

October 2019 Newsletter



Dear Thirsty 13th members, relatives, and friends,

The last stop on the Eastern US scanning trip May 29 - June 23 was at the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis, for 3 days, June 19-21. I was amazed to find monthly rosters from 12/1/40 to 12/42, monthly payroll from 9/42 to 12/43, morning reports listing all our missions and other activity from 9/1/43 through 1946, and many orders from the 403rd Group, an enormous amount of helpful information. This newsletter presents just a few items, 1940-1943.

From July to September we lost five of our original members.

Seth P. Washburne, Squadron Historian
October 28, 2019

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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.

At time of activation, Squadron strength totaled one officer and 82 enlisted men.

1. Additional History

a. 1940: The Initial Roster with the Founding Members

On the book's page 2 I quote a May 11, 1944, Narrative History, shown in part above, that the 13th TCS was constituted November 20, 1940, with 75 men from the 1st and 5th Transport Squadrons, being 1 m/sgt, 4 t/sgts, 4 cpls, 16 pfcs, and 50 pvts, and at activation December 1, 1940, it had "one officer and 82 enlisted men." The book has an undated roster with these allocations, plus 3 s/sgts and 2 sgts (one being the 1st/sgt), a total of 2 officers plus 80 enlisted men. At the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis on June 23 I was excited to find the roster below, December 1, 1940, titled "Initial" with the founding members. These are the same 80 enlisted men and ranks as in the book on page 2. I conclude we started with 80 enlisted men, not 82. The one officer was 1st Lt. Dimmick, attached as the first CO.

On this roster, below, six men are on detached service to Chanute Field for training as airplane mechanics, and 4 to Scott Field for radio school, confirming a quote by Burden on page 6, that in those days men joined first, and after joined went for their training (these joined while at training).

A roster 12/31/40, shown in part bottom right, noted which of our initial members had "Trfd fr 5th T Sq AC Jd 1st", i.e. joined the 1st Transport Squadron, then formed the 5th TS and then us. 84% (67 of 80) of our founders had been in the 1st TS.

ROSTER OF TROOPS' INITIAL MONTHLY ROSTER
(ON AN 10-60) (FIRST SERIES)
 (5th Transport Squadron A.C.)
 13th Transport Squadron A.C. Patterson Field, Ohio. *At Washington* December 1, 1940
(Station)

The following roster, consisting of 2 sheets, contains the names of (1) the organization commander and enlisted men of this organization or detachment and of those assigned thereto, and the names of (2) the organization's initial men who have been transferred, discharged, or otherwise separated therefrom, since the date of the last monthly roster. Names otherwise indicated opposite by some other organization's enlisted men whose names appear on this roster is present at the station indicated above.

James C. Boyd
 JAMES C. BOYD
(Name typewritten)
 2nd Lt., Air-Res., Personnel Officer
(Grade and organization)

MASTER SERGEANT	PRIVATE
1. Welch, John W. 6345135.	1. Acord, Waymond C. 15057214.
TECHNICAL SERGEANTS	2. Black, Francis G. 15059762.
1. Berkovitz, Samuel. 6612619.	3. Bladell, Ralph F. 6668159.
2. Gambill, Clyde. 6403907.	4. Burden, Dennis W. 15043300.
3. Graham, James A. 6732000.	5. Burris, Rodger H. 6985359.
4. Reeves, Roy C. 6279253.	6. Carson, Roy G. 15057264.
STAFF SERGEANTS	7. Clark, Gerald E. 15055811.
1. Farley, Albert. 6617040.	8. Collins, James A. 6669313.
2. Howells, Glade E. 6645784.	DS Chanute Fld Ill since July 19/40.
3. Sieminski, Frank J. 6798077.	9. Dengler, John P. 15057346.
SERGEANTS	10. Ebden, Harry J. 15043307.
1. Graham, George L. 6660366.	11. Elder, James W. 6668707.
2. Poly, Carl A. 6830669.	12. Foster, Harry M. 6667275.
Fur 25 days since Nov 11/40.	DS Chanute Fld Ill since Aug 31/40.
CORPORALS	13. Gallian, Clyde S. 15057566.
1. Eohn, Everett E. 6661201.	14. Grove, Edward F. 15054170.
2. Hooper, Alfred E. 6661271.	15. Habben, John C. 15059636.
3. Reubinall, Oliver. R-749652.	16. Hartman, Donald L. 15043201.
4. Todd, Verlin F. 6988101.	17. Holman, Richard A. 15057256.
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	18. Howard, Robert M. 15059524.
1. Allison, Robert L. 6667171.	19. Inghram, Donald I. 17003204.
2. Boutagon, George. 6701759.	DS Chanute Fld Ill since Nov 18/40.
3. Cairns, John J. 6987411.	20. Jacobs, William B. 16027554.
4. Day, Clare H. 6668540. DS Ft Benjamin	DS Chanute Fld Ill since Nov 18/40.
Harrison, Ind, since Sept 30/40.	21. Jones, Darrell W. 15059522.
5. DiBias, William A. 6668049.	22. Jurkewicz, Anthony S. 15059470.
6. Dunn, Harold A. 6668165.	23. Kramer, Howard L. 15059458.
7. Ford, Charles R. 6668808.	24. Leckie, Steve Jr. 15057421.
8. Graw, Hiram E. 6668769.	25. Lee, Rolland R. 6669202.
9. Kiran, Anthony T. 6668209. DS Lowry	26. Lowery, Joseph A. 6668742.
Field, Col., since Nov 26/40.	27. Mills, Ballard B. 6667263.
10. Kocoran, Michael M. 6664409.	28. Miller, William D. 15059712.
11. Lange, Donald L. 6987890.	29. Myree, Donald L. 15055789.
12. McCauslin, Harlen L. 6668155. DS Scott	30. Pence, Harvey S. 15057576.
Field, Ill., since June 26/40.	31. Porter, Wayne K. 15043375.
13. McFadden, James A. 6661282.	32. Rhodenbaugh, George L. 6668837.
14. Puskas, Martin J. 6657521.	DS Chanute Fld Ill since Aug 31/40.
15. Williams, Thomas B. 6668798.	33. Robertson, Dallas C. 15057259.
16. Wolfe, Fred J. 6669216.	34. Schafestall, Jack M. 15057630.
	35. Schram, Cornelius G. 6987570.
	DS Chanute Fld, Ill since July 19/40.
	36. Smith, Georges W. 15043425.
	37. Stackhouse, William C. 15011696.
	38. Stiver, Bernard J. 15040016.

