

# July 2016 Newsletter



Dear Thirsty 13<sup>th</sup> members, relatives, and friends,

In the five weeks since the last newsletter May 31, 2016, more information has been gained about the U.S. Army Air Corps 13<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, the “13<sup>th</sup> TCS,” in World War II.

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## Contents

<b>1. Additional History</b> .....	2
<b>a. 1943: Eleanor Roosevelt Letter</b> .....	2
<b>b. 1943: Sweet Leilani Right Side from Woodall</b> .....	2
<b>c. 1944-1945: Items from Max Schneider, Pilot, 7/44-4/45</b> .....	3
<b>d. 1945: Photos of July 29 C-46 Crash Site</b> .....	8
<b>2. History-Related Activities</b> .....	9
<b>a. License Plate-Mounted Emblem</b> .....	9
<b>b. Sad Sack Cartoon</b> .....	9
<b>3. Members and Relatives</b> .....	10
<b>a. Finding the Missing</b> .....	10
<b>b. Book Distribution and Other</b> .....	14
<b>4. Conclusions</b> .....	14

This is the newsletter for the U.S. Army Air Corps 13<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, 1940-1946, nicknamed “The Thirsty 13<sup>th</sup>.” 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 13<sup>th</sup>” unless otherwise stated.

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## 1. Additional History

### a. 1943: Eleanor Roosevelt Letter

The book on page 354 notes Eleanor Roosevelt toured the Pacific in 1943, and for the two times she landed in New Caledonia, at Tontouta Air Base, the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS flew her 20 minutes to a smaller airfield in Nouméa, near Admiral Halsey's headquarters.

On June 9, Joe Power emailed me the scan at right of a letter Mrs. Roosevelt wrote four months later. He wrote: "Found this in my grandmother's papers. She had evidently cut it to fit a frame. Thought you might want to add it to your records."

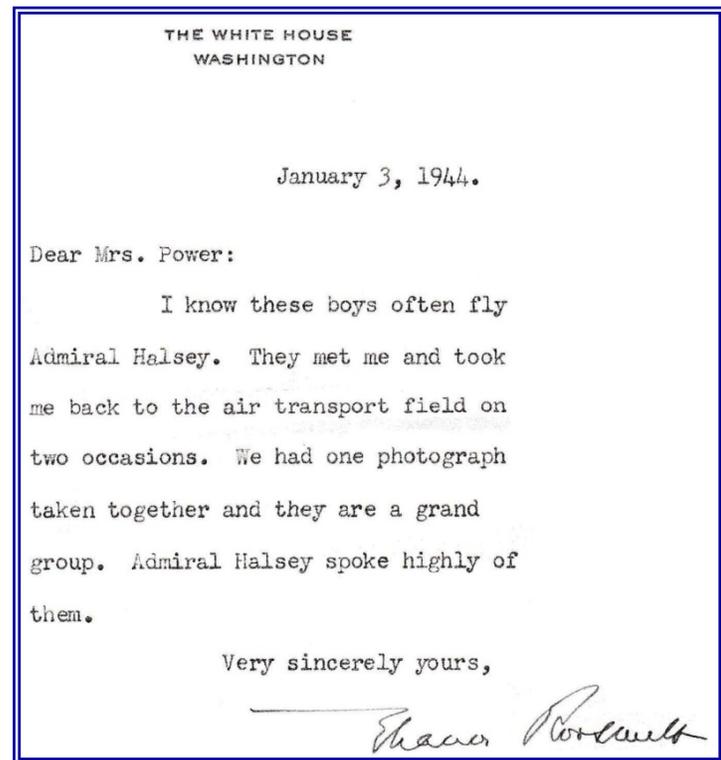
Mrs. Roosevelt makes several good points, that: "the boys often fly Admiral Halsey;" "they are a grand group;" and "Halsey spoke highly of them."

She writes the 13<sup>th</sup> "met me and took me back to the air transport field on two occasions." The squadron did indeed meet her twice, but each time flew her away from Tontouta, the field used by the Air Transport Command, to Magenta Aerodrome. Nevertheless it was wonderful of Eleanor Roosevelt to write this letter, in praise of the Thirsty 13<sup>th</sup>.

### b. 1943: Sweet Leilani Right Side from Woodall

The book on page 326 describes C-47 "Sweet Leilani" arriving in the squadron, with a photo of the left side nose art, and a big blank space and "N/A" above the words "Right Side." Therefore I was thrilled when on July 8 I received an email from the daughter Mary of pilot Woodall writing: "Have been sorting through a lot of old pictures, etc., and found these," and attached that at right. I immediately exclaimed "The right side!"

Woodall flew this plane from San Francisco to New Caledonia June 20-26, 1943. He is not in the photo, but standing fourth is LaLonde (cc), who inspired its name, the title of a 1937 song. The photo provides the first letter "P" of "PEG" on the nose, which was Woodall's wife's name. The photo is after August 1943 when the star was added. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> men appear to be officers, so this would not be the mechanic crew at the home base but be an air crew on a mission, perhaps at Segi Point or Treasury Island. If you recognize anyone (Judd 3<sup>rd</sup>?) please let me know.





**c. 1944-1945: Items from Max Schneider, Pilot, 7/44-4/45**

In February 2015 I received a book order from a man named Patrick near San Antonio, Tex. He and his wife were friends with a couple named Linda and Bill, and Linda told him her dad was in the Thirsty 13<sup>th</sup>. Patrick, an Air Force veteran, researched this, purchased a book, and gave it to her and Bill as a present. On March 2, 2015, Patrick put me in touch with Linda.

