

# January 2020 Newsletter



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

The last newsletter, October 28, shared some of the history revealed in the rosters and morning reports I photographed at the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis, June 19-21. This letter continues the findings, with regard to the personnel gains and losses, the movements to other bases, and observations recorded.

Please forgive me that this information is a little more technical (e.g. more tables and numbers) than in other letters. It is a necessary part of the squadron history, and of great value on an individual basis. This was sort of a monster letter to research and organize!

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and New Decade.

Seth P. Washburne, Squadron Historian  
January 3, 2020

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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, sethgw1@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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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.

ATTACHED	UNASSIGNED				
0-727003	FREY RICHARD S	1	LT	06B3	AC
0-790887	MC CARROLL JOHN JR	1	LT		AC
0-662076	MCGUSH JOHN J	1	LT	06B3	AC
0-662084	PRESTON FOREST II	1	LT	06B3	AC
0-790107	WASHBURNE JOHN C	1	LT		AC
0-790200	BLOCK JOSEPH H L	2	LT	7	AC
0-727006	GILBERT BRUCE	2	LT	06B3	AC
0-727012	HANNETT ROBERT A	2	LT	06B3	AC
0-662059	JOHNSON ROBERT E JR	2	LT	XXX	AC
0-727037	MEADE JOHN W	2	LT	06B3	AC
0-727041	MORITZ WALTER R JR	2	LT	06B3	AC
0-727052	SHOOK HOWARD B	2	LT	06B3	AC

Page 50		PAY ROLL of 13th Troop Carrier Squadron from Sept 1	
(Organization)		(Post, or camp)	
NAMES, PRESENT AND ABSENT, GRADE, AND SERIAL NUMBER		DATE OF ENLISTMENT	No. Yrs. Ser.
<b>ATTACHED MEDICAL (CONT'D)</b>			
1 ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES (CONT'D)			
2 PRIVATES FIRST CLASS			
3	Boyko, William (None)	35262938	Jan 22/42
4	Hladczuk, John (None)	33129147	Oct 23/41

## 1. Additional History

### a. 1942-1943: Rosters and Payroll Records

#### 1942: Original Navigators and Medical Staff were Attached, Not Assigned

At the NPRC in St. Louis, I photographed 13<sup>th</sup> TCS rosters (1940-1943), payroll records (1942-1943), and morning reports (1943 to 1945). The rosters had entries such as above left.

Men were counted on rosters when “assigned” to the squadron, even if they “joined” later. Men who were “attached” were not counted, but noted separately. For my official roster count, I decided to include only men “assigned” to the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS, not those merely “attached” to it. To my great chagrin, the June 30, 1943, officers roster had a section for the 13 original navigators, above left, less one who died, and these are under the heading “Attached Unassigned.” My dad, “WASHBURNE, JOHN C.” was only attached, not assigned, to the Thirsty 13<sup>th</sup>.

In July I made a note to call then-living Walter Moritz, also on this list, and ask him about this, but waited, and he passed away September 23. These navigators were all on a Special Duty when they arrived, to help out. I wonder if the commanding officer had less control over them because they were attached. Navigators after the first 13 were “assigned.”

In addition to the first 13 navigators, the original medical enlisted men, too, are listed as “Attached” as shown above right, for Boyko, Cummins, Fabish, Hladczuk, Schroth, and Risky.

I am going to keep these navigators and medical men on the roster anyway.

#### Regular Army vs. Army of the United States (AUS)

As shown at right and below, the payroll listed some men under “Regular Army,” and others under “Army of the United States,” abbreviated AUS.

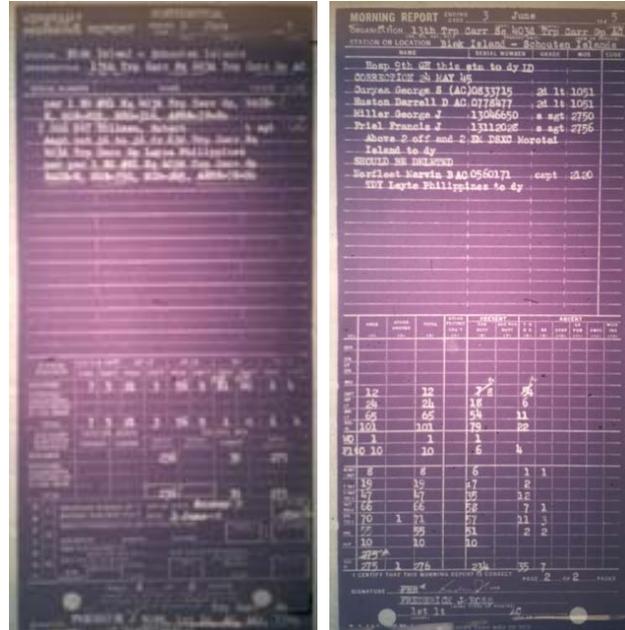
According to Wikipedia, the Regular Army is the country’s permanent, professional, land-based military force. In May 1940, legislation provided that all voluntary enlistments during a time of war or emergency would be in the “Army of the United States.” It ended in 1946.

Enlisted men who joined prior to conscription continued to be in the Regular Army, and it was a point of honor. The 13<sup>th</sup> TCS at 1/31/43 had 226 enlisted men, and 72 were regular army.

For officers who had been in the Regular Army, they became members also of the AUS, and had higher ranks in it, where they received quicker promotions. When the AUS ended, they went back to their lower ranks in the Regular Army.

Page 10		PAY ROLL of 13th Troop Carrier Squadron	
(Organization)		(Post, or camp)	
NAMES, PRESENT AND ABSENT, GRADE, AND SERIAL NUMBER		DATE OF ENLISTMENT	No. Yrs. Ser.
<b>REGULAR ARMY (CONT'D)</b>			
1 PRIVATES (CONT'D)			
2 Van Ness, Owen K.			
3 ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES			
4 STAFF SERGEANTS			
5 Alexander, Jack D.			

REGULAR ARMY		DATE OF ENLISTMENT	No. Yrs. Ser.
1 MASTER SERGEANTS			
2	Rinaldi, John (None)	6718475	May 5/39
3 TECHNICAL SERGEANTS			
4	Burden, Dennis W.	15043300	Aug 16/40



**COMPANY MORNING REPORT**

ENDING 2400 3 September 1943  
(DAY) (MONTH) (YEAR)

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT		1ST LT		2D LT		WO		FLT O	
	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T
ASSIGNED	7	5	21	3	56	9	81	40	6	4
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED										
ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>

AVN CADET & ENLISTED STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DUTY	ABSENT	PRESENT AND ABSENT
ASSIGNED				236	39	275
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED						
ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN						
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>236</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>275</b>

**b. 1943-1945: Morning Reports Background**

Morning reports were typed on long narrow forms as shown above left, probably on a manila-colored hard paper. The purple color and white letters herein are from my photographing microfilm. As shown in the top right (with the colors inverted), each is for a period “Ending 2400” on the date.

For the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS, these are available starting September 1, 1943. I was interested the period to November 1, 1945, which, as shown at right, was 792 days. For officers, they name 299 men, with 10,998 entries, 37 per man, which is 18 events starting and ending, e.g. flights, illness, joining. For enlisted men, they name 538 men, with 11,302 records, 21 per man, an average 10 events, fewer because many of these were ground crew. The reports have an average of 14 officers and 14 enlisted men on each, which would fill about 3 cards per day, so I photographed about 2,400 reports on June 20-21 (plus hundreds of orders and other items). The total number of entries for officers and enlisted men were 22,300. I also input to a spreadsheet all the totals, of men present and absent, another 9,983 figures. I added lines to back into the totals, and input 541 numbers into this sort-of-calculator, a total 32,283 inputs.

**Morning Report Data Inputs**

	Off	EM	Total
Days:	792	792	792
Men	299	538	837
Entries	10,998	11,302	22,300
Per Man	37	21	27
Per Day	13.9	14.3	28.2
Totals	7,763	2,220	9,983
Totals/day	9.8	2.8	
Calculator	202	339	541
<b>Total Inputs</b>			<b>32,283</b>

Through June 3, 1945, the morning reports are in the first format above left, with personnel movements in the top part. The bottom part is shown above right, the top for officers, present and absent, by rank, and the lower part for enlisted men, present and absent. The first line of each is “Assigned,” then “Attached Unassigned,” and “Attached from other Organizations.”

On June 4, 1945, we began using the second form, above left. The summary section at the bottom has the rows at right, with enlisted men by rank.

The columns across the top of the new form are shown below, and now, for men absent, the form had columns for temporary duty and detached service (TD DS), sick in quarters or in a hospital (SK), confined to the stockade (CONF), on leave or furlough (LV FUR), AWOL, and Missing.