*Strike out words not applicable.
 †When used as a roster of officers, strike out words "and enlisted men" and "and enlisted man."
 W.D.-A.G.O. Form No. 9
 October 10, 1939

INITIAL MONTHLY ROSTER
 (5th Transport Squadron A.C.)
 13th Transport Squadron A.C. Patterson Field
 Sheet No. 2

PRIVATES CONTD

39. Tennant, James W. 6668051
 DS Scott Fld Ill since June 12/40.

40. Texter, Carl J. 15040011.

41. Turner, Arnold C. 15043510.

42. Urmsen, William H. 6668166.
 DS Scott Fld Ill since Apr 3/40.

43. Van Sickle, Edward T. 6668721.
 DS Scott Fld, Ill since June 12/40.

44. Vaughn, John A. 15057474.

45. Wantz, Russell H. 15059626.

46. Watkins, John W. 15057609.

47. Weekley, Robert B. Jr. 15011165.

48. Whitehead, James W. 15054193.

49. Wolbert, Robert E. 15012796.

50. Zechar, Edward L. 15040016.

ATTACHED FOR DUTY
From other organizations

FIRST LIEUTENANT, AIR-RESERVE

1. Dimmick, Edward P.

36. Vaughn, John A., 15057474
 Trfd fr 5th T Sq AC Jd 1st.

37. Wantz, Russell H., 15059626
 Trfd fr 5th T Sq AC Jd 1st.

38. Watkins, John W., 15057609
 Trfd fr 5th T Sq AC Jd 1st.

39. Weekley, Robert B., Jr., 15011165
 Trfd fr 5th T Sq AC Jd 1st.

40. Whitehead, James W., 15054193
 Trfd fr 5th T Sq AC Jd 1st.

41. Wolbert, Robert E., 15012796
 Trfd fr 5th T Sq AC Jd 1st.

42. Zechar, Edward L., 15040016
 Trfd fr 5th T Sq AC Jd 1st.

b. 1940-1942: Enlisted Men Monthly Rosters

The initial roster is recreated at right, in the order men transferred out of the squadron, with the longest last, the 16 who went overseas with us. In the book I noted 18 founding members went overseas, but Lange left and rejoined in January 1944, and Lee rejoined overseas in late '45 or '46.

The NPRC had monthly rosters for every month-end from 12/31/40 to 11/30/42, excluding only 8/31 and 9/30/42. For 8/31/42 I have a roster 8/8/42 when moving to Lockbourne, and for 9/30/43 I combine an order 9/22/42 with one 10/6/42, to cover this complete time period.

As summarized below, the squadron in the U.S. had 425 enlisted men join, and let go 198, 47%. The summary also shows:

13th TCS Enlisted Men Growth

- At Patterson Field (Dayton, Ohio) for the first 7 months the squadron had 71-86 men. The barracks held about 50 men without bunk beds, 100 with bunk beds, and so, assuming bunk beds, we required only 1 barracks at Patterson Field.
- At Drew Field (Tampa, Fla.) the squadron doubled in size to 161, and we filled at least 2 barracks.
- At Pope Field (Fayetteville, NC), we grew to 208 men. The enlisted men were in a tent city (page 18), and at 4 men/tent would occupy 52 tents, 5 rows of 10 tents/row.
- At Lockbourne, Ohio, we added a net 22 more, for a total 230 men. In California before leaving 2 left.

		Add	Rem.	Total
Patterson Field	12/1/40	80		80
	12/31/40	3	-3	80
	1/41	2	-1	81
	2/41	3	-1	83
	3/41	2	-1	84
	4/41	20	-18	86
	5/41	3	-18	71
Drew Field	6/41	12	-2	81
	7/41	5	-4	82
	8/41	43	-1	124
	9/41		1	125
	10/41	1	-2	124
	11/41	1	-2	123
	12/41	1	-1	123
Pope Field	1/42	3	-9	117
	2/42	68	-24	161
	3/42	19	-19	161
	4/42	5	-5	161
	5/42	11	-13	159
Lockb'n	6/42	21	-18	162
	7/42	70	-24	208
	8/8/42	26	-4	230
Calif.	10/6/42	26	-26	230
	10/31/42		-2	228
New Cal.	11/30/42		-1	227
Total		425	-198	227

Of the now 707 members who were in the squadron overseas 10/42-10/45, only 31 had been at Patterson Field, 98 at Drew Field in Tampa, 162 at Pope Field, and 228 at Lockbourne. The other 479 joined overseas.

The rosters back up some stories in the book. Melton on page 9 said he and many men from North Carolina joined the 13th TCS, and the rosters in August 1941 have 39 men joining from NC. Harp and Samiran on the book's page 16 said that near the end of the time at Drew Field many men came out of the squadron, to create a new one, and the rosters show 43 men left in February and March 1942. I reproduced all of the rosters in a spreadsheet, but exclude it here to keep this file size down.