I have long wanted to visit Linda, and did so on June 26. I learned about her dad, above, how as a youth, at right, he could do handstands, even one-handed. He served in the Air Force for 26 years, also flying cargo planes in the Korean War. He was a squadron commander at the USAF Marksmanship School at Lackland AFB. He set a national pistol record in 1965 that stood until at least 1990, and was the first American invited to the British Invitational Pistol Competition, where he won the Queen's Cup. He was an artist and made beautifully engraved powder horns for muzzleloaders. Linda's grandson is named Max after him, and Max is also her brother's son's middle name.

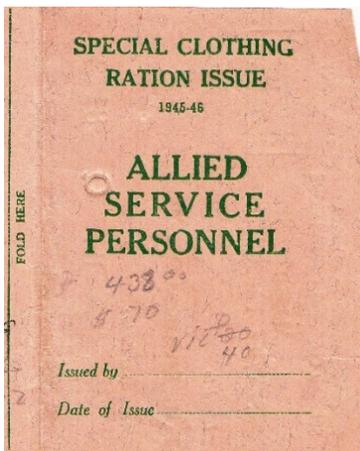


His WWII artifacts included probably the longest short snorter I have ever seen, above. Linda had his warrant officer pin, at right, the first I had seen (later promoted to lieutenant). It was great to see and hold his pilot wings, sunglasses, and a magnifying glass he had overseas.



The last newsletter noted that men on rest leave received coupons for clothing, and I was surprised to see that Max Schneider had one of these clothing ration cards, below. It appears to be for non-military clothing, perhaps because civilian purchases of new clothing was rationed.

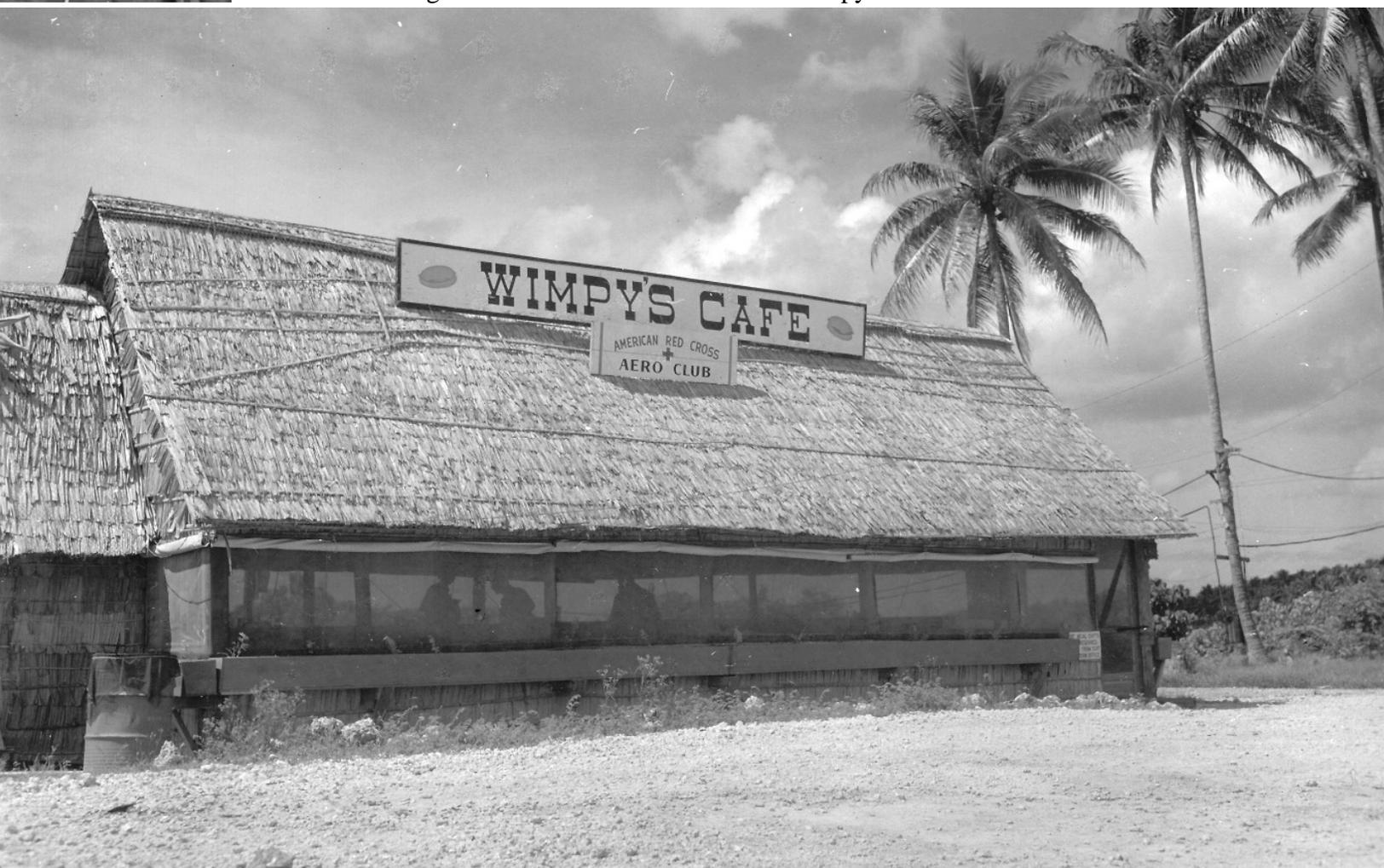
Max had a shaving kit bag, below, which he purchased in Australia, and he wrote on the bottom all the places he landed, which were the entire length of 13<sup>th</sup> TCS sites, including many towns in Australia. New locations for the 13<sup>th</sup> included Buna, New Guinea; Salvo (not found; perhaps Savo Island off of Guadalcanal); and Jolo, at right, between Mindanao and Tawi Tawi, in the southern Philippines.