	ASGD	ATCHD UNASGD	TOTAL
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
SEN			
COJ LT			
COJ			
MAJ			
CAPT	13		13
1ST LT	31		31
2D LT	45		45
TRF AL	89		89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>193</b>
1SGT	6		6
2SGT	17		17
3SGT	44		44
TEC-3	81		81
TEC-4	60		60
TEC-5	54		54
PFC	8		8
PVT			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>270</b>		<b>270</b>

(1)	ASGD	ATCHD UNASGD	TOTAL	ATCHD FROM OTHER ORG'S	PRESENT				ABSENT			
					FOR DUTY	NOT FOR DUTY	T D D S	SK	CONF	LV FUR	AWOL	MISS-ING
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	

### c. Roster Additions



The morning reports included names of 110 men who joined the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS overseas, but were not on my main roster. 30 were glider pilots and mechanics, named on page 13. The other 80 are at right.

35 of these 80 added are new names, I never heard of before, denoted by an asterisk. 15 of these joined in 1943 or 1944, and are highlighted in pink. All who joined in 1943-1944, i.e. early on, have red start dates. Hawkins, #2 on this list, was with us for 277 days, and his grave, above, says “403 TC Group,” yet I never knew of him.

45 of these 80 I had known about, but excluded from the main roster, because they were in for short periods of time, or I had found only one mention of them, or they joined in mid-to-late 1945. I have now added them all to the main roster, even if in for only 4 days.

**We now have the name of everyone who joined the squadron.** The morning reports cover 9/1/43 to 11/1/45, payroll records cover all of 1943 for enlisted men, and rosters cover 1940-1942. There may be an officer who joined and left in 1943, but that is unlikely.

**We now have an exact timeline for every member.** In the book I estimated each man’s timeline, showing confirmed dates in dark blue, and estimated in a medium blue. All are now exact.

**We now tie out exactly with report month-end totals.** The headcount at month-end in various reports is on the book’s page 734. I started on October 31, 1945, when we had 0 men in the squadron, and worked backwards, one day at a time, to 8/31/43, for 792 days. I worked across 4 computer monitors, as shown below. This took all day November 20-27, and December 4-10. It was complicated because some men were removed when ill and rejoined later, and I had to correct some input errors, e.g. I put Cannon with Gannon, etc.

**We now know which airplane mechanics and radio operators were on flight status.** In the book I list all the airplane mechanics together, and one could assume they all flew, but some remained at the base and never flew a mission. Similarly some radio operators did not fly. The morning reports listed everyone’s flights, so I estimated who was on flying status each month, to tie out with stated totals, and moved many of the others to non-flying roles.

**The roster now lists ranks, and all the levels of the table of organization.** The latest draft roster is attached, but will probably see other minor changes at some point. The number of men with unspecified roles was 98, and is now 7. I have not confirmed many battle participation awards over the years, and so do not show these.

Added to Main Roster (by function, date joined, and name)

	Ground Crew	Rank	Role	Joined	Left	Dura.
* 1	Greene Leonard R	2nd Lt.	ogo	11/44	4/45	136
2	Hawkins Elisha	Pfc	ops	8/44	5/45	277
* 3	Carollo Salvatore P.	Cpl	com	10/44	4/45	173
* 4	Marceau Ralph J.		mp	10/44	5/45	211
* 5	Wilson Dale E.	Sgt	mp	5/45	10/45	137
* 6	Reed Wayne D.	Cpl.	mp	6/45	10/45	132
* 7	Lemley George W.	Cpl.	mp	6/45	10/45	126
* 8	Kime Edward, Jr.	Pfc	med	6/45	9/45	90
* 9	Hines Harry G.	Cpl	rr	11/43	3/44	119
10	Platt E. Andrew	Cpl.	rr	6/45	9/45	113
11	Bromley Robert W.	S/Sgt	rr	7/45	9/45	82
12	LaPorte Leonard L.	Sgt.	rr	7/45	9/45	80
* 13	Haselen Earl R.	Sgt	hyd	7/45	9/45	63
* 14	Pocza Ernest	Sgt	eng	11/43	5/44	169
* 15	Standridge Harold F.	S/Sgt.	eng	10/44	2/45	114
16	Tillman Robert R.	T/Sgt	eng	6/45	10/45	127
17	Bussler Rudyard A.	Pfc	eng	7/45	9/45	75
18	Cone Victor W.	Sgt	eng	7/45	9/45	75
19	Hemstallk Arthur E.	Pfc.	eng	7/45	9/45	75
20	Hill Gordon L.	S/Sgt.	eng	7/45	9/45	75
21	Miller Willis	Pfc	eng	7/45	9/45	74
22	Rabson Paul R.	Sgt	eng	7/45	9/45	75
* 23	Skarweski Joseph G.	Pfc	eng	7/45	9/45	76

#### Air Crew

24	Rice Donald W.	2nd Lt.	p	11/43	4/44	136
25	Mercer William P.	Capt	p	4/45	6/45	65
* 26	Stephens Jack E.	Capt.	p	5/45	9/45	119
27	Crutcher Theophilus W.	Capt	p	7/45	10/45	105
* 28	Johns Robert B.	2nd Lt.	nav	5/45	8/45	71
29	Gagliardi Joseph A.	Sgt	cc	6/45	9/45	95
30	Abelseth George N.	Sgt.	cc	6/45	9/45	95
31	Catenza George Antho	Sgt.	rox	5/45	9/45	118
32	McGinnis Gordon Morris	Sgt.	rox	6/45	9/45	95
33	Theodos Dhossie Kost	Sgt	rox	6/45	8/45	52
* 34	Robison Dwight R	Sgt	rox	6/45	8/45	52
35	Evans Kelvin Mason	Sgt	rox	6/45	8/45	52

Added Two Who Were Assigned But Never Joined

	On DS w/13th Air Depot	Role	Joined	Left	Dura.	
* 36	Ford Lester (Leslie)	Sgt	cc	11/43	3/44	115
* 37	Galant Max (NMI)	Cpl	ro	11/43	4/44	137

Added 23 Who Were in for 4 to 46 Days

	Officers in only a short time	Rank	Role	Joined	Left	Dura.
* 38	Kingsolver Richard Gran	2nd Lt.	ogo	7/44	9/44	34
39	Newcomb Sidney A.	1st Lt.	ogo	8/45	9/45	41
40	Barnes Norman W.	2nd Lt	p	11/43	12/43	34
41	Manning Perry Dean	2nd Lt.	p	11/43	12/43	32
42	Johnson Robert P.		p	11/43	12/43	28
43	Sentenev Robert William		p	12/43	12/43	22
* 44	Burks Delos Hudson	Capt	nav	3/45	4/45	13

#### Enlisted in a Short Time

* 45	Smoger Simon Seyme	Pvt	para	12/43	1/44	47
* 46	Graff Curtis W.	Cpl	per?	6/44	6/44	21
47	Chandler Ernest Stana	Pfc	com	10/44	10/44	4
* 48	Grindle George Kenn	T/Sgt.		10/44	12/44	38
* 49	Peterson Thomas Raph	Pfc	com	10/44	10/44	4
* 50	Trask James Ira, Jr.	Sgt.	com	10/44	12/44	40
* 51	Fletcher Stephen Edw	T/Sgt.	rox	2/45	2/45	6
* 52	Priore Joseph A.		rox	4/45	5/45	46
* 53	Fowler Walter E.	Sgt.	mp	5/45	5/45	16
54	Cobb James Larry	gt per g	cc	8/45	9/45	44
55	James Ralph Irving	Sgt.	cc	8/45	9/45	45
56	Barton James Frankl	S/Sgt.	cc	8/45	9/45	44
57	Wycoski Louis	Sgt.	cc	8/45	9/45	45
58	Hall William (mi V	Cpl.	rr	8/45	9/45	38
59	Levine Samuel (nmi)	Cpl	ord	8/45	9/45	38
60	Streed Glenn Lou	Sgt	per?	10/45	10/45	12

Added 20 Air Crew Who Joined September 7-14, 1945

* 61	Cazadd Robert R.	2nd Lt.	p	9/14	9/19	5
62	Dammon Lee O.	2nd Lt	p	9/14	9/22	8
63	Jenison Cleo P.	2nd Lt	p	9/7	9/23	16
64	Lamborn Richard B.	2nd Lt	p	9/7	9/23	16
65	Matthews Guy E., Jr.	2nd Lt.	p	9/14	9/23	9
66	Palmer Thomas M.	2nd Lt.	p	9/14	9/23	9
67	Pearson Gilbert D.	2nd Lt.	p	9/14	9/23	9
68	Peterson John M.	2nd Lt.	p	9/14	9/23	9
69	Merkelson Harold L.	2nd Lt.	nav	9/14	9/23	9
70	Schenke Ernst F.	2nd Lt	nav	9/14	9/23	9
71	Truman Robert S.	2nd Lt.	nav	9/14	9/22	8
72	Bissonnett Elmer T.	Cpl.	cc	9/7	9/23	16
* 73	Brindle Edward E.	Sgt.	cc	9/14	9/28	14
74	Krzyszynsk Edward A.	Sgt.	cc	9/12	9/23	11
* 75	Law Buell S.	Sgt.	cc	9/14	10/5	21
* 76	Parrish Leo J.	Sgt.	cc	9/14	10/11	27
* 77	Browne Robert E.	Sgt.	ro	9/14	9/28	14
78	Conley Ernest A. Jr.	Pvt	ro	9/7	9/23	16
* 79	Jones Nathan H.	Sgt.	ro	9/14	9/28	14
* 80	McGiffert John C.	Sgt.	ro	9/14	9/28	14