#	Last	First	MI	ASN	Jd	Fr
1	Collins	James	A.	06669313	1st	5th
2	Dengler	John	P.	15057346	1st	5th
3	Inghram	Donald	Irwin	17003204	1st	5th
4	Dunn	Harold	A.	6668165	1st	5th
5	Elder	James	W.	6668707	1st	5th
6	Boutagon	George		6701759	1st	5th
7	Graham	James	A.	6732000	1st	5th
8	Howells	Glade	E.	6645784	1st	5th
9	Reubinall	Oliver		00749652	1st	5th
10	Grow	Hiram	E.	6668767	1st	5th
11	Kiren	Anthony	T.	06668209		5th
12	Puskas	Martin	John	7-6657524	1st	5th
13	Allison	Robert	L.	06667171	1st	5th
14	Burris	Rodger	H.	06985359	1st	5th
15	Clark	Gerald	E.	15055811	1st	5th
16	Gallian	Clyde	S.	15057566	1st	5th
17	Hartman	Donald	L.	15043201	1st	5th
18	Jones	Darrell	W.	15059522	1st	5th
19	Kramer	Howard	L.	15059458	1st	5th
20	Miller	William	D.	15059712	1st	5th
21	Pence	Harvey	S.	15057576	1st	5th
22	Stackhouse	Christy	W.	15011696	1st	5th
23	Berkovitz	Samuel		6642649	1st	5th
24	Reeves	Roy	C.	06279253	1st	5th
25	Poly	Carl	A.	06830669	1st	5th
26	Lange	Donald	Lee	6987890	1st	5th
27	Tennant	James	W.	06668051		5th
28	Holman	Richard	A.	15057258	1st	5th
29	Black	Francis	G.	15059762	1st	5th
30	Carson	Roy	G.	15057264	1st	5th
31	Ebden	Harry	J.	15043307	1st	5th
32	Smith	George	W.	15043425	1st	5th
33	Koczan	Michael	M.	06664409	1st	5th
34	Gambill	Clyde		6403907	1st	5th
35	Hooper	Alfred	E.	06661271	1st	5th
36	Van Sickle	Edward	T.	6668721		5th
37	Porter	Wayne	K.	15043375	1st	5th
38	Jacobs	William	B.	16027554		5th
39	Wolfe	Fred	J.	6669216	1st	5th
40	Mills	Ballard	B.	06667263	1st	5th
41	Leckie, Jr.	Steve		15057421	1st	5th
42	Turner	Arnold	C.	15043510	1st	5th
43	Todd	Verlin	F.	06888101	1st	5th
44	Day	Clare	H.	6668540		5th
45	Ford	Charles	R.	6668808	1st	5th
46	Lee	Rolland	R.	6669202	1st	5th
47	Acord	Waymo	C.	15057244	1st	5th
48	Grove	Edward	F.	15054170	1st	5th
49	Schram	Cornelius	G.	06987570		5th
50	Texter	Carl	J.	15040011	1st	5th
51	Bolch	John	W.	6346136	1st	5th
52	Schafstall	Jack	M.	15057680	1st	5th
53	Bladell	Ralph	F.	7-6668159	1st	5th
54	Howard	Robert	M.	15059524	1st	5th
55	Farley	Albert		6647440	1st	5th
56	McCauslin	Harlen	L.	6668155		5th
57	Urmson	William	H.	06668166		5th
58	Graham	George	L.	6660868	1st	5th
59	Foster	Harry	M.	6667275		5th
60	Bohn	Everett	E.	7-6661201	1st	5th
61	Sieminski	Frank	J.	6798077	1st	5th
62	Wolbert	Robert	E.	15012796	1st	5th
63	McFadden	James	A.	06664282	1st	5th
64	Habben	John	C.	15059636	1st	5th
65	Whitehead	James	W.	15054193	1st	5th
66	Burden	Dennis	W.	15043300	1st	5th
67	Cairns	John	J.	06987411	1st	5th
68	DiBias	William	A.	06668049	1st	5th
69	Rhodenbaug	George	L.	06668837		5th
70	Stiver	Bernard	J.	15040018	1st	5th
71	Wantz	Russell	H.	15059626	1st	5th
72	Williams	Thomas	B.	06668798	1st	5th
73	Jurkewicz	Anthony	S.	15059470	1st	5th
74	Lowery	Joseph	A.	06668742	1st	5th
75	Robertson	Dallas	C.	15057259	1st	5th
76	Vaughn	John	A.	15057474	1st	5th
77	Watkins	John	W.	15057609	1st	5th
78	Zechar	Edward	L.	15040016	1st	5th
79	Weekley, Jr	Robert	B.	15011165	1st	5th
80	Myres	Donald	L.	15055789	1st	5th

Advance Echelon, 23 Officers and 44 Enlisted Men departed from this Station, APO 502, by plane for APO 708.

13th TCS Move from to New Hebrides, 1943 Men at New Caledonia (NC) and Absent (incl. NH)

Table with columns: Date, Officers (NC, Chg, Abs, Tot), Enlisted Men (NC, Chg, Abs, Tot). Rows show daily counts from 30-Sep to 31-Oct.

c. 1943: Move to New Hebrides in October 1943

The prior section was from 1940-42 rosters at the NPRC. The NPRC also had morning reports with many details, including about the October 1943 move to New Hebrides.

In the book on page 367 I wrote that the Air Echelon moved October 23, in stages, and the ground crew on October 30. In September 2009 I met Jerome Schmitz in Milwaukee, and he provided the name of the ship the squadron took, the Matsonia.

As summarized in the table at right, the squadron on 9/30/43, in the camp at New Caledonia ("NC"), had 31 officers present, and 195 enlisted men. There were 25 officers and 21 enlisted men absent from camp, some on flights, some sick in hospitals, and some already in New Hebrides. The blue columns show the number of men who moved to New Hebrides each day.

Above left is a note from the morning reports for August 22 that "23 Officers and 44 Enlisted Men departed this station, APO 502, by plane, for APO 708." The table I created, based on lists, shows only 18 officers, but the 44 enlisted men. The reports list no regular flights after a landing in New Caledonia October 22 at 3:15 p.m., and so I expect our C-47s moved us to New Hebrides.

The Morning Reports include memos listing who moved each day, adding up to 160 enlisted men, and so are missing 35 of the 195 September 30. They don't name the 21 absent 9/30, and so are missing 56 names. Some stayed longer in New Caledonia, even until December.

Surprisingly, by October 30 there were few men left to go on the Matsonia. The memo at right, reproduced at the far right, lists the passengers, being Captain Duffy and Warrant Officer Kimball, plus 34 enlisted men, with 14 crossed out, for a net 20 EM. This includes Schmitz. The report, below, confirms only 20 EM, and states they "Departed Tontouta Air Base at 11:00 in convoy to board ship. Boarded ship in Nouméa at 15:00." The report for November 1 stated "At Sea, USAT Matsonia," present 20, absent 195, and so the squadron officially moved on the Matsonia. The Nov 2 report says the ship arrived 11/1 at 4 p.m., and disembarked 11/2 at 5 p.m.