Schneider went over on the troop ship Cape Canso in March 1944, and is pictured aboard at left. He landed in New Caledonia, where he was in the 6<sup>th</sup> Replacement Center. On July 13, 1944, he was assigned to the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS. He is pictured above estimated in the officer's area (page 386-7) at Espiritu Santo soon after arriving. He was assigned temporary duty with the 64<sup>th</sup> TCS at Guadalcanal, above right, and on July 19 flew to Fiji with pilots Buchen and Wysong. On July 20 he was reassigned back to the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS.

He flew to the Russell Islands, and had the photo at right of Schneider, pilot Oliveros, and the A.R.C.'s Anne Eitel. He had the best-ever photo of Wimpy's (p. 341), below, about which he wrote: "Hot coffee, cold chocolate milk, hamburgers with all the trimmings! The best hamburgers in the S.W.P. served here at Wimpy's!"





Schneider identified the C-47 above as the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS's "Sad Sack" (the squadron's second with this name). In the photo above left, he is on the right. The other men and airfield are not identified. He had the photo below of the Green Goggled Ghost (page 412), out the pilot's side window.



Schneider titled the photo below: "If there's a strip, you'll find our ship." On the right is the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS's Col Bud II (page 591), with, inset, the nose art enlarged. The first two C-47s on the left are of the 63<sup>rd</sup> TCS; the distant two together of the 64<sup>th</sup> TCS (sister squadrons of the 13<sup>th</sup>), and the C-47 taxiing is of the 63<sup>rd</sup>. Based on the tent, a temporary structure, this might be Noemfoor.







### Short Snorter



Schneider started a short snorter with the bill above on March 9, 1944. He had signatures top left of Edward C. White (p), Leon Lenderman (p), Charlie Q. Clark (p), Andy Rapp (m) and Ray Forste (p); top center Clarence Thompson (p), James S. Lowell (p), Walter Geuther (m), H.C. Myers (ro), and John Martinaga (instrument repair); and top right on November 20, 1944: Vilas Burgess (p), Norm Baxter (p), McClure (p), Viscusi (r), and Judd (p). On other bills he had: Burder, Charles T. Conn, Don W. Cooper, Dalmann, Anthony Drago, Jacklin, Killebrew, Ernest S. King, William Leonard, Locke, Lorio, Neil J. Malloy, Miller, Harry Molvar, Nasset, Payne, Richards, Skeens, Steele, Stout, Ummel, J. Walsh, Watland, and Weaver.

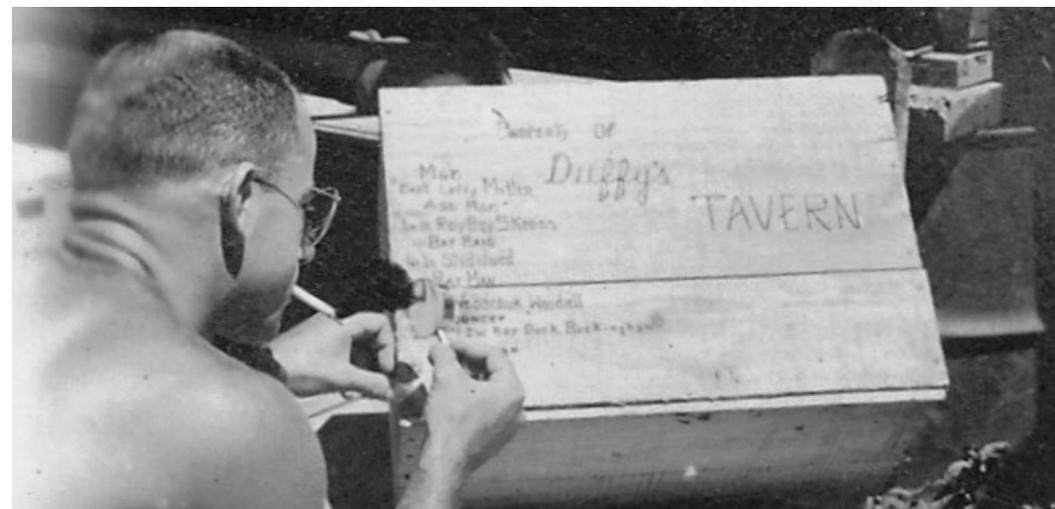
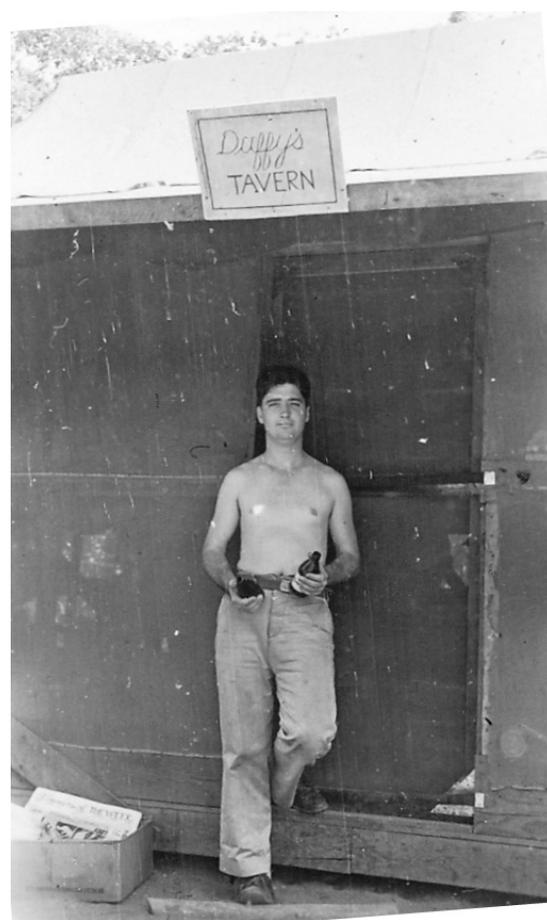
For Malloy I have puzzled over whether he spelled his first name Neil or Neal; and if his last name was Malloy or Molloy. It was great to see him write his name as: “Neil J. Malloy.” But I still did not find him on Ancestry.



