mon	started building shop.	10/22	Mon	rather calm, getting cooler
9/4	Tue	sick call. Wash out ears, apply for discharge, 38 yrs old, paid 78.10	10/23	Tue	change course to Seattle
9/5	Wed	worked on shop. Going to be quite the place, 72 x 20 ft.	10/24	Wed	slight smell
9/6	Thu	on shop	10/25	Thu	K.P. Getting rather rough, large swells
9/7	Fri	on shop	10/26	Fri	still rough weather, cold, put on all my O.D.s [olive drabs]
9/8	Sat	sick call. Ear trouble. Guard duty, mess hall, 7 p.m. to 4 a.m.	10/27	Sat	enter Puget Sound 6 AM, tie at dock pier 90 at 5 p.m., leave ship at
9/9	Sun	sleep a.m. read p.m. Developed pictures in evening	10/28	Sun	Go into Seattle in P.M., go to see "State Fair." Food very good at th
9/10	Mon	line. Work on shop.	10/29	Mon	Seattle in evening, movie "Our Vines have Tender Grapes," very good
9/11	Tue	K.P.	10/30	Tue	rainy day. Go down to Service club
9/12	Wed	inspec in A.M. Line in P.M.	10/31	Wed	Alerted for shipment tomorrow to McCoy, Wis.
9/13	Thu	Go to 44th Gen Hosp for ear trouble. Hum in left ear	11/1	Thu	down to train at 7, leave Seattle at 12 on troop train, no Pullmans av
9/14	Fri	blood test. X-rays	11/2	Fri	slept in chair, 1st time in G.I. travel. Nice scenic country.
9/15	Sat	no news	11/3	Sat	change trains at St. Paul at 9 P.M. Reach Camp McCoy at 1:30 AM.
9/16	Sun	Col. Says nothing wrong. 1st Sgt tells me my orders are here.	11/4	Sun	Up at 10, not much sleep, nice clean camp, movie at night
9/17	Mon	Sweating out orders to go back to sqdn. Feel OK. Hum disappeared	11/5	Mon	clothing check - very good food
9/18	Tue	return to sqdn. Start to clear sqdn to go home.	11/6	Tue	tack on [?] I.I. Billing [?] physical exam, put in claims for each issue
9/19	Wed	started to pack. Awaiting on orderly room to finish orders.	11/7	Wed	Final clothing check, final pay, get discharge at 10 A.M.
9/20	Thu	still waiting	11/8	Thu	Reach home today
9/21	Fri	Finally get going at 1 p.m. Reach casual camp, a mud hole, 1st step toward home, get No. 3513.			
9/22	Sat	Shipping men on 1380 started. Camp is 137th Repln [Replacement] Battalion, Tacloban, Leyte, P.I.			

war officially
ends news at 7 A.M.
happy day
start to pack equip in shop
 Wed 15 227

12

will be an elaborate
camp when finished
spent day unpacking
 Sat 18 230

ORDER OF SERVICE
403rd Troop Carrier Group
8 April 1945

PRELUDE: Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP:
"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people."

THE DOXOLOGY: Congregation

INVOCATION: Chaplain
(with Lord's prayer in unison)

HYMN: "More Love to Thee" # 74

SCRIPTURE READING: Selected

HYMN: "I Have to Tell the Story" # 72

PRAYER HYMN: "A Charge to Keep" # 140

PASTORAL PRAYER: Chaplain

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Threefold Amen"

SOLO: "Good Night and Good Morning"
(By Samuel W. Faris)

SERMON: Chaplain DeVore

INVITATION HYMN: "Near the Cross" # 109

CHORAL RESPONSE: Choir

POSTLUDE: Christ for the World we Sing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord's Supper will be served immediately following the morning service. All Christians are invited to remain. THIS IS IN REMEMBRANCE OF US!

An informal Evangelistic service is held in this chapel each Sunday night at 1900. Following the evening service, a Bible class is being taught by chaplain DeVore. If you are interested in learning more about the Bible come and study with us.

Midweek services are held each Thursday night at 1900.

REPORT OF MISSION OFFERING

March 25	\$139.96
April 1	126.62
Total	\$266.58

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The low ways are easy, but failure and death lurk there. The high ways are steep and rough, but life is there."

MEMORIAL SERVICE
403rd Troop Carrier Group
30 May 1945

PRELUDE

DEDICATORY REMARKS: Colonel SANDS

QUARTETTE

SCRIPTURE READING AND REMARKS: Chaplain

PRAYER

TAPS

RECESSIONAL

In memory of those who have given their lives in the preservation of humanity and civilization, we dedicate this service and this day.

The only consolation and comfort we have for their supreme sacrifice is that they gave willingly for a just cause. It has not been in vain, and the Christian world will have a more firm foundation on which we can build our lives and the lives of our children.

H. G. Sands

Programs from Four 403rd Troop Carrier Group Chapel Services

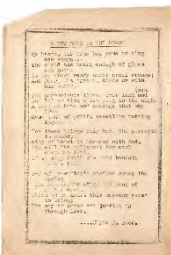
Gunderson had programs from the 403rd Group chapel next to our camp in Biak and Dulag.

4/8/45 (left and above left) – The chapel had an organ and an organist. The Chaplain led all in the Lord's prayer. A singer sang a solo. There is an "Invitation Hymn" such as in Baptist churches. Communion was after the service. On the right it states "An informal Evangelical service is held in this chapel each Sunday night at 1900. Following this service, a Bible class is being taught by chaplain DeVore." Midweek services are held each Thursday at 1900. They took a collection each week for missions, and the prior week received \$126.72 (\$1,970 in 2022).