PASSENGER LIST table with columns: FIRST CLASS (1. Captain Robert C. Duffy, 2. W/O (Jg) Millard E. Kimball), TROOP CLASS (1. 1st Sgt. Gaetano (MPT) Mazzzone, 2. S/Sgt. Anthony D. De Loss, etc.).

Officers table with 2 columns: 1 Duffy R. C., 2 Kimball M. E.

Enlisted Men table with 2 columns: 1 Chambers F. L., 2 Christie N. J., 3 DeLoss A. D., etc.

Crossed Out table with 2 columns: 1 Amert E. R., 2 Bass W. H., 3 Cameron R. J., etc.

COMPANY MORNING REPORT form with fields for ENDING (30 October), STATION (New Caledonia), ORGANIZATION (13th T O Sq, 403rd T O Gp, A O), and a section for RECORD OF EVENTS.

d. 1943: New Hebrides Red Cross Michigan Night

On September 5, 2019, I received an email from the son, Bob, of 1943-45 crew chief Robert LaLonde, and he attached the photo at right.

The caption says “Four Saginaw sailors and three Saginaw soldiers, plus a marine from each of nearby Reese and Vassar, held a combined operations job one night not so long ago when they chanced to meet at a ‘Michigan night’ party at a Red Cross service club in the New Hebrides. A signal corps photographer rounded them up, took this picture, which shows: Kneeling T/3..., AOM c...; middle row MOMM3c..., Pfc..., SK2c...; back row: T/5..., MOMM3c..., T/Sgt LaLonde, Marine Cpl...”



COMBINED OPERATIONS: Four Saginaw sailors and three Saginaw soldiers, plus a marine from each of nearby Reese and Vassar, held a combined operations job one night not so long ago when they chanced to meet at a “Michigan night” party at a Red Cross service club in the New Hebrides. A signal corps photographer rounded

This adds the new facts that: a) the men visited the Red Cross service club in New Hebrides, and b) the club had nights for US regions.

It was a great idea to have such gatherings, so that men might: a) meet someone they know from home, b) meet others from their town in different units, and c) help them recognize such others when they get home. The nine men in the photo are all from near Saginaw, Michigan, the red peg at right. The 13th TCS in New Hebrides (11/43-10/44) had five enlisted men from Michigan: Bradford and Labeledz from Detroit, Bechstein from Lansing, and Christie and LaLonde from Saginaw. Thank you, Bob LaLonde.



e. 1943-1945: Items from Neil Malloy, Radio Operator, 7/43-6/45

On September 21, radio operator Neil Malloy’s son Tom, who lives 20 miles from me, visited me. He had found his dad in several photos in the book, including those at left, in New Caledonia and Biak. He brought with him a box of his dad’s items, which included the fine photo of his dad below right. He wears the rank of S/Sgt, he achieved 6/19/45, before leaving the Pacific 7/14/45. He wears his air crew wings, above, and the Air Medal ribbon. In the photo he wears ribbons for the Good Conduct Medal, Asia Pacific Campaign, and Philippine Liberation, but the strip below has just the last two (and American Campaign ribbon in blue). The stars for Luzon and the Southern Philippines are moved to the Philippine Liberation ribbon. He had a near-perfect condition Thirsty 13th patch, at right. Tom had his dad’s short snorter, with signatures of Cooper, Fernandez, Golomb, Hager, Hogan, Kelty, Laming, Osman, and Sennholtz. **Fernandez wrote: “Remember the engine changes.”** Thank you to Neil Malloy for being a radio operator in the 13th TCS, and to his son, Tom, for sharing these items with us.



2. Members and Relatives

a. June 2019 Eastern US Trip – Days 22 to 26, Final Visit

The last newsletter described the third part of a 26-day trip, May 29 - June 26, and covered through day 21, and visit 28, in St. Louis. This newsletter presents part of the results from the last 5 days, primarily the last visit, #29 on the map at right, to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.



Days 22-24 (June 19-21): The NPRC

On October 6, 1942, the squadron's ground crew left Lockbourne, Ohio, by train, for Chicago, and then Camp Stoneman, in Pittsburg, Calif., east of San Francisco, as described on the book's page 42. I have always thought that sounded like a fun adventure, and wanted to learn more about this, especially the route the train took.

On the morning of May 7, 2019, while searching the Internet for "troop trains," I came across the website wwjohnston.net/dadswar/. This was created by Wesley Johnston, and is dedicated to his Dad, Walter G. Johnston, Jr., who during WWII was in Holland, in the 7th Armored Division, 38th Armored Infantry Battalion, Company "B" Anti-Tank Platoon, and Wesley wrote a book about this. Quite kindly of him, he includes a great deal of information, more and better than I have ever seen before, under the title "First Steps to Finding Your Dad's Story."

I have researched the 13th TCS for 11.5 years, and have seen a few other sites with tips on how to learn about one's dad's war history, but sites like this usually don't tell me anything new. On this one, though, he wrote: "Step 5: Obtain the Morning Reports." He continues:

"The Morning Reports show (1) location as of 2400, (2) any men with personnel status changes, (3) a Record of Events for the company for that day, and (4) the strength counts of the company for that day. **While most of the individual personnel records at NPRC were destroyed in the 1973 fire, the organizational records (which include the Morning Reports) were unscathed by the fire.** To obtain the Morning Reports, write to the Military Organizational Records Unit of the National Personnel Records Center."

I have known about the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis since, I believe, 2008. It was in a different part of St. Louis then, and moved to the new building in 2011-2012. I always believed it only had personnel files for individuals, with limited information, such as a Separation Record, and had few of these, because many were lost in the 1973 fire. Wesley Johnston's mention of Morning Reports, something at a squadron level, was therefore quite **an amazing surprise**.