### Duffy's Tavern at Espiritu Santo

Schneider had the photo at right of a Duffy's Tavern, estimated at Espiritu Santo or Guadalcanal, with perhaps Woodall, and below is using a magnifying glass to write on a wood box, with the same style letters, suggesting he may have made the sign at right. This Duffy's may have been for officers (at Biak for enlisted) because the names he writes are of four pilots and navigator Buckingham:

“Property of Duffy's Tavern. Man[ager] Capt Laffy Miller, Asst. Man. LeRoy Boy Skeens, Bar Maid [Stoddard?], Bar Man Woodchuk Woodall, Bouncer Our [?] boy Buck Buckingham.”





**d. 1945: Photos of July 29 C-46 Crash Site**

On June 18, 2016, I was looking for a file, and clicked through photos I scanned in May 2011 from the collection of Windham. I found the photo above, with a field number on the tail of 38. I recalled Max Amelang's note which his daughter Karen shared with us in May: "July 29<sup>th</sup> one of our C-46's (2<sup>nd</sup> oldest, #38) crashed & burned just before the blackout." These are then photos of the plane crash on page 690. The men are probably scavenging parts. Three men have rifles in case Japanese were still in the area. The man in the center holds a camera, over a camera box.

The plane was climbing after takeoff, and if the pilots saw the trees they would have pitched up even more, so the horizontal on the back of the tail was the lowest point and probably hit first.

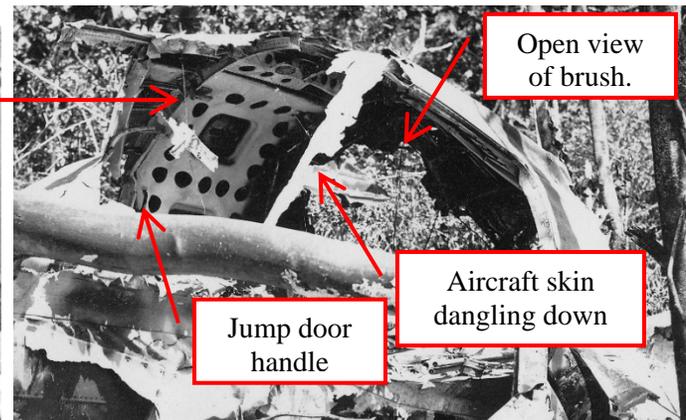
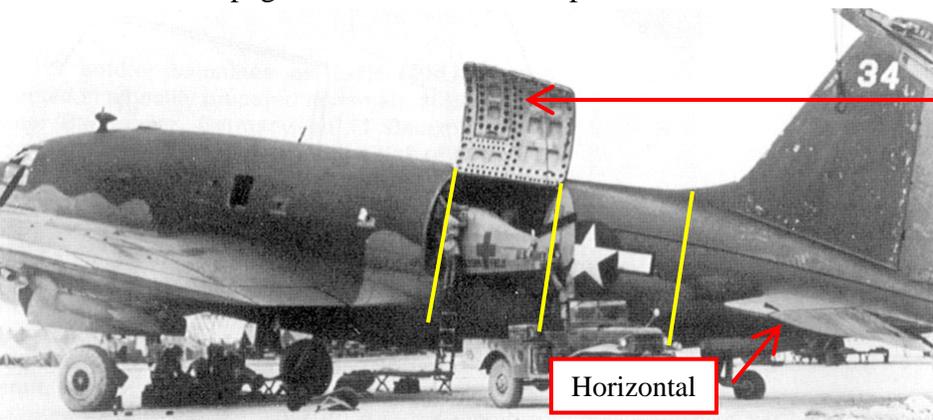
The photo below left of an unrelated C-46 shows the fuselage connects to the wing just forward of the cargo door, so this would be a natural point for the aft fuselage to break off if the horizontal hit a tree. The other breaks (at yellow lines) were likely from hitting trees sideways. The vertical has a dent in the leading edge, inset above, suggesting it hit the tree in front of it.

There were no photos of the further-forward areas, such as the cockpit, but Goodman on page 692 said the forward part burned.



Above is the view toward the tail, showing it is torn away equally on each side, and the piece on the left, also at left, is separate.

Below is the next piece forward, also below.