COMPANY MORNING REPORT			
ENDING 2400		25 November 1943	
STATION Espiritu Santos			
ORGANIZATION 13th T C Sq, 403rd T C Gp, A C			
SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
0-740245	Mendenhall	2nd Lt	
0-804969	Painter	2nd Lt	
11038276	Sinclair	Pfc	
32418474	Hogan	Sgt	
Above 3 Off and 2 EM, DSXC Sydney, Austral-			
ia to Dr. 4930			
0-746259	Leonard, William H. 1022	2nd Lt	2
0-804699	Manning, Perry D. 1022	2nd Lt	
0-685558	Donnelly, Stan D. 1034	2nd Lt	
19112579	Osborne, Morris T. 750	S/Sgt	
35686765	Tharp, William A. 755	Sgt	
Above 3 Off and 2 EM asgd and jd, 1600.			
24th per par 1, SO 224, Hq, 403rd T C Gp,			
APO 708, fr 13th AF, APO 719			

COMPANY MORNING REPORT			
ENDING 2400		30 November 1943	
STATION Espiritu Santos			
ORGANIZATION 13th T C Sq, 403rd T C Gp, A C			
SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
Above EM, Ab Str, 39th Gen Hosp, APO 715,			
(1st-1st), reld asgmt and trfd to Gen Hosp,			
Cont US per conf ltr dtd 29 Nov 43, Hq,			
VIII Sqn, Gen. APO 710			
0-800314	Blount, Buford C. 1022	2nd Lt	2
0-806850	Johnson, Robert P. 1022	2nd Lt	
0-814132	Pike, Donald L. 1034	2nd Lt	
12201510	Wentworth, Kenneth W. 750	Sgt	
16168242	Carson, Gordon F. 755	Sgt	
Above 3 Off and 2 EM, asgd and jd, per par			
5, SO 223, Hq, 403rd T C Gp, APO 708, fr			
13th AF, APO 719			

COMPANY MORNING REPORT			
ENDING 2400		5 December 1943	
STATION Espiritu Santos			
ORGANIZATION 13th T C Sq, 403rd T C Gp, A C			
SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
0-800314	Blount	2nd Lt	
0-727003	Tray	1st Lt	
15013157	Ando	T/Sgt	
17025155	Kilzer	Sgt	
Above 3 Off and 2 EM, DSXC Guadalcanal to			
Dr. 1600			
0-445188	Sackett, Carl I., Jr. 1022	2nd Lt	2
0-684783	Senteney, Robert W. 1022	2nd Lt	
0-814105	Mann, Ward P. 1034	2nd Lt	
3928127	Taylor, Jay D. 750	S/Sgt	
31199541	Thompson, Allen L. 755	Sgt	
Above 3 Off and 2 EM, asgd and jd, 1800,			
4th, per par 1, SO 224, Hq, 403rd T C Gp,			
APO 708			

**d. 1943-1945: Morning Reports Details**

Below, chronologically, are new details we have about some events described in the book.

**November-December, 1943: Names of Nine New Crews who Joined.** The 13<sup>th</sup> TCS added six crews 11/18-12/5/43 (prior to sending six crews to the US on December 10, 1943). The first three, from the morning reports (not shown here), were:

- |                   | <u>Pilot</u> | <u>Co-Pilot</u> | <u>Navigator</u> | <u>Crew Chief</u> | <u>Radio Operator</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <u>11/19</u> : | Cannon       | Rice D.         | Cady             | Eggers            | Johnston E.           |
| 2. <u>11/20</u> : | Rode         | McMahon         | Dewey            | Viktorchik        | Cloud                 |
| 3. <u>11/23</u> : | Oliveros     | Lesh            | Small            |                   |                       |

On the book's pages 405-406 I note the squadron received three more C-47s, and name the estimated crews. Now we know the exact crews and dates these joined, in the MRs above, as:

- |                   |         |            |          |             |             |
|-------------------|---------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| 4. <u>11/25</u> : | Leonard | Manning    | Donnelly | Osborne     | Tharp       |
| 5. <u>11/30</u> : | Blount  | R. Johnson | Pyke     | Wentworth   | Carson      |
| 6. <u>12/5</u> :  | Sackett | Senteney   | W. Mann  | J.D. Taylor | A. Thompson |

After our original 6 crews and planes left 12/10/43, we added 3 more crews, and the names of all these are below. The second brought a C-47, the Goggling Ghost, as described on pg. 412.

- |                   |            |           |           |              |           |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 7. <u>12/10</u> : | Plyler     | DeCoursey | Steele J. | Stallings B. | Friel     |
| 8. <u>12/13</u> : | Wilkening  | Walsh     | Wright H. | Boss         | Hershberg |
| 9. <u>12/29</u> : | E.K. Smith | Mucci     | Watland   | Lamb         | Conn      |

On the book's page 452, I have a photo of E.K. Smith, with a C-47 he named for his wife, and I estimated the name was painted on overseas. With him having flown his own plane over, it appears he had this painted in the U.S.

**December, 1943: Promotion Party Details.**

The book on page 411 has a photo of 14 officers titled "promotion party." The morning report, at right, for December 6, 1943, notes who was promoted. Dewey and Norfleet, sitting together on the left of the photo, were promoted to Captain, and Hay and Reynolds, together opposite them on right in the photo, were promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

0-854331	Dewey, Earl E., Jr.	1st Lt
0-560171	Norfleet, Marvin R.	1st Lt
Above 2 Off and 2 EM, asgd and jd, 1800,		
43, per par 10, SO 336, Hq, USAFSEA, APO		
502		
0-731980	Hay, David M.	2nd Lt
0-2042778	Reynolds, George E.	2nd Lt
Above 2 Off and 2 EM, asgd and jd, 1800,		
Dec 13, per par 10, SO 336, Hq, USAFSEA,		
APO 502.		

**12/24/43: 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Qualifications.** The 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, head of all of the enlisted men, was Demetrios J. Giokaris, from December 24, 1943, until September 9, 1945, for most of the time the squadron was overseas. The morning report for 12/21/43, when he joined, says he was previously a Master Sergeant, the highest enlisted rank. He had been in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aircraft Assembly Squadron, at the 13<sup>th</sup> Air Depot at Tontouta Air Base in New Caledonia.

**Christmas 1943.** The morning report states: “Christmas quietly celebrated. Traditional turkey dinner served in squadron mess hall 1700.”

**February 1944: Two Five-Man Crews Joined.** The morning reports include two 5-man crews, below, joining February 20, 1944, transferred from the 64<sup>th</sup> (so did not bring a C-47 to us).

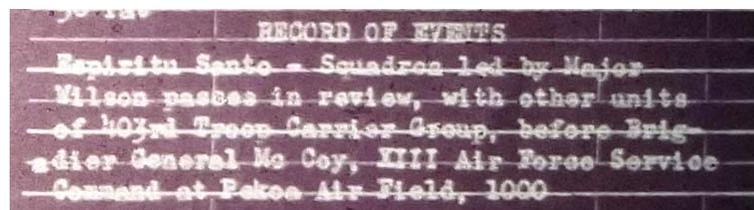
- 2/20: Hopkins Petmecky Lorio Elfman Foss
- 2/20: Nitrauer Drago King E. Bravos De Clerk

**2/25/44: MOS 521: Basic Airman.** When Lounsbury joined, he had Military Occupation Specialty (“MOS”) 521, “Basic Airman.” C. Thomas, Frazzini, and Gallagher were also 521. This was for “personnel unqualified for an MOS previously held,” awaiting reassignment.

**2/28/44: New Hebrides Athletic Field.** For this date, the report’s comment section stated: “Squadron athletic field, with basketball court, badminton court, horseshoe pits, and other recreational facilities opened.” These three areas are pictured on the book’s page 397.

**3/10/44 Inspection.** An administrative inspection of the squadron was completed by the group administrative inspector, of the 403<sup>rd</sup> TCG.

**Award Ceremonies.** The book on page 441 has photos of a ceremony with General McCoy. The morning report, at right, for March 13, provides the date of this, and indicates this began at 10 a.m.



The book on page 443 has photos estimated to all be from the same award ceremony. The morning reports reveal that those photos were from several ceremonies, as described below. Those underlined below are pictured on page 443.

On April 8, at 8 a.m., commanding officer Wilson awarded the DFC to A. Miller, J. Allen, and Lenderman, and the air medal to J. Allen, Barrett, Conard, Dalmann, Hetzler, Judd, Lenderman, A. Miller, Mendenhall, and Whitaker. Wilson at this ceremony awarded the Good Conduct Medal to 163 enlisted men, estimated to be those lined up on the top of that page.