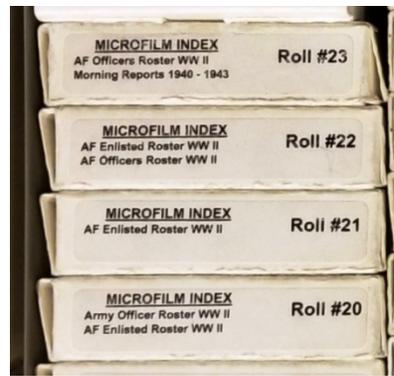
On May 7 I emailed the NPRC to learn if they had Morning Reports for the 13th TCS, and was surprised to receive a reply that yes, they had these. I then emailed a contractor, Myra Miller, who lives near the NPRC, who one can hire to photograph these, and has a specialty in these. She told me about how she has a stand for her camera, and uses black cardboard to block out reflecting light on the screen, but then I didn't hear back from her again with a price quote. I planned on this trip to be in St. Louis, so decided to visit there and photograph these myself. This would be almost the last stop on the trip, so if I needed an extra day, I could add it.



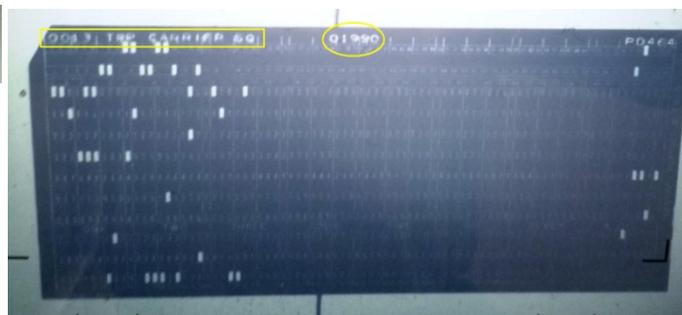
On the trip's first stop, May 30, 2019, at Maxwell AFB, the AF Historical Research Agency, there was another person in the room where I scanned items, and I mentioned to him I wished I could find the squadron's orders, too. He said he used to be a contractor at NPRC in St. Louis, and that all the orders, too, were there! This was quite exciting. I had hoped to visit two people after St. Louis, but one replied May 30 that he would not be in town, and I didn't hear back from the other, so I could spend an extra day or two in St. Louis.

NPRC is located where shown on the map above left. I parked in visitor parking, took my laptop and scanner, and my camera holder, and headed in.

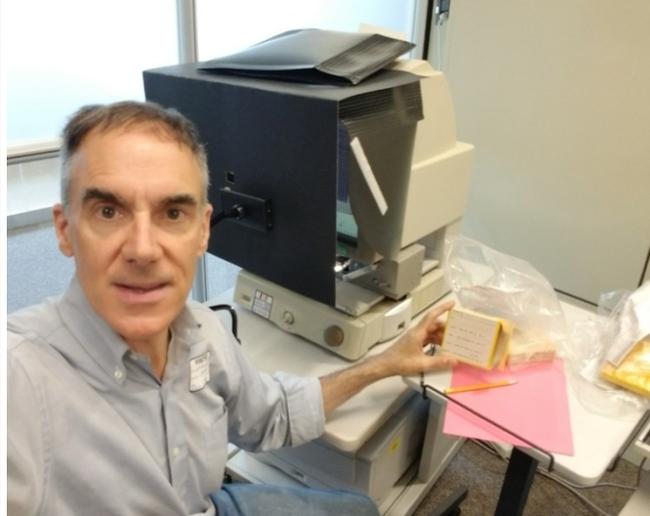
The first stop here is the file cabinet below, and its top left drawer. This has numbered boxes of microfilm by category. The first 12.5 boxes are for WWI. For WWII, I was surprised to see the first category was "Army Enl Men Roster," i.e. that they also had rosters. Boxes 12 to 20 are for the Army, and 20-23 for the Air Force, first enlisted men, then officers, as shown at right. For the list by squadron, one picks the boxes with designation "SQ" as shown below right.



One loads the microfilm onto the viewer, and searches, in our case, for "Troop Carrier Sq" then skip Named, and go to "Numbered," and these are all in order. The card below center says "0013 TRP CARRIER SQ," and has a number 01990. Magnifying glasses are provided for reading the data cards. One fills out a request form, below right, with their name and ID #, a description of the item, e.g. AF Roster Enlisted Men - 13th Trp Carr., and the reference number, in this case 01990. One can submit only 3 forms, with only 3 items each, 9 items, per pull time, e.g. 9:30, 10:30, etc. One then waits for the microfilms with the items of interest, which are handed out in a bag, with the request form. Very little help is available from the limited staff.



REFERENCE SERVICE SLIP		DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	TRACKING NUMBER
SHADED BOXES FOR NARA USE ONLY		6/19/19	JUN 19 10:30
LAST NAME (PRINT)	FIRST NAME (PRINT)	RESEARCHER CARD NUMBER	
Washburne	Seth	6279	
SERIES OR COLLECTION NAME		JUN 19 12:07	
RECORD GROUP NUMBER/COLLECTION	ENTRY NUMBER	NATIONAL ARCHIVES IDENTIFIER	BOGHEM NBR. REQD.
STACK	ROW	COMPARTMENT	SHELF
OTHER RECORD IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION		NUMBER OF PAGES	NUMBER OF PAGES
AF Roster Enlisted Men - 13 th Trp Carr		01989	01990
AF Roster - 13 th Trp Carr		01990	0764
Maj 13 th Trp Carr Jan 1945		0764	
REQUESTED BY	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	REVIEWED BY	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
[Signature]	6/19/19	[Signature]	



After I got my bags of up to three boxes of microfilm each, above left, I set up my phone / camera holder next to one of about 10 viewing machines nearby. The viewer is fine for making prints on a printer underneath each one, but when one wants to photograph the screen, the glass surface reflected me and the room. Myra Miller, who had warned me about this, was actually there that day, sitting behind me, and I saw her black cardboard, which was a manila folder she snapped around her camera holder. I needed something, so I left the building and drove to a Wal-Mart and bought a piece of black poster board. I folded this to rest over the front of the screen and cut a hole in it, then positioned my camera holder to view through this. I had to enlarge the hole three times, so the focus meter, too would see through, as shown above.