## 2. History-Related Activities

### a. License Plate-Mounted Emblem

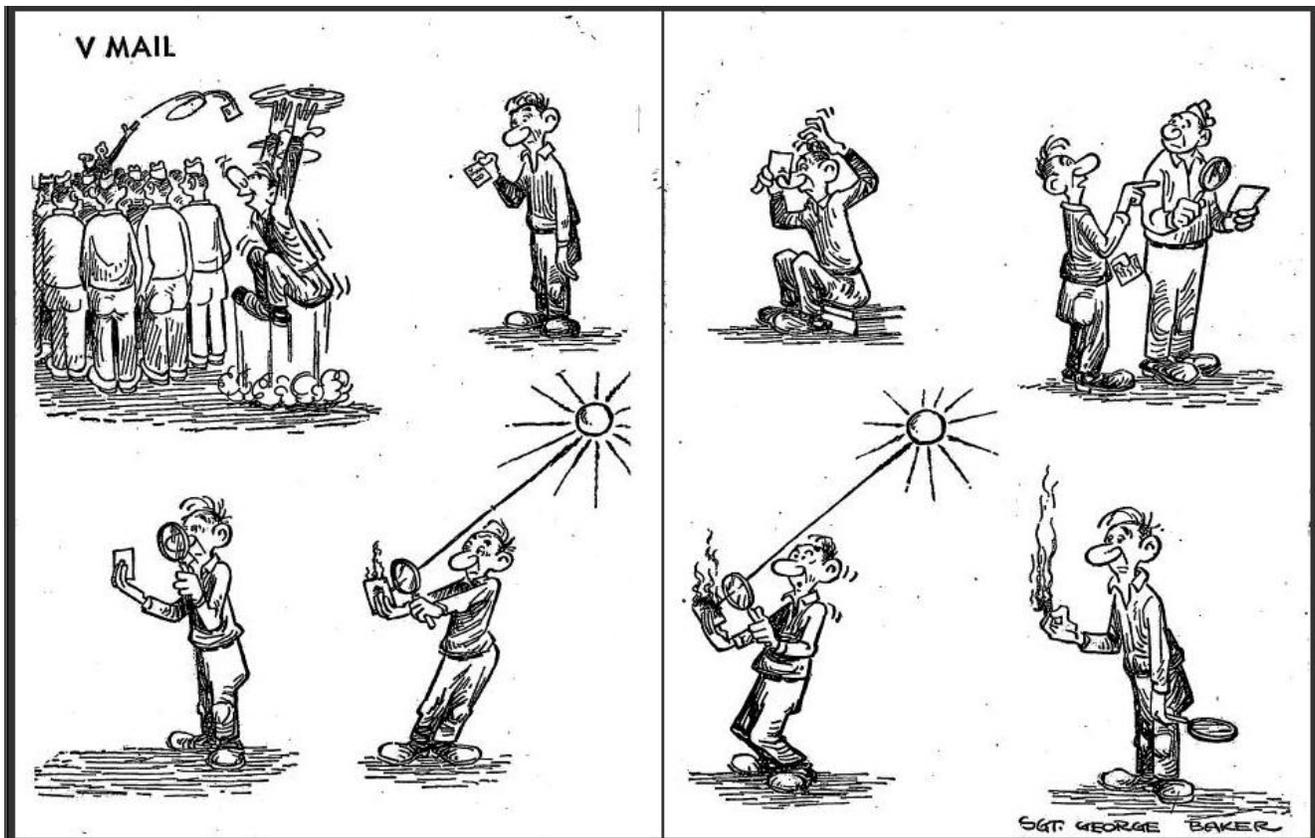
On June 2, 2016, Michael Finelli emailed me a photo of the sign at right. He wrote: "It was painted on a piece of sheet metal. If you notice the two holes on the bottom, it was meant to be mounted to the front of a car (where a front license plate would go). It was given to my grandfather [Dom Finelli, who organized the reunions] by somebody as a potential gift item to be distributed at one of the reunions, I believe."

What a great looking item. Very good hand-painting. It would make a handsome addition to any vehicle.



### b. Sad Sack Cartoon

On June 1, the son Lew of Radio Operator Harmon emailed me: "I recovered my dad's Sad Sack cartoon book - he may have bought this while he was in the Pacific - I remember reading it many times while growing up," and attached a scan of all of it. It was printed in 1944, and may have indeed been passed around in the camp. The cartoon below deals with V-Mail which some squadron members received. With V-Mail, letters from home were photographed and put on microfilm, the film reel sent overseas, and the letters printed. But it was small, as indicated.



### 3. Members and Relatives

#### a. Finding the Missing

The book on page 55 states there were 679 men in the squadron. While researching the book I found and spoke to about 70 original members, and relatives of 110 more. This left 500 member-families never found.

Last October I made a renewed push, and in looking up the men started recording their birth and death dates, final resting places and whether they were on FindaGrave. Birth and death dates create a link between a man's name in the squadron and his "real world" presence, and insure his name is spelled correctly. Resting places and FindaGrave links allow each man to be found and honored far in the future. The hardest part is finding relatives, but this allows men's descendants to learn of his service, and uncovers helpful additional photos and writings about the 13<sup>th</sup>.

I spent many days in June again trying to find the missing. This can be rather exciting, and below are some examples, each showing as underlined all of the information I had to start with.

M/Sgt. Bruce R. George, Sayre, Pa. – I:

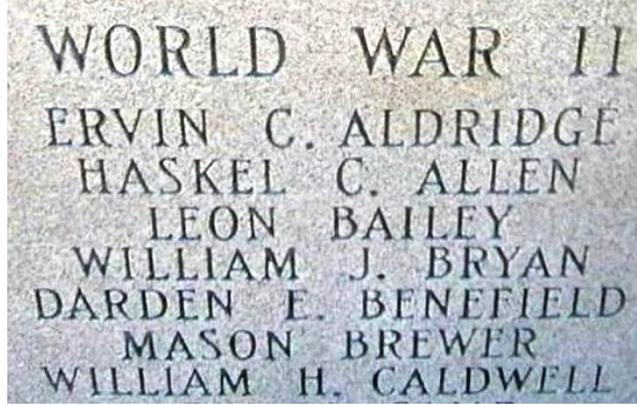
- a. searched on Ancestry with the middle initial and found no results,
- b. searched without the middle initial and found no results,
- c. searched on ww2enlistment.org and found a Bruce G. George, with a different middle initial, but listed as a M/Sgt., and from Tioga County, NY, born around 1904,
- d. Googled Tioga County, and found it was right next to Sayre, Pa. – a positive sign,
- e. on Ancestry searched Tioga and found this Bruce G. George, but no other information,
- f. not giving up, searched for Bruce G. George, born 1904 +/- 1 year, but left the town blank. This was a key additional step, and produced a link created by a woman named Lenore, adding him to her tree, and I wrote a note to her,
- g. received a reply from Lenore that just in March Bruce's niece had contacted her, and she had added him to her tree, and she forwarded my inquiry to this niece, Nancy,
- h. received an email from Nancy's husband Dale June 7, that he has many letters Bruce wrote with a return address of the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS. He had pulled them out of a box just a few days before, and had started reading them. He scanned them and emailed them to me.
- i. With this confirmed I also found a FindaGrave site for him, with his dates and cemetery.