On May 6, at 8:15 a.m., Colonel Sands of the 403<sup>rd</sup> TCG presented the air medal to: Plyler, E.K. Smith, DeCoursey, Donnelly, Houpt, Leonard, Em. King, W. Mann, Oliveros, Page, Richards, Peters, and Woodall, and oak leaf clusters to Peters, Page, Lenderman, Richards, Versdahl, and Wilson. On May 13, Major Wilson presented the Air Medal and oak leaf clusters (OLCs) to 9 officers and 2 enlisted men (but these were not named in the morning report). On May 20, at 7:30 a.m., Wilson presented the air medal to Barry, Baxter, Blount, Buckingham, Carey, Copeland, Groesbeck, Mitchell, Mucci, Pyke, Sackett, Skeens, Steele, Stout, J. Walsh, Watland, Wilkening, Woodall, and Wright, and the OLC to Kilzer, Watkins, and Woodall.

**6/16/44: USAFISPA to USAFFE.** On June 16, 1944, we were relieved from assignment to the USAF in the South Pacific Area (USAFISPA) and assigned to that in the Far East, USAFFE.

**More Award Ceremonies.** On June 17, 1944, at 7:15 a.m. Wilson presented the OLC to Lesh and Park, and two OLCs to A.Miller. On July 1, Wilson presented the air medal to Painter.

**9/1/44: Attached to the Fifth Air Force.** From September 1 to 21, 1944, while the air echelon was at Los Negros, we were attached to the Fifth Air Force for operational control. Many of our flights were to New Guinea, an area the Fifth AF had already started supporting.

**9/21/44: Official Move to Biak.** The book on page 515 says we officially changed stations to Biak on September 21, 1944. The morning reports note the official record keeper left Espiritu Santo September 19 at noon, and spent the night in Guadalcanal, for refueling. On September 20 he departed at 8 a.m., and arrived at Los Negros at noon. On 9/21 he departed at 5 a.m., arrived Biak at 10:30 a.m., and “set up new headquarters in area cleared away by advance echelon.”

**10/21-22/44: First flights to Morotai and Noemfoor.** We first landed on Morotai October 21, 1944, and on Noemfoor on October 22, 1944.

TECHNICAL SERGEANTS			
Howell H. Collier	Leslie K. Kingsley		
Walter R. Humbarger	Harold F. Mahacek		

**11/18/44: Mahacek, at Patterson Field near us in December 1940, but with the 5<sup>th</sup> TS, joined us in 1944.** The book on page 2 has an undated original roster, part of a folded 3-part brochure, also listing members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Transport Squadron, in December 1940. This included Harold F. Mahacek, above right. Pilot Creelman had a photo of Mahacek overseas, and so I assumed he joined us in the U.S. Rather, after becoming a Warrant Officer, he joined at Biak, on November 18, 1944. He was the assistant engineering officer until July 23, 1945.

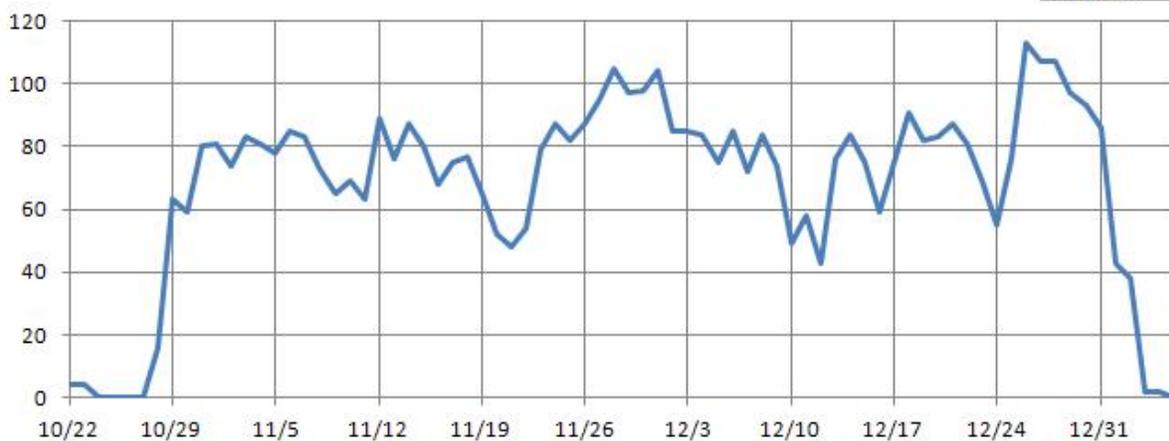
**11/45-12/45: Assignments to Noemfoor.** On the book’s page 498, I note the air echelon moved to Noemfoor around November 1, 1944, because there was no space for our C-47s at the three airfields on Biak. Noemfoor was 95 miles west of Biak.

The morning reports provide all the assignments to Noemfoor. As graphed below, we had about 80 men there per day from November 1 until December 31, 1944. In all we had 375 men 10/31 and 11/30, and 300 at various times were assigned to Noemfoor, exactly 80% of the members. The first table at right shows that 75 men went there on only one trip, 50 went twice, etc. The second table at right shows the length of the stays, e.g. that 7 men were on Noemfoor only 1 day, 9 for 2 days, etc., with the longest stay being 43 days. Air crew members are counted as being on Noemfoor even if away on a mission, so the number spending the night was less than indicated.

**Trips to Noemfoor**

Trips	Men
1	79
2	50
3	47
4	35
5	36
6	17
7	16
8	10
9	6
10	1
11	1
12	0
13	2
Total	300
Wtd Avg	3.5

**13th TCS Officers and Enlisted Men on Noemfoor**



**Days On Noemfoor**

Days	Men
1	7
2	9
3	5
4	6
5	6
6	14
7	13
8	10
9	8
10	9
11	11
12	6
13	13
14	11
15	13
16	14
17	13
18	14
19	5
20	10
21	7
22	6
23	11
24	4
25	10
26	11
27	5
28	8
29	13
30	1
31	3
32	5
33	2
34	4
35	2
36	1
37	1
38	1
39	2
40	2
41	3
42	0
43	1
Total	300
Avg	17.0

## 1/26/45: Air Crew Aviation Badge Earned Overseas

Pilots were awarded silver wing pins when they graduated from flying school in the US. The enlisted air crew, i.e. airplane mechanics and radio operators, wore a similar pin, referred to as the Aviation Badge, but more commonly also referred to as “wings.” I thought they earned these in the U.S. Some men probably earned this in the U.S., but, for us, those listed at right earned this badge overseas.

On January 26, 1945, 403<sup>rd</sup> Group 1945 Special Order (“SO”) 15, below, awarded this to 25 men, listed again at right, by function, and date joined. Some of these such as Whitehead, Harp, and Myers had been flying in the squadron for 4 years.

L. UP AAF Regulation 35-30 the fol named in 13th Trp Carr Sq having demonstrated their proficiency in Air Crew Duty are ated to wear the Aviation Badge "Air Crew Member".

1 Sgt Earnest L Ando	15013157	S Sgt Allen L Thompson	31199521
T Sgt Keith L Boss	37233270	S Sgt Kenneth E Wentworth	12201510
T Sgt Harold C Myers	36117654	Sgt Joseph Petricola	15073515
S Sgt James W Whitehead	15051393	Cpl Luther H Brady	18199346
S Sgt Paul Bowman	13153914	Cpl Carl A Cook	16204280
S Sgt James R Bradford Jr	16043521	Cpl George P Fatula	31314324
S Sgt Gordon F Carson	16160212	Cpl Benedict Gold	32366565
S Sgt Paul J Harp	15040269	Cpl Neil J Malloy	32723291
S Sgt Alex Hershberg	32144499	Cpl Robert A Morin	11042186
S Sgt Cecil F Hogan	32118174	Cpl Earnest W Sodergren Jr	32215312
C Sgt J Van Holbrook	36117755	Cpl George Thear	33628669
S Sgt Alex A Neal	31382563	Cpl Alphonso Viscusi	33600230
Pfc Robert B Osman			33255398

On April 23, 1945, 403<sup>rd</sup> SO 66 awarded this to 49 more men, also listed at right. Grubbs had been an airplane mechanics for 4 years.

## March-April 1945 Additions

On 3/21/1945, the 403<sup>rd</sup> Group received at least 30 new navigators. Four went to the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS: Epstein, R.N. Smith, Steverson, and Sutton. (Seven went to the 63<sup>rd</sup> TCS, 7 to the 64<sup>th</sup>, 4 to the 65<sup>th</sup>, and 8 to the 66<sup>th</sup>.)

From 3/15/45-4/5/45, five air crew groupings were assigned to us, as summarized below. The Zarek crew is pictured on the book's page 560. (The column at right is the number of the 403<sup>rd</sup> Group Special Order.)