The next problem was that I can activate my Samsung Galaxy camera with the words capture, cheese, shoot, or smile, but didn't want to bother the other researchers. Touching the phone to take the picture made the stand vibrate, blurring the image. So I whispered the commands.

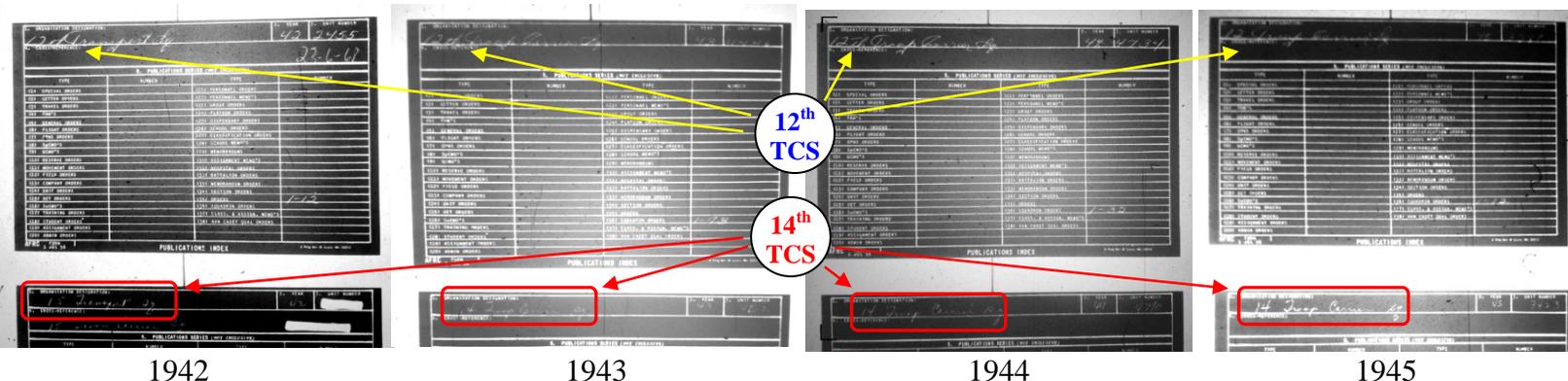
I captured 610 images the first day, being the 240 images of monthly rosters, from December 1, 1940, through December 31, 1942, and 370 images of monthly payroll from September 1942 through December 1943. Due to the time required to understand the system, find the identifying numbers for the items of interest, and to get set up, I did not photograph morning reports this day. This evening we met Charley Merriott again, for dinner, to see a second photo album he found.

For morning reports, one pulls up an image such as below for 0013 TR CAR SQ, and must write on a request form the reel number for each month of interest, each on a different reel.



For my second day, I captured 1,442 images. My mouth got tired of saying "capture." These were 957 images of all of the 13th TCS morning reports for 1945 – roughly 3 pages per day, 424 images of 403rd Group orders in 1944, and 61 other 403rd documents.

For the third day, I captured 1,138 images. This was 631 images of all the 13th TCS morning reports for 1944 – with each image having two morning report pages (for 1,662 morning report pages), plus 178 for September to December 1943, again at 2 per page, 356 pages, again ~3/day. No morning reports were found before September 1, 1943. I also captured 314 images of 403rd Group orders for 1945 – again 2 per page, and 15 images of 33rd TCS morning reports for October 1942. The total number of images to study, including the second ones on some pages, was 4,313. All images had to be rotated and cropped, then the data input to a spreadsheet.



Next, regarding squadron orders, the image above left is for 1942, and this jumps from the 12th Transport Squadron to the 14th, and 14th Troop Carrier. The next three images are 1943, 1944, and 1945, and all go from the 12th (top image) to the 14th TCS (below). So the 13th TCS orders are not available. Some of the information was probably also in the morning reports.

The next category the NPRC has in the top drawer is hospital Patient Roster Files. Some relatives of members have said they know their dad went to a hospital, but never knew why. These might say why. For the 13th TCS, the morning reports listed the hospitals to which the men went. They also had for WWII an “Index Passenger List.” I did not review either of these.

My main research priority has been to find the exact locations and layouts of the camps, and identity of the airplanes, and locations to where we flew, but I have also wanted to have a complete roster, and know about all the movements, so this was all great; much to be shared later.

Days 25-26 (June 22-23): Driving Home: 4:07, 222 miles, then 2:58, 196 miles

After three full days at the NPRC, we started home. It is almost equidistant to drive St. Louis to Dallas by going through Oklahoma or Arkansas, and my wife wanted to go through Arkansas this time, so we did. There were beautiful flowers in bloom along the highways. We stopped in Hot Springs. We arrived home Sunday, June 23, at 11:03 a.m. As shown at right, for the 26 days from May 29 to June 23, we drove 6,434.5 miles, in 139.5 hours, 247 miles and 5.3 hours per day.



Ever since the August 2017 Eastern US scanning trip I have wanted to make another trip out east, to visit people not available then, and this desire grew in 2018 as I found many more people with items. The burial of Arthur Golomb at Arlington June 5 was an amazing event, and perfect to build the trip around. Everyone we met was incredibly kind, friendly and generous, making the trip even more enjoyable. The items found added greatly to the squadron history. I was glad to learn more about the members. There were also more personal stops than usual, e.g. to Niagara Falls, and to my wife’s cousins’ home in Chicago.

Thank you to everyone we met for making this an exciting an enjoyable research trip.

b. Visit from the Son of Neil Malloy, September 21, 2019

Recently I found the son, Tom, of 1943-45 orderly room clerk, then radio operator, Malloy, and he lives nearby, and it was a treat to have him visit me at home September 21, 2019. He had a treasure box, below, of his dad’s WWII items, some of which are on page 9. Thank you, Tom.





c. Claude Fuselier, October 11, 1920, to July 4, 2019 – Squadron Supply, 7/42-9/45

On July 6, I received an email from the daughter, Kathleen, of Claude Fuselier, that he passed away July 4. He is pictured above left in New Caledonia by his shack – perhaps the best one in the South Pacific. Next he is in New Hebrides with the fuel truck. He grew up in New Orleans, joined the squadron in July 1942, in Squadron Supply, being sure the personnel had all they needed, and stayed in it the entire time overseas, until September 1945.