John P. Weaver, Jr., Lancaster, Pa. – I:

- a. searched on Ancestry with the middle initial and found no results,
- b. searched without the middle initial and found no results
- c. not giving up, searched on only the last name, with a birth date range of 1915 +/- 10 years and Lancaster, Pa., and found a "J. Paul Weaver," who was the right person. This yielded his dates and burial place, although no relatives were found.

Neal E. Harris, Chicago, Ill. – He similarly did not appear on Ancestry, but in January I received scans from Hedges' daughter of his short snorter, and made a note in the spreadsheet that Neal signed this. I looked at the short snorter scan, below, to see if his middle initial was really "E." It was, but to my surprise it looked like he wrote two "s"s. I searched on this, and found his information right away, his actual last name being Harriss. This is one of the great things about the signatures on the short snorters – the men's names are always spelled correctly. I did not find his burial place or relatives, but at least have his correct name, birth and death date.





In Loving Memory of  
**William H. Caldwell**  
Sep 21, 1919 – Oct 20, 1945



Pictured in May 1945 (the location on page 544).

Born and raised in New Albany, Miss., where he lived at 301 Madison, he served with honor in World War II as a Radio Operator on C-46 and C-47 aircraft in the 13<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron in the South Pacific, Oct 44 – Oct 45, as described herein (his timeline on page 77). After transferred to the 65<sup>th</sup> TCS his C-46 crashed between Kanoya and Atsugi, Japan.

This book was donated in June 2016 to the Union County Library, New Albany, Miss.

William Caldwell, New Albany, Miss. – Ancestry listed two from New Albany, one born in 1919 with a middle initial H, and one, similar to ours, with no middle initial, born in 1924. The earlier one died in October 1945, and Driedger had said ours died when his plane hit a mountain, but the only crash I knew about was in November 1945. I messaged the Ancestry contact, named Rudy, for the 1919 man, who emailed the local VFW, and forwarded to me reports that the 1919 man was a radio operator on troop carrier planes. Looking up the 403<sup>rd</sup> monthly reports I was then surprised to see the 65<sup>th</sup> TCS had a C-46 crash in Japan in October 1945 which claimed a William Caldwell. As Amelang mentioned in the last newsletter, the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS members in early October 1945 were divided into the other four 403<sup>rd</sup> Group squadrons, and so apparently Caldwell went to the 65<sup>th</sup> TCS, where, within weeks, he died. He was ours first, though. He is named on a monument in New Albany, Miss., pictured above, so I asked Rudy if I could send him a book to give to the Union County Library in New Albany, and he said sure. I created the dedication above right to stick on the front end page. He might be the only person named on this monument to have his unit's deeds told in a book in the local library.

Addresses - I have home addresses from 1945, 1957, 1966, and 2008-11, but in my spreadsheet previously included only one of these, and often overwrote this if I found a more recent address. On June 5 I expanded this to four sections, to include addresses from each of these lists (which took a lot of time). I realized I also had addresses on the DFC and Air Medal awards, which were before 1945, and so added a fifth address section. Ancestry includes many records which include street addresses. For many hard-to-find men I added the street name to the search and, surprisingly, I found their details after Ancestry had the exact same street address.

Jack Hamilton, Lansing, Ill. – A search on Ancestry produced no results. The Air Medal award, though, included his wife's name, Esther. I searched for her and found a FindaGrave link for her, and this had a link to Jack, providing his dates and resting place.

William M. Brandt, Lubbock, Tex. in 1957 and Chicago in 1966 - Last year I found an obituary for the wife of a William M. Brandt from Lubbock, tried contacting some relatives, and never heard back. On June 6, after inputting the DFC addresses, I realized ours was actually from Indianapolis, Ind., and found his information. Lubbock had been an assignment with the Air Force after the war, and the William M. Brandt born there was a different person.

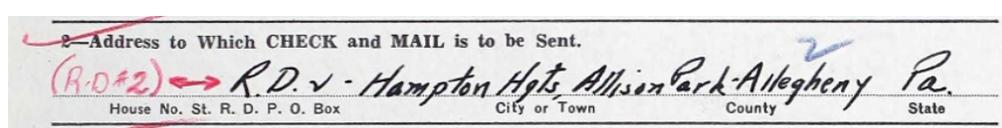
J.M. Brown, 3925 Gordon Avenue, Fort Worth, Tex. – a search on Ancestry produced no satisfactory results, but adding the street name to the search, and a birth year of 1915 +/-10 years, produced the record, at right, for a Jan N. Brown, born in 1920, who lived at this same address in 1993. This provided his first name, correct middle initial, and a link to a relative.