### Air Crew Groupings that Joined in March-April 1945

#	Start	Pilot	Co-pilot	Navigator	Crew Chief	Radar Op	SO
1	3/15	Trueba	Davis		Blanco	Kovek	47
2	3/26	Taylor	Kulikoff		Ryan	Blackwell	52
3	3/31	Zarek	Scofield		Brown	Cain	55
4	3/31	Trout	Roberts	Hirsch	Oliva	Hampton	55
5	4/5	Stanton	Beckman		Thomas	Priore	58

#	Last	First	Joined	Left
January 26, 1945: 403 <sup>rd</sup> Special Order 15				
Airplane Mechanics				
1	Whitehead	James W. (not)	12/40	3/45
2	Harp	Paul J. (Honey)	6/41	6/45
3	Holbrook	J Van (Hartwel)	8/41	7/45
4	Morin	Robert August	2/42	9/45
5	Sodergren	Ernest Walter	7/42	9/45
6	Ando	Ernest L.	8/43	9/45
7	Wentworth	Kenneth E.	11/43	6/45
8	Boss	Keith Leroy	12/43	9/45
Radio Operators				
9	Myers	Harold Carlton	8/41	2/45
10	Bradford	James R. Jr. (G)	7/42	7/45
11	Petricola	Joseph	7/42	8/45
12	Malloy	Cornelius (Neil)	6/43	6/45
13	Hogan	Cecil F.	8/43	4/45
14	Bowman	Paul R.	11/43	5/45
15	Neal	Alexander Aus	11/43	7/45
16	Carson	Gordon F.	11/43	6/45
17	Thompson	Allen Lawrence	12/43	6/45
18	Hershberg	Alex	12/43	8/45
19	Osman	Robert Bassil	2/44	9/45
20	Fatula	George Phillip	3/44	10/45
21	Cook	Carl Asberry, J	7/44	7/45
22	Gold	Benedict ("Ben")	8/44	9/45
23	Viscusi	S. I. Alphonso	8/44	10/45
24	Brady	Luther Harvey	9/44	10/45
25	Thear	George	9/44	10/45

April 23, 1945: 403<sup>rd</sup> Special Order 66

### Airplane Mechanics

1	Grubbs	Bradley (nmi)	4/41	7/45
2	Smith	Oscar Elbert	8/41	8/45
3	Bowen	Homer Grady	5/42	9/45
4	Biedenbach	Casper J.	5/42	7/45
5	Barry	Frank Joseph	5/42	4/45
6	Marks	Kenneth Galer	6/42	9/45
7	Miller	George John, J	6/42	9/45
8	Morgan	Scage Whitse	6/42	8/45
9	Tustin	William W.	6/42	6/45
10	Franklin	Ernest H.	6/42	9/45
11	Vallely	Bernard X.	6/42	9/45
12	Laming	Russell C.	6/42	6/45
13	Linkenhoger	Floyd Bowles	6/42	5/45
14	Matela	Frank R.	6/42	9/45
15	Goodwin	Wm. Curtis	7/42	8/45
16	Burgess	Alfred Ernest (G)	7/42	7/45
17	Smith	John (no middle)	7/42	8/45
18	Geuther	Walter J.	8/42	9/45
19	Sinclair	Robert Duncar	8/42	9/45
20	Elam	Robert Kennet	9/42	6/45
21	Belto	Earnest David	9/42	9/45
22	DeLoss	Anthony Domi	2/43	8/45
23	Hartline	James William	2/43	7/45
24	Holland	Wesley Green	5/43	9/45
25	Bell	Howard Doyle	6/43	9/45
26	LaLonde	Joseph R.	6/43	9/45
27	Maguire	Charles R.	6/43	9/45
28	Pettis	Newell L.	8/43	9/45
29	Locke	Thomas C. Jr.	8/43	8/45
30	Stallings	Buster	12/43	9/45
31	Lamb	Aubin Boulwar	12/43	9/45
32	Elfman	Milton	2/44	10/45
33	Payne	John Wilson	8/44	10/45
34	Prichard	Reginald Emer	10/44	10/45
35	Venezia	Eugene	12/44	9/45
36	Rodgerson	Loyd (yes, onl)	12/44	5/45
37	Vento	Joseph A.	12/44	9/45
38	Watts	Roger Lee	12/44	9/45

### Radio Operators

39	McDaniel	Tom D. ("Tom")	6/43	4/45
40	Bruce	Paul M.	8/43	5/45
41	Cooper	Donald Wayne	8/43	5/45
42	Friel	Francis J.	12/43	7/45
43	Bravos	Mitchell M.	2/44	9/45
44	Reberry	Paul L., Sr.	8/44	10/45
45	Davis	Lenard Edward	12/44	9/45
46	Sunderman	Leroy Edward	12/44	9/45
47	Hedges	William H. Jr.	12/44	9/45
48	Harriss	Neal E.	1/45	9/45
49	Kovek	Kurt Joseph (K)	3/45	10/45

**1945: Furlough to the US.** Thirteen men were sent back to the US on furlough, expected to return later, so were still carried on the books: Ummel 2/21/45, Bakken and Bernhard 3/16/45, Fuller and O'Shea 3/21/45, Mlynek and Wallace 4/18/45, Hocker and Komo 4/25/45 for training, Eatmon and Myres 5/16/45, Granger 6/15/45, and Brouse 6/22/45. These were later relieved.

**7/11/45: Driedger Flight with Luras.** The book on page 676 has a story by radio operator Arthur Driedger about taking mess cook Andrew J. Luras along on a mission, and Luras, looking over the pilot's shoulder, misreading the altimeter and thinking the plane was about to hit the water. As shown at right, they departed Biak for the Admiralty Islands (Los Negros) on July 11, 1945. They returned July 13, giving the story date.

NAME	SERIAL NUMBER	GRADE	DOB	COB
Driedger, Arthur R Jr	13897203	s. sgt		
Luras, Andrew J	39829401	sgt		

**7/29/45: Crash details.** On page 690 I describe our last crash, when the pilot turned left instead of right, and hit a mountain. The morning report states he took off at 8:08 p.m.

The flight engineer who died in the crash was named Mastrantonio, and I had heard this was his first flight ever. The reports show he had flown with others on temporary duties: Nov 15-22, 1944 to Morotai, Dec 1-11 to Noemfoor, and acted as a crew chief of a 4-man crew for a flight to Palawan June 17-29, as shown at right.

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

29 Jul 45: Naval Squadron Detachment  
 29 Jul 45: Air Crew of plane No 77705  
 B-24 type aircraft missing on local  
 night transition flight. Airplane took  
 off at 8:08 and crashed shortly there-  
 after. Search parties have been organized.

Sand, Bernard P (AO)	0719758	2d lt
Mariani, Roland G (AO)	0823803	2d lt
Mastrantonio, Esio G	35623347	sgt
Braves, Mitchell	39128252	s. sgt

Above 2 off and 2 on duty to DSXQ Palawan  
 Philippine Islands

The report July 30 said Foote was found 80 yards from the plane, carried out by litter, and taken to the 132<sup>nd</sup> QM hospital with severe burns and fractured bones. He died 7/31. The funeral chapel pictured on page 694 was the "Base Chapel," and the service for all three began at 9 a.m.

**10/29/45: Last Three Members.** On the book's page 733, I quote the historical monthly reports which said at the end of October the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS "had total personnel of two officers," and I state these were Whitaker and Walsh. The morning reports have Whitaker and officers Walsh and Shearer relieved to return to the U.S. October 19. They were our last long-term officers, but not the last.

The report for October 29, with a summary at right, has **1 captain and 1 sergeant present, and one 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt absent.** 403<sup>rd</sup> Group Special Order 162, October 31, 1945, has a paragraph, below, relieving Capt. Theophilus Crutcher, Jr., and Sgt. Glenn Streed, identifying the captain and sergeant. Crutcher was a pilot who joined July 18, 1945. Streed joined October 19 from the 403<sup>rd</sup> group as a typist.

NAME	GRADE	TOTAL	PRESENT	ABSENT	REASON
1	1	1			
1	1			1	
2	2	1		1	
1	1	1			
1	1	1			

Name	Serial	Grade	Relief from	Assignment to	Transfer via
CAPT THEOPHILUS W CRUTCHER JR (1051)(71)	0791078	AO	13th Twp Carr Sq APO 719	638 Twp Carr Sq APO 719 EDGAR 1 NOV 45	No tvi
Sgt Glen L Streed (105)(62)	17112133				

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. absent appears on an October 18, 1945, report, below, and was pilot Edward Beckman. He joined April 7, 1945, as part of the 4-man crew on the prior page, and is pictured in Two Years with Flight F. He moved to Leyte 9/5/45, and on October 14 was assigned temporary duty in Manila. I did not find a record of him relieved from the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS.

Beckman, Edward F (AO)	0833467	2d lt
Dy to TDY Manila per par 6 SO 276 Hq		
Thirteenth AP this sta AS OF 14 Oct 45		

**e. Movements to Other Overseas Bases**

**We now have the date each person moved to each overseas base.** I have wondered who was at Los Negros, who was on Wakde; who went to Noemfoor, how many men were still on Biak on August 14, 1945, when the Japanese announced they would surrender, etc. **This is summarized in another attachment to this email.** This, too, is just a draft, and may change slightly. You can find your relative, and see the dates he moved to other bases.

**July and August 1945 Moves to Leyte**

On the book's page 695 I wrote: "On July 17 an advance party of officers Norfleet and Soderland and 20 enlisted men travelled to Dulag to construct the next base. More enlisted men were added on July 18 (5 men), 19<sup>th</sup> (2), and 20<sup>th</sup> (9), plus Lt Carey, for 39 men in total. The squadron likely moved up in later July." The morning reports provide the exact details of the move to Leyte.

The reports show the first Temporary Duty was July 16, 1945, at right, with indeed Soderland, plus pilots Sackett, Golomb, Lindberg, V. Burgess, and Stanton, ground officer E. Walsh, plus enlisted men Roberston and Fuselier.