I first met Claude on October 25, 2009, at his home in New Orleans, above right. He had a great photo album, and 22 of his photos are in the book. He also had many fantastic stories, now throughout the book. The only reason we know the location of the camp in New Caledonia is that during this first visit I asked him what he recalled about the road next to the camp, and he said it went to the mountain with a white spot. I knew which road that was, so it was as if I put my finger in a light socket I was so excited! I returned in May 2011 to rescan his photos at 600 dpi.

I visited Claude again in 2015, and asked him questions and recorded answers about the location of the first temporary camp overseas, Dumbéa. He still remembered getting off on the left side of the train, crossing a field, then the main road, then another block to that camp. His memory was very sharp. He continues to be invaluable to the squadron history. He also was a very nice person, with a wonderful wife, Elia, and daughters, Kathleen and Claudette.

On July 9 I drove to New Orleans to meet his family again, including his two sons. I was glad to represent the Thirsty 13th. He received the full military honors, and it was first-class.

God bless Claude Fuselier and his family, and a posthumous thank you for being an integral part of the Thirsty 13th.





d. E.T. Windham, December 28, 1922, to August 2, 2019 – Motor Pool, 7/42-9/45

On August 11, I received an email from the daughter, Tammy, of Ezekiel Thomas (“E.T.”) Windham, that he passed away August 2. E.T. was from Charlotte, N.C., joined the squadron in July 1942, and remained with it through all of our overseas bases, until September 1945. He was in the motor pool, keeping the vehicles running. He is pictured above in New Hebrides twice, then at Biak with a motorcycle he helped build. He had a great smile, and was always happy.

I first met E.T. on October 23, 2009, on my big scanning trip, above right, with my 1999 Chevy Malibu in the background. He had a large photo album, and 29 of his photos are in the book. He also had many great quotes. I visited him again in May 2011 to rescan the photos at 600 dpi, and found great photos I missed before, including of C-47 43-16211 on the book’s page 452. I called him many times to ask him questions, and he was always happy to hear from me. I’ll miss E.T.

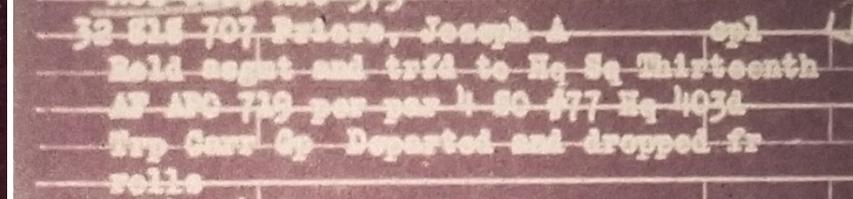
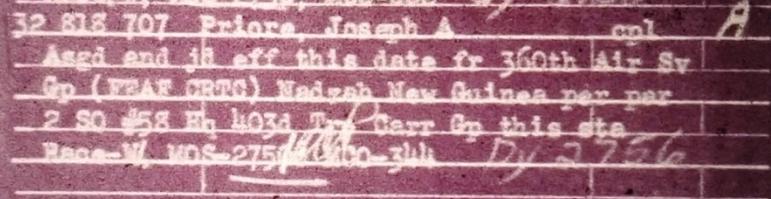
Thanks to E.T. for bringing his happy spirit to the squadron, and into my life for the history.

e. Welly Goddin, May 27, 1924, to September 5, 2019 – Pilot, 8/44-10/45

On September 5, I received an email from the son, Wells, of 1944-1945 pilot Welly Goddin, that he passed away that morning. He joined the squadron in August 1944, as a pilot, and remained with it through September 1945. He is in the photo below left, standing in the center. He contributed many great stories to the book.

I first met Welly at the reunion I organized for November 4, 2011, in Fort Worth, in which I rented two C-47s for us to fly around in. It was a thrill to sit in as his co-pilot for a moment, and he flew great. He and his wife, Janet, treated me to a lunch and dinner, and were fantastic. He was the last of the seven pilots who attended that reunion still living. Thank you to Welly Goddin for being a pilot in the Thirsty 13th, and best wishes to his wife Janet, and all his family.





f. Joseph A. Priore, January 17, 1924, to September 6, 2019 – Radio Op 4/45 - 5/45

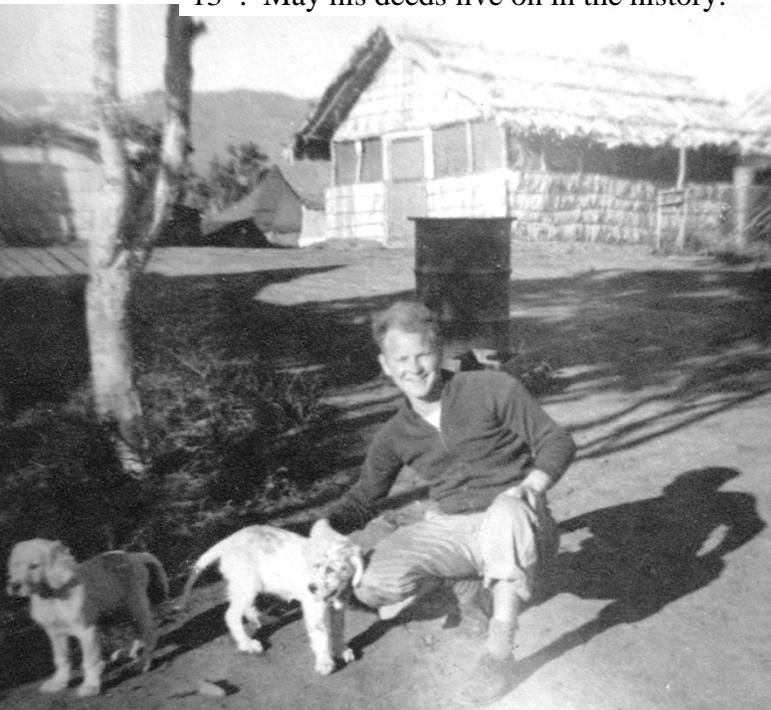
Recently in going over the morning reports I photographed in St. Louis June 21, I saw the entry above left, that a Joseph Priore was assigned and joined the squadron April 7, 1945, as a radio operator (MOS 2756). I had never seen his name before. Subsequent morning reports show he flew a mission to Leyte on May 8, being checked out by Reberry, and to Hollandia May 12, being checked out by DeClerck. On May 23, 1945, he was transferred to the HQ Sq Thirteenth Air Force, as shown above right.