[SEE MORE](#) View all related information

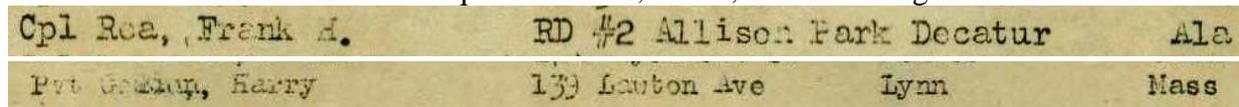
NAME: **Jan N Brown**

BIRTH DATE: **5 Mar 1920**

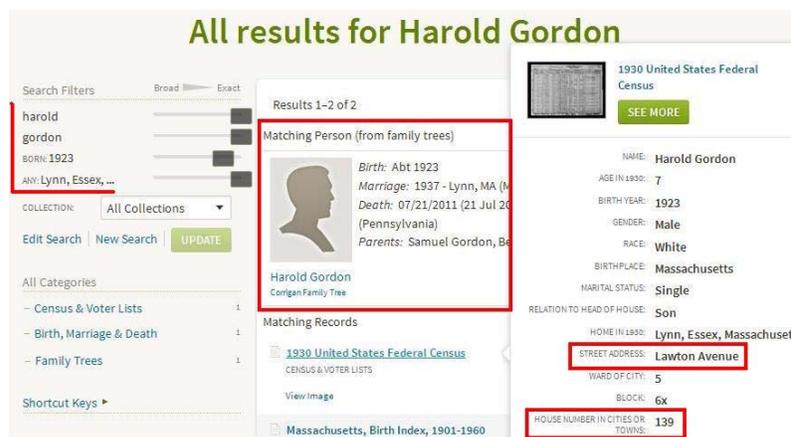
ADDRESS: **3925 Gordon Ave, Fort Worth, 76110-6061 (1993), TX**



Frank H. Rea, Rd #2 Allison Park, Decatur, Ala. – on Ancestry he did not appear. I searched on Rea in Decatur, Ala., and found several, but no Frank H. I searched Rea and the street name but again nothing. I searched all of Alabama and no Frank H. I then just searched on his name, without Alabama, and there was a Frank H. from Pennsylvania, but no mention of Alabama. Pennsylvania is a state for which one can find applications from around 1950 for additional WWII compensation, perhaps their way to thank their vets. Ancestry had a link to this, and the address, above, for the Pennsylvania Rea was “Rd #2, Allison Park” – the same as the Alabama address. The 1945 squadron roster, below, had the wrong town and state.



Harry Gordon, 139 Lawton, Lynn, Mass. – Again nothing found for him. I tried many times, in surrounding areas, on ww2enlist, and nothing. Then I thought to search on just the last name, town, and street name “Lawton,” and I found a “Harold” at this exact address, 139 Lawton Ave., born in 1923. Continuing, I searched on Harold and 1923 +/-1 year and found the result at right. When someone is added to a tree they appear in a special section, as outlined, including a link to the person who added him. I contacted this person, and she replied the next morning.

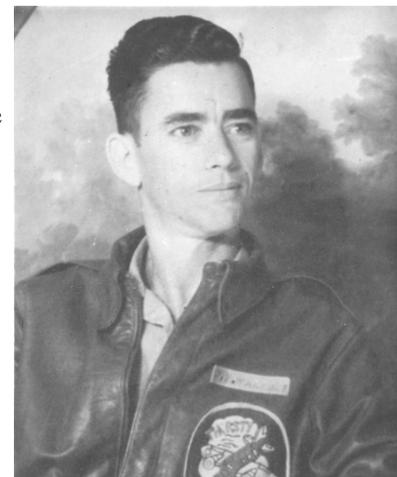


John P. Hopkins, 424 Lynch St., Jackson Miss. – He had been difficult to find, because his name is similar to a famous hospital, “Johns” Hopkins, which comes up in many searches. A search on his name and city on Ancestry produced only a John H. The Fold3 site, though, has the photos of the enlisted men taken at Tontouta which are in Two Years, with the full names listed on the back of these photos, and provided a middle name of Pace. Ancestry had a death date of 1985, and a link to a relative. FindaGrave lists 22 John P. Hopkins, but one passed away in 1985, and is buried in Mobile, Ala., near Jackson, Ms., and clicking on this I saw a headstone that he was a Sgt in the US Army Air Corps, confirming him, and providing his resting place.

Lloyd Rodgerson, Houston, Tex. – I had this spelled Rogerson, and Roegerson, but looked closer at a faded spelling and determined he was Rodgerson. This still produced no results. But then I left off the first name, and found a Loyd, with only one “L.” Searching then on this name with no town I found his dates and resting place.

In Ancestry I searched with no name or dates, but in the key word area “13<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier,” and found several mentions. These included A.J. Alexander, and I found his daughter. This also yielded the photo below right of Desmond Ray Harper, and I contacted the person who posted it. The jacket name appears to be J.T. Wallace, a friend of his from North Carolina.

I moved one man out of the squadron. Harold Messenger is on my dad’s list of people he knew in the squadron, but first appeared around January 1943, at the same time the 801<sup>st</sup> Medical Air Evacuation Squadron came over, and an online photo states he was a Captain with the 801<sup>st</sup>. The 801<sup>st</sup> was attached to the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS, and their doctors worked with our men, but it appears he was never a member of the squadron. This reduces our number of members from 679 to 678.



**Members and Families Found (of 678 total)**

Members*	29-May	30-Jun	Gain	Need
Birth Date	639 94%	653 96%	14	25
Death Date*	596 91%	616 94%	20	42
Resting Place*	475 72%	499 76%	24	159
FindaGrave Link*	362 55%	372 57%	10	286
Contact	306 45%	324 48%	18	354
Have Book	291 43%	308 45%	17	370

\* Percent and Need for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> exclude 20 known living

**Latest Totals**

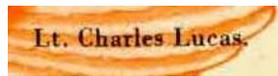
The latest totals are at right, and reflect large gains.

The 18 new member-families contacted were:

- |                 |            |            |            |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Alexander, A.J. | Coker      | Gordon, H. | Swartzell  |
| Baker, C.       | Donnelley  | Lesh       | Termini    |
| Bernard, R.     | George, B. | McWhorter  | Yeager, E. |
| Caldwell        | Gilmore    | Pogue      |            |
| Clunie          | Goessl     | Steele     |            |

The “Need” column above notes for 25 men we have no birth date, and for 42 have no death date. These are listed at right. 18 have no middle initial, and 22 have no address, making them almost impossible to find.