The report for July 17, has the list at right noting the 2 officers were Norfleet and Reynolds, and names the 20 enlisted men.

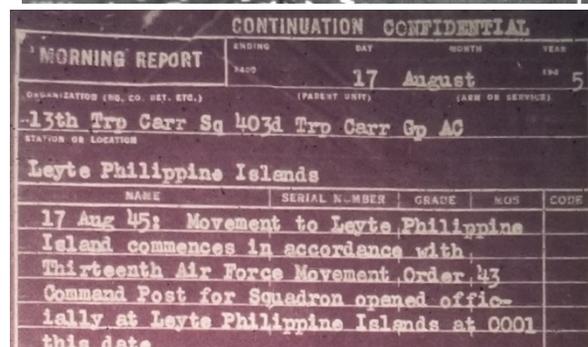
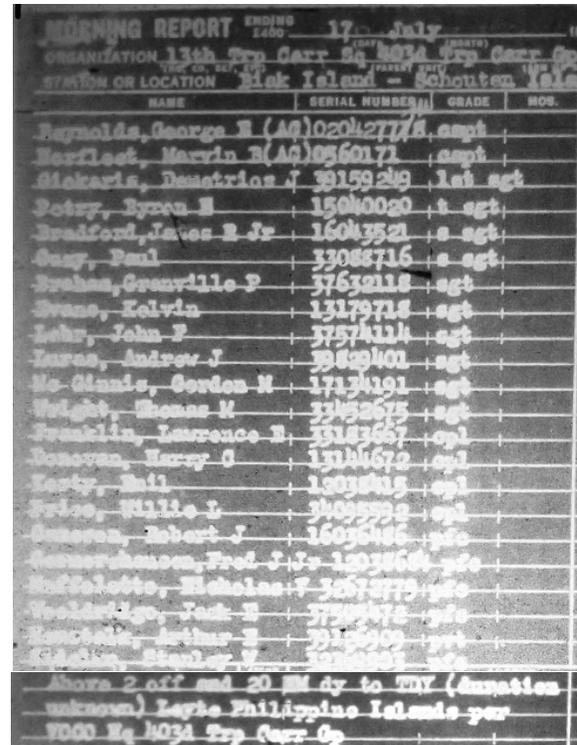
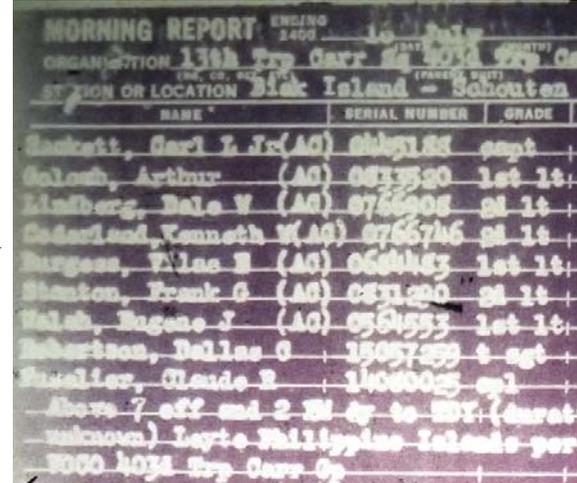
Soderland was on Leyte from July 16 through August 5, and so helped out, but was not part of the advance party as defined. I wrote that Carey helped, because Norfleet had a photo of someone at Dulag who looked like him, but the reports say Carey left May 28, 1945.

**On 8/17/45, 60% of Squadron still at Biak**

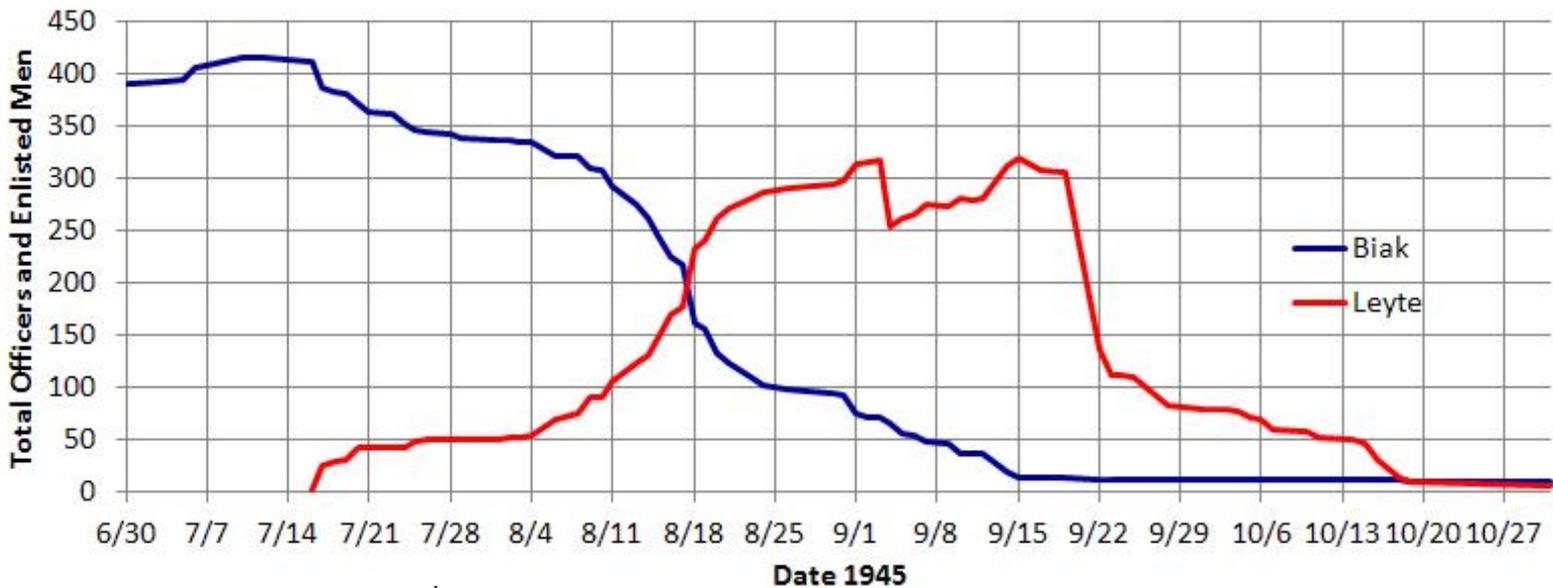
The squadron officially moved from Biak to Leyte on August 17, as noted below right. The morning report for that day noted it attached four rosters of where everyone was. When away from the headquarters they are considered on temporary duty, "TDY", and when at the same location as the headquarters are on regular duty, "DY".

As summarized below, on August 17, 1945, 49% of the officers remained at Biak, as did 180 of 399 ground crew, for **60% of the squadron being still at Biak.**

Base	Off	F/O	EM	Total	%
Biak	49	11	180	240	60%
Leyte	51	7	101	159	40%
Total	100	18	281	399	100%



## 13th Troop Carrier Officers and Enlisted Men at Biak and Leyte in 1945



The number of 13<sup>th</sup> TCS men in Biak and Dulag (on Leyte) in June-Oct 1945 is graphed above.

**USAT Tabinta for Return Home and 9/22-23 transfers.** On the book's page 726, I wrote: "Most of the squadron returned on the U.S. Army Transport Tabinta." This was based on a quote by Windham on that page that: "Half of or better were on this."

The July 2017 newsletter included an order from the collection of Sidelko listing 69 squadron members sent home on September 4, and I noted Windham was probably referring to the original members still left at that time, who fit this percentage. On September 3 there were actually 388 men in the squadron, and so only 17.8% left on the Tabinta, barely noticeable on the graph above.

On September 22, 1945, 171 men were transferred to other 403<sup>rd</sup> units: the 63<sup>rd</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, and 66<sup>th</sup>, and on 9/22/45 another 25 were similarly transferred, causing the 196-men drop in the graph above. The men who remained in the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS were mostly awaiting orders to the U.S.

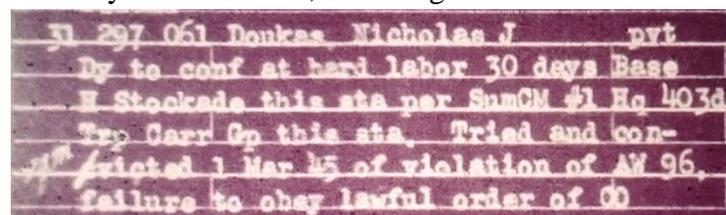
### f. 1945: 403<sup>rd</sup> Troop Disciplinary Actions and Stockade

The 1945 403<sup>rd</sup> TCG orders included Special Court Martial Orders for several cases, and referred to a 403<sup>rd</sup> stockade. The orders were signed by the 403<sup>rd</sup> TCG's Col. Sands.

Refusing to go to KP: 3 months hard labor. A 64<sup>th</sup> TCS Pfc, Violation of the 65<sup>th</sup> Article of War. "Having received a lawful order from Staff Sergeant Walton to report for kitchen police duty, did at APO 920 [Biak] around 0715, 30 December 1944, willfully disobey same: to be confined at hard labor, at such place as the reviewing authority may direct, for three (3) months, and to forfeit \$16.00 per month for a like period. One previous conviction considered."