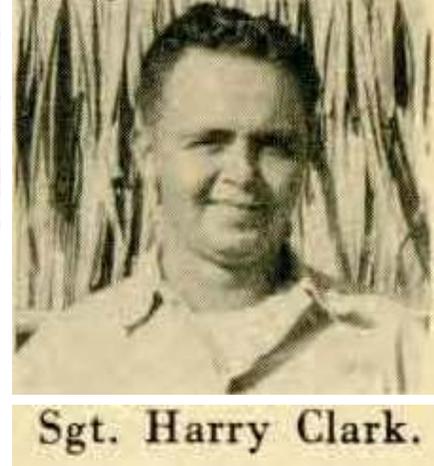
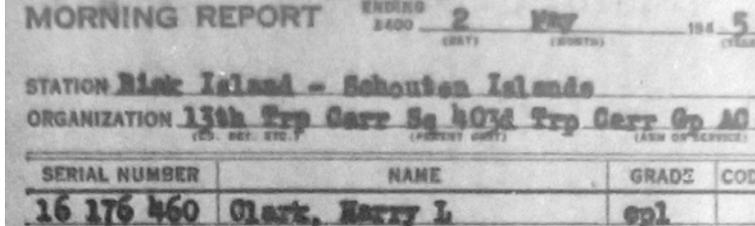
On October 18 I added him to my main spreadsheet, and found his date of birth. For his date of death, I was surprised to learn he passed away September 6, 2019, exactly six weeks earlier! Also, incredibly, the phone number I found for him was listed as being in Addison, Texas, which is the town right next to mine! Upon further examination he lived closer to downtown Dallas, but less than 15 minutes away. I contacted his daughter. It is amazing that there was a still-living Thirsty 13th member minutes away from me for the last six years, who I never knew about.

g. Walter Moritz, June 3, 1918, to September 23, 2019 – Navigator 11/42-12/43

Moritz lived to 101.4 years old. He was blessed with the longest life of 686 of our 705 members (with 11 still living, and 8 not yet found). He was from Long Island, and was one of the original 13 navigators who joined November 6, 1942, in New Caledonia, and guided our planes to Guadalcanal, Australia and New Zealand, during that first year overseas. On May 17, 1943, he was on a search plane looking for a lifeboat from a ship that had been torpedoed, and is the one who sighted the survivors, and is pictured below center after that rescue.

I first met Walter on July 9, 2009. He still had his jacket, which fit him great, at right. He had many photos and stories which added greatly to the squadron history. I visited him again in 2015. Thanks to Walter Moritz for all his diligence as a navigator in the Thirsty 13th. May his deeds live on in the history.





h. Identifying Members; Latest Dashboard

Of the 707 men who were ever in the squadron overseas, I had identified all but six by a birthday. One of these six was Sgt. Harry Clark, who appears in the squadron yearbook “Two Years,” in Flight H, as at right, and his photo is near the end meaning he was a radio operator. He appears nowhere else, and with no middle initial, or serial number, and so I could not identify him.

On September 1, 2019, while going over images of Morning Reports for May 1945, I found the image above, for May 2, listing him, with a middle initial “L,” and an Army Serial Number! I then went online to the ww2enlistment.org website, and found his birth year, and hometown. Next I went into Ancestry.com and found his death date. His family tree showed two siblings, one passed away in 1938, and another in 1992, and listed no children, so there was no one to contact. It was exciting to at last identify one of these only 6 long-sought unidentified men.

Our total number of men in the squadron overseas was previously 703, and I increased it to 707, by adding 7 and taking out 3. Six men I thought left in San Francisco but are on a Nov. 30, 1942, roster: Gallagher, Kuhl, Lamothe, Revis, Schied, and Setliff, and a 1943 report listed a new officer, Aaron Weston, so I added him, too. I took out pilot Dammon and navigator Truman, because they joined September 14, 1945, after the war, and Hulland who joined after 10/45. The July 1 totals at right are adjusted to reflect the net 4 additions.

Members Identified and Contacts Found (of 707)

Members*	1-Jul	28-Oct	Add	Need
Birth Date*	701 99%	702 99%	1	5
Death Date***	683 98%	688 99%	5	8
Resting Place**	614 88%	620 89%	6	76
FindaGrave Link**	443 64%	444 64%	1	252
Contact	566 80%	568 80%	2	139
Have Book	517 73%	517 73%	0	190

* Birth and death dates incl. 1 and 1 best-estimates.

** Percent and Need for 2nd to 4th exclude 11 living.

The “Birth date” line means the number of men positively identified by a birth date, and we needed only 6 more, and identified one of these, Harry Clark, above, which was a thrill. Death dates increased by 5, for Clark, Fuselier, Windham, Goddin, and Moritz. Priore will be added to the roster in the next newsletter, and so is not counted yet. Resting places went up by 6, for the four who passed away, Golomb interned in June, and finding a resting place for Franz. I contacted for the first time relatives of two more members: Chambers and L. Goodwin.

FRANZ FRED J

The last newsletter, in the sentence below the table, noted we had 3 men who were a “best estimate.” One was a 1942-43 pilot who only appeared as “Franz.” The rosters provided a first name and middle initial. I have wanted to identify him for 11.5 years. I also was thrilled that the rosters provided a first name and serial number to identify Chambers, so our estimates fell to 1.

3. Conclusions

The June scanning trip continues to add to the history – and should for the next letter or two. It was sad to lose five more members, but great that we and their families had them for so long.

I completed the book in late October 2011, and so this newsletter marks 8 years that elapsed. I was 51 then, am now 59, and on November 4 will turn 60. I am amazed that so much time has passed, but have enjoyed adding to the squadron history. With best wishes, Seth