As an example, Charles Lucas is pictured in the squadron year-book “Two Years” as an officer in May 1945, but “Two Years” left out middle initials. Searching on Ancestry for Charles Lucas with a birth range of 1922 +/-2 years one finds 891 results. ww2enlistment.org lists 94 Charles Lucas’s in the Army. There is nothing to narrow it down.



The 42 men listed at right require new information, or their relatives contacting me. Therefore the above birth and death date totals may be the most I can achieve.

Within the totals, for 28 birth dates and 5 death dates I only have the year, not the month and day, and 25 men are estimated but not confirmed, and so these offer additional areas for improvement.

I have 499 resting places, and need 159 more.

The Contact line reflects that relatives of 324 members have been found, but 354 have yet to be contacted. These 354, representing 52% of the men ever in the squadron, and the potential to find even more photos and stories, perhaps more than twice as many as now, about the Thirsty 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Lost One: Samuel Prather, 1925-2016**

I spoke to Sam while writing the book, and included one of his quotes. I sent him a book when done, but lost touch with him in 2012. In searching for him again recently, I learned he passed away February 1, 2016. He was 90 years old.

**Thirsty 13th Members with no Dates of Birth or Passing**

#	Role	Last	First	MI	City	ST	From	To
1	Ground Officer	Rosenburg	"Doc"				2/44	6/45
2	Pilot	Beckman	Edward				5/45	9/45
3	"	Fitzpatrick	Albert				6/45	9/45
4	"	Ford	Albert			CA	5/45	9/45
5	"	Johnson	Harland	L.			8/44	4/45
6	"	Lucas	Charles				5/45	9/45
7	"	Martin	Merle	E.			6/45	9/45
8	"	McClure	Robert	G.			8/44	4/45
9	"	McGee	Wilbert				1/45	9/45
10	"	Roberts	Jack				6/45	9/45
11	"	Schaefer	George	E.			8/44	9/44
12	"	Taylor	James				5/45	9/45
13	"	Walsh	James Jr.		Lake Charles	LA	12/43	3/45
14	"	White	Edward	C.	Toledo	OH	8/44	9/45
15	"	White	Paul		Detroit	MI	6/45	9/45
16	Crew Chief	Baker	Kenneth		Urbana	IL	1/45	9/45
17	"	Clark	Harry				4/45	8/45
18	"	Malloy	Neal	J.	Brooklyn	NY	7/43	9/45
19	Ground Enlisted	Dawson	Larry				9/42	4/43
20	"	Moore	James	R.	Stanly	NC	9/42	5/44
21	Unspec. EM	Aversa	Vibrachi		Louisville	NE	8/44	10/45
22	"	Cohen	Inwin		Bronx	NY	8/44	2/45
23	"	Friedman	Emmanuel		New York	NY	9/44	3/45
24	"	Meyers	C.			IL	9/42	8/45
25	"	Smith	Harold	F.			11/44	8/45

**Thirsty 13th Members with no Dates of Passing**

26	Ground Officers	Goldberger	Emerin	I.			12/43	3/45
27	"	Norris	Scott	G.			6/42	12/44
28	Pilots	Brown	Charles	L.	New York City	NY	11/43	4/44
29	"	McMahon	Richard	C.			6/43	4/44
30	"	Stanton	Frank	G.			5/45	9/45
31	Navigators	Kelty	Thomas	R.	Wheeling	WV	5/45	6/45
32	"	King	Ernest	S.	Elma	WA	11/43	12/44
33	"	Thomas	Paul	P.			4/45	12/45
34	CCs & Mech.	Cloud	Robert	T.			1/44	8/45
35	"	Lowery	Joseph	A.	Poughkeepsie	NY	12/40	9/44
36	Ground Enlisted	Scott	William Jr.	M.			11/41	8/45
37	Unspec. EM	Campos	Juventino		San Antonio	TX	8/44	1/45
38	"	Goodwin	Lawrence	E.	New Orleans	LA	10/44	4/45
39	"	Medina	Florencio	L.	Chamberino	NM	12/44	8/45
40	"	Phipps	Walter	A.	Lubbock	TX	9/42	?
41	"	Rosen	Seymour	L.	Brooklyn	NY	8/42	8/43
42	"	Ryan	Edward	F.	New York	NY	12/44	8/45

## Found One: John T. Coker, Jr.

Last fall I tried to find 1942-44 radio operator Coker, and was unsuccessful. On June 6, 2016, I tried again, and reached the secretary for his son, and learned that John was still alive. I sent a book. On June 15 I heard back from the son, who wrote: "My dad received your book on Monday and has been pouring over it. I have not seen him enjoy something so much since the Oklahoma Sooners won their last national title [in 2000]. My dad will be 94 in September." I hope to visit with him soon.

Our total number of living members therefore stayed at 20.

### b. Book Distribution and Other

Since the last newsletter I sent out 48 books, and the number remaining at June 30 was 384.

Arthur Samiran turned 95 on June 25, and Gil Zieman turned 94 on June 27.

A correction: the May newsletter had a photo of Karl Peters on his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, and stated on the right was his daughter Sharon, but that was actually her cousin, his niece, Sandy.

## 4. Conclusions

The 13<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron history advanced with the Eleanor Roosevelt letter, Woodall photo of Sweet Leilani, numerous items from Max Schneider, Biak C-46 crash site photos, auto emblem, and Sad Sack cartoons. Many thanks to Schneider's daughter Linda for letting me visit and scan so many items, and letting me share them with you. Thanks to Joe Power, Woodall's daughter Mary, Michael Finelli, and Lew Harmon for scanning and sharing items. The search for member birth and death dates, final resting places, and relatives continued, adding 18 member-families, many birth and death dates and final resting places, and even finding a still-living member.

Thank you for your interest in the Thirsty 13<sup>th</sup>.

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*Max Schneider made the fine color sketch at right of the squadron patch.*