Leaving guard duty: 3 months can't leave base. A 63<sup>rd</sup> TCS corporal "posted as a sentinel at the 63<sup>rd</sup> TCS Orderly Room and Operations and Intelligence Building, on January 16, 1945, did leave his post before he was regularly relieved: to be restricted to the 63<sup>rd</sup> TCS area for 3 months, to forfeit \$50 per month for six months, and to be reduced to the grade of private."

For the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS, on 5/1/44, parachute repairman Phipps was assigned to the stockade for 30 days; I did not find the reason. On 3/5/45, radio operator Doukas, returning from sick in quarters, failed to obey an order of the CO, and was confined for 30 days of hard labor, below right.



**g. 1945: Glider Echelon Finally Explained**

While researching the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS, I have come across names of men who were glider pilots and mechanics. I wrote on the book's page 70, in a table of pilots: "16 of the last 27 may be glider pilots." At the NPRC in St. Louis on June 21, I photographed microfilm images of 403<sup>rd</sup> Troop Carrier Group orders. The 403<sup>rd</sup> oversaw the 13<sup>th</sup>, 63<sup>rd</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, and 66<sup>th</sup> TCSs. The 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> were loaned to the Fifth Air Force quite early, so the 403<sup>rd</sup> mostly just oversaw the 13<sup>th</sup>, 63<sup>rd</sup>, and 64<sup>th</sup>. These orders and morning reports explain the glider echelon history, as follows.

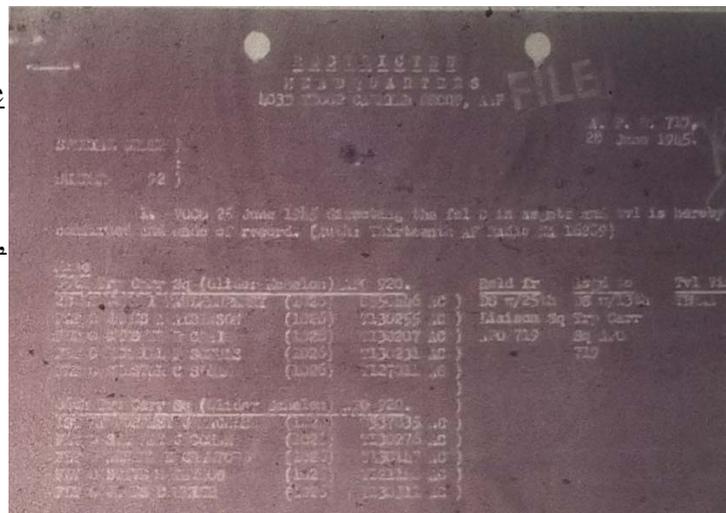
1. Around April 15, 1945, two glider echelons arrived and set up camp in Biak, and were assigned to the 403<sup>rd</sup> Troop Carrier Group. On the book's page 760, the table of organization, glider echelons were assigned to troop carrier squadrons, and had 83 men, including 34 pilots. This requirement was dropped for Pacific troop carriers for most of the war. In 1945, gliders echelons were deployed to the Pacific to prepare for an invasion of Japan. Two echelons were sent to the 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force, who in turn assigned them to its only troop carrier group, the 403<sup>rd</sup>.

2. On April 17, 1945, one glider echelon was assigned to each of the 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> TCSs, which were at Morotai, but both were put on Detached Service with the 403<sup>rd</sup> at Biak. This is shown below, in 403<sup>rd</sup> TCG 1945 Special Order 63, paragraph 2. The first echelon is relieved from Hq 403d Trp Carr Gp, APO 920, and assigned to the 65<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron at APO 719. As outlined, the assignment goes on to say detached service ("DS") with the 403<sup>rd</sup> TCG at APO 920, Biak. No travel ("No tvl") was authorized, because they were already at Biak.



3. On May 29, 1945, 22 of these men at Biak, being 10 glider pilots and 12 glider mechanics, half of these from each echelon, were assigned detached service with the 25<sup>th</sup> Liaison Squadron at APO 719. This was in 403<sup>rd</sup> 1945 SO 82.

4. On June 28, 1945, the 10 glider pilots assigned to the 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> TCS, on detached service with the 25<sup>th</sup> Liaison, were assigned to detached service with the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS, at APO 719. This is at right in 403<sup>rd</sup> SO 92. This does not appear in our morning reports.



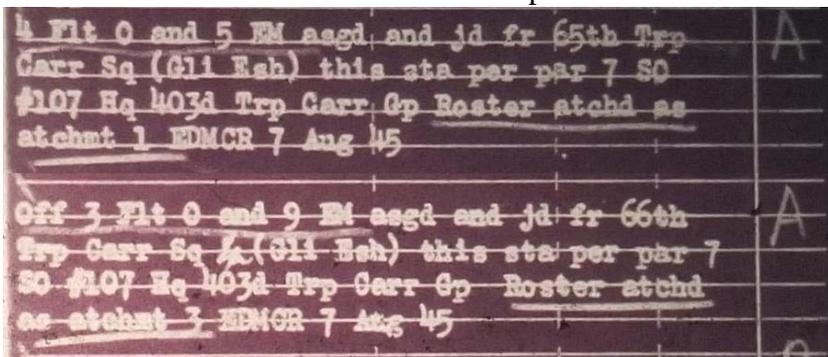
5. Also on June 28, in the same 403<sup>rd</sup> order, below, the rest of glider echelon personnel assigned to the 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> TCSs, except the 12 mechanics with the 25<sup>th</sup> Liaison Sq, were assigned to the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS, at Biak. This may be because the 403<sup>rd</sup> moved to Leyte, and the glider echelons had to be assigned to a local unit. While assigned to the 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> TCSs, they were on DS (not joined) with us because we were still at Biak.

66th Trp Carr Sq (Glider Echelon)	APO 920	Rel'd Fr	Asgn To	Tvl Via
01ST LT ROYD W. ROWE	(1026) 0473586 AC	DS w/Hq	DS w/13th	No Tvl
2D LT ROBERT L. BRUNER	(1026) 0537835 AC	403d Trp	Trp Carr Sq	
2D LT JOHN J. CONNOLLY	(1026) 0706830 AC	Carr Gp	APO 920	
2D LT JAMES W. HENDERSON	(1026) 0671207 AC	APO 719		

6. On July 6, 1945, the morning reports refer to the glider echelon for the first time. It notes it was "attached," i.e. they were not yet members of the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS. Only 63 and 64 of the initial 82 + 83 men were assigned DS because some were on DS with the 25<sup>th</sup>.

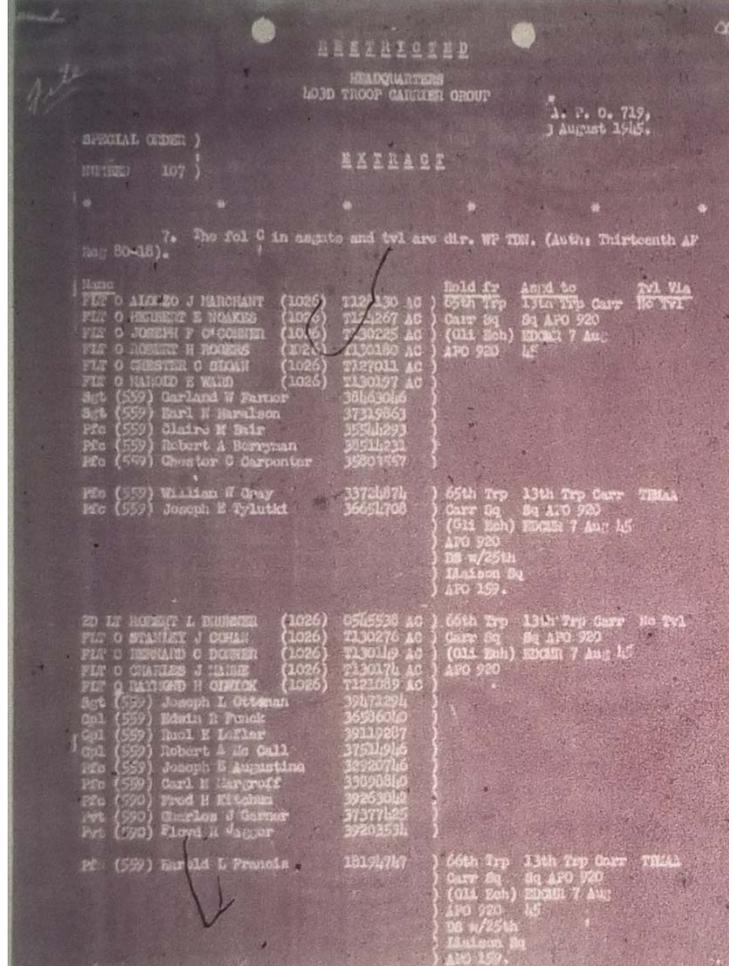
7. On August 3, 1945, 11 glider pilots and 17 glider mechanics, from the 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup>, were assigned to the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS, not just on Detached Service. This was in 403<sup>rd</sup> 1945 SO 107, at right. The 28 had 1 error (Ward), for 27. 28 men went to the 63<sup>rd</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> TCS, too, leaving the 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> with 41 each.