5/30/45 (right and above right) – this is a Memorial Day Service, concluding with "Taps."

6/24/45 (left and below left) – this has evangelical hymns "All Hail the Power," "Jesus Calls Us," and "Beneath the Cross."

8/26/45 (below right) – this is after the 13th TCS moved to Dulag, and is at an undetermined location. It features a singing quartette of the Managbanag Sisters. Gunderson wrote in his diary "Heard 4 Philippine girls sing. Very good." A solo by Miss Sarah Manabanag. The announcements state communion is still after the service, evening worship is at 7 p.m., and prayer services are Thursdays at 7 p.m.



ORDER OF SERVICE
24 June 1945

PRELUDE: Selected

CALL TO WORSHIP:
"For every, O Lord, Thy word is settled in Heaven. Thy Faithfulness is unto all generations; thou hast established the earth, and it abideth."

THE DOXOLOGY: Congregation standing

INVOCATION

HYMN: "All Hail the Power" # 60

HYMN: "Jesus Calls Us" # 98

SCRIPTURE READING

PRAYER HYMN: "Beneath the Cross" # 63

PRAYER: With Choral Response

SPECIAL

SERMON: Chaplain DeVore

INVITATION HYMN: "I Need Thee" # 77

BENEDICTION: Chaplain

CHORAL RESPONSE: Choir

"A TREE"

If Thou canst make so wonderful This thrilling thing, a tree; I wonder, Lord, what thou couldst make If man should yield to Thee.

If every tiny earth-born root Drank from the wells of God, If all day long his every breath Answered Thy slightest nod?

Bent, twisted, gnarled, time-eaten, But a glorious thing, this tree, With hands and heart uplifted Seeking the face of Thee!

O Thou who made me wondrous fair This thrilling thing, my tree, Because its every hour is lived An offering unto Thee.

O take me, root and branch and all, (The years go on apace) Grow up in me that radiant life That shines, Lord, from Thy face!

Offering last Sunday	\$68.65
Communion Service	1015
Evening Worship	1900
Bible Study	2000

ORDER OF SERVICE
26 August 1945

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:
"The Lord is my light and my Salvation, Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

THE DOXOLOGY: # 1

INVOCATION

HYMN: "I am Thine, O Lord" # 113

SCRIPTURE READING

SOLO: Miss Sarah Managbanag

RESPONSIVE READING: # 35

PRAYER HYMN: "Majestic Sweetness" # 105

PRAYER: Chaplain

QUARTETTE: "Awakening Chorus"

SERMON: Managbanag Sisters
Chaplain DeVore

INVITATION HYMN: "Jesus, Lover of my Soul" # 116

BENEDICTION: Chaplain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION SERVICE will be held following the morning worship service.

EVENING WORSHIP: 1900

PRAYER SERVICE: Thursday 1900

YOUR CHAPEL

To All who sorrow, and need comfort
To All who are weary, and need rest
To All who are friendless and need Friendship
To All who are homeless and need sheltering love
To All who pray, and to all who do not but should
To All who sin and need a Saviour;

THE CHAPEL OPENS WIDE ITS DOORS and in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, bids "WELCOME"

"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"

2. Members and Relatives

a. Found Daughter of McDonough

On February 15, while trying to find another photo of Gornbein, I looked at files from people he practiced with at Bergstrom, which included McDonough. In 2017, I contacted McDonough's nephew's daughter, and sent her a book, and thought he had no children of his own. On February 15, I decided to confirm this and found an obit. I was surprised to learn he had two daughters and a son. I called and spoke to one daughter, Kathy. She had no idea about my research and was happy to get the information I sent her, e.g., PDFs of pages from the book. I emailed Kathy the image of twelve men on page 6, and she was happy to identify her dad in the middle of the group.

On February 17, as I went over the items of Cohen for the last newsletter, he had signatures on currency of just five men, and one was McDonough. I emailed this to Kathy. On February 19, Kathy emailed me photos of her dad's photos, and one of these, on page 6 herein, showed Cohen holding the Japanese flag, the flag I had held on February 6, 13 days before. Kathy was great to mail me her 8 originals for me to scan and included two orders. Both had Abramowitz from the last newsletter. These were three surprising and fun coincidences.

b. Good Photo of Irwin Cohen at Biak

On March 1, after sending out the newsletter, while speaking to Joann Gunderson, she mentioned she had an "I surrender" pamphlet for the Japanese to give us. I had seen this before from Harriss and looked at his files. I found many photos of men with a Japanese flag, and it was the one in the last newsletter which Irwin Cohen had. I realized the photo at right is Cohen with this flag, inset. This is in front of around tent A9 at Biak (the colorization should have made the flag center red). I was happy to find a good photo of Cohen. He turned 20 years old on 2/16/45.

3. Conclusions and Thanks

The squadron history advanced, yet again. Thank you to Bergstrom's daughter for in 2020 sharing her dad's photos of the 7/22/43 award ceremony.

A big thank you to Block's son John, who, after I emailed him March 2 asking if I could get higher resolution scans of his two photos of the 8/2/43 ceremony on page 4, went right away and spent \$27 to overnight these to me. They were key to figuring out the 8/2/43 ceremony.

Thank you to Kathy McDonough and Joann Gunderson for each sharing their dads' fantastic items.

With best wishes,
Seth