8. On August 8, 1945, the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS morning report, below, noted 27 men joined 8/7/45 at Biak. The two entries below add up as: 4+5+1+3+9 = 22.



The 8/8/45 morning report noted 5 more joined, glider pilots Cohan and Sloan, and glider mechanics Francis, Gray, and Tylutki, but on DS with the 25<sup>th</sup> Liaison. On 8/9/45 glider mechanics Brumm and Johnson joined, and on 8/31 pilot Oliver, for 30 total. These are named in the table at right.

On June 5, 2008, I scanned the photo below from 1944-45 pilot Creelman, of glider pilots Oliver and Donner, with our C-47 pilot Strand, by the Biak officers' club, or in Dulag, evidence the glider men did live in our camp. I have wondered about this ever since. Now we know who joined, and when.



#### Glider Pilots and Mechanics in the 13th TCS

Glider Pilots (MOS 1026)				Was	Joined	Left
1	Brunner	Robert L.	2nd Lt o-545538	66th	8/8	8/31
2	Cohan	Stanley J.	F/O T130276	66th	8/8	9/23
3	Donner	Bernard C.	F/O T130149	66th	8/8	9/23
4	Manne	Charles J.	F/O T130174	66th	8/8	9/23
5	Marchant	Alonzo Jay	F/O T128130	65th	8/8	9/23
6	Noakes	Herbert E.	F/O T124267	65th	8/8	9/23
7	O'Connor	Joseph F.	F/O T130225	65th	8/8	9/23
8	Oliver	Harry S., Jr.	F/O T130299		8/31	9/23
9	Olwick	Raymond H.	F/O T121089	66th	8/8	9/23
10	Rogers	Robert H. Jr.	F/O T130180	65th	8/8	9/23
11	Sloan	Chester Char	F/O T127091	65th	8/8	9/23

Glider Mechanics (MOS 559)				Was	Joined	Left
12	Farmer	Garland W.	Sgt 38463046	65th	8/8	10/5
13	Brumm	Robert L.	Cpl 39686504		8/9	9/22
14	Funck	Edwin Roy	Cpl 36586040	66th	8/8	9/23
15	Haralson	Earl B.	Cpl 37319863	65th	8/8	10/4
16	Ottoman	Joseph L.	Cpl 39276888	66th	8/8	9/23
17	Augustine	Joseph E.	Pfc 32920746	66th	8/8	9/23
18	Bair	Claire M.	Pfc 35544293	65th	8/8	9/23
19	Berryman	Robert A.	Pfc 38514231	65th	8/8	9/23
20	Carpenter	Chester C.	Pfc 35803557	65th	8/8	9/23
21	Francis	Harold Leroy	Pfc 18194747	66th	8/8	9/24
22	Garner	Charles J.	Pfc 37377425	66th	8/8	9/23
23	Gray	William Wiss	Pfc 33784474	65th	8/8	9/24
24	Johnson	Harold E.	Pfc 16119021		8/9	9/23
25	Kitchum	Fred H.	Pfc 39263042	66th	8/8	9/10
26	Lefler	Ruel E.	Pfc 39119287	66th	8/8	9/23
27	McCall	Robert D.	Pfc 37514946	66th	8/8	9/23
28	Tylutki	Joseph E.	Pfc 3251700	65th	8/8	9/24
29	Jagger	Floyd R.	Pvt 39204534	66th	8/8	9/23
30	Margroff	Carl M.	Pvt 33898840	66th	8/8	9/23

## 2. Members and Relatives

### a. Identified One of our Unidentified: George E. Schaefer

For years I have tried to identify which of many men named George E. Schaefer was our 1944-1945 pilot. On November 21, 2019, at 9:30 p.m., I received a reply on Ancestry to a message I sent in February 2018, to the daughter of a cousin of a George E. Schaefer, Jr., who I determined had been in the Air Force Reserves, to try to learn if he had been a pilot. This cousin sent me a link to an obit she found on Newspapers.com. It was very short, though, and said nothing about WWII service.

I searched Newspapers.com to see if another paper had an obit for him, but before doing so decided to search on his name with his rank. Many newspaper articles in the 1940s included a man's rank. I searched Newspapers.com for "Lt. George E. Schaefer," and found three results. I was thrilled to read the wedding announcement, at right, on February 25, 1945, referring to one who was a C-47 pilot in the South Pacific!



This article says this one was the son of Mrs. Lucia Schaefer and George Sr., of Chicago. Another link said his parents lived at 6940 Oglesby Avenue in Chicago, and his mother's middle initial was G. I searched on his mother's name, and found his draft registration card, with the same address, and his birthday, July 15, 1913. Previously I had examined 12 different GES's, but only looked back to 1914. He was different than the one I inquired about. Identifying one of my 5 missing was huge. It appears his marriage did not occur. I could not find a grave, or relatives.

### b. Lost One: Radio Operator John T. Coker, 9/12/21-12/31/19

On January 3, 2020, at 6:43 a.m., I received an email from John Ratowski, whose dad was in the Seabees at Bougainville, who has corresponded with me. He sent me a link to an obit for our radio operator Coker, who passed away New Year's Eve. The visitation was this same day, January 3, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m., and the service at 11 a.m., near Shawnee, Okla., just 3 hours away from me in Dallas. If I had read this earlier I would have driven up for this, but did not read it until around 8:30 a.m., and it did not occur to me until later that it was so close.

Coker joined the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS in August 1942, and took the ship over. He made flights to Guadalcanal. He returned to the U.S. 2/17/44. Coker was the last living air crew member to serve before July 1944, i.e. we have no one still living who served as air crew before July 1944.

I met John Coker July 30, 2016, in Shawnee, Okla., at right, and recorded 2 hours of stories, 2 pages of which I included in the August 2016 newsletter. After I typed up his stories, I had many follow-up questions, and was eager to visit him again, but, when I asked twice later in 2016, and also in 2017, his son said it was not a good time to visit, so I never spoke to him again. This is another big loss for the squadron history. He was sharp.

Thank you, John Coker, for being a radio operator in the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS, and for sharing with us your many great stories.



### c. Latest Dashboard

As described on page 4, I added 110 men to the roster. I took out Ketner, who was only attached, and Revis who left in the US, for a net increase of 108. The number of men in the 13<sup>th</sup> TCS overseas increased from 707 in the October 28 letter to 815. The totals for October 28 in the table at right were adjusted to add what I previously had on these 110 more. For each of the 110 more, I sought to determine a birth date, death date, resting place, Find-a-Grave page, and contact.

**Members Identified and Contacts Found (of 815)**

Members:	28-Oct	31-Dec	Add	Need
Birth Date*	803 99%	804 99%	1	11
Death Date***	782 98%	784 98%	2	18
Resting Place**	688 86%	690 86%	2	112
FindaGrave Link**	489 61%	489 61%	0	313
Contact	600 74%	601 74%	1	214
Have Book	532 65%	532 65%	0	283

\* Birth and death dates incl. 5 and 4 best-estimates.

\*\* Percent and Need for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> exclude 13 living.

Regarding Birth Dates needed (the first line of the table, being men not yet identified by a birth date), this was previously 5, and initially went down by 1 to 4, when I identified Schaefer, on the prior page. For the 110 new men, I could not identify 7, being pilots Robert P. Johnson and Jack E. Stephens; navigator Robert B. Johns; radar mechanic William G. (or W.) Hall, clerk Samuel Levine, glider pilot Brunner, and glider mechanic Harold E. Johnson. These raised the number of unidentified men from 4 to 11.

Death Dates needed (excluding still living) was previously 8, and initially decreased by 1 for Schaefer to 7, but then, due to the 7 new unidentified, plus Gagliardi, Haselen, Jagger, and Platt, went up by 11, to 18.

Contacts went up by 1, as I found the granddaughter of Marceau.

Estimates were previously 1, and increased by 4, to 5, as I could only make a best-guess for Leonard R. Greene, Donald W. Rice, Wayne D. Reed, and Floyd R. Jagger.

Still living was 11, and went down by 1 for Coker, then up by 3, for newly-added pilot John M. Peterson, medical corpsman Edward Kime, and glider mechanics Ruel E. Lefler, to 13.

### 3. Conclusions

This newsletter was about personnel movements, from the amazing data at the NPRC. It is great to have the roster, roles, and base movements now almost complete and exact. Relatives of each man can now know exactly which camps he was at, and the date he moved to them.

Please see the attached two files. These are still drafts, and I will finalize them later, but I wanted to share them now. If you have any comments about your dad's listing, please let me know. On the roster, men are now sorted by their highest rank, except pilots, who are sorted by the date they joined. This is because they often joined in groups, e.g. pilots #86, F/O Burder, joined at the same time as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Buchen and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Wysong, and they were good friends, so it made sense to list them together, rather than splitting them up by rank.

My dad was born January 7, 1920, and this Wednesday would have been 100 years old.

With best wishes for 2020,

Seth