



# "Jungle" Air Force Newsletter

News and Information for Members of the 13th Air Force Veterans Association

MAY 2010

**B.C. Pipes**  
President

**Cliff Johnson**  
President-Elect 2011

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**Phil Dyer**  
Newsletter Editor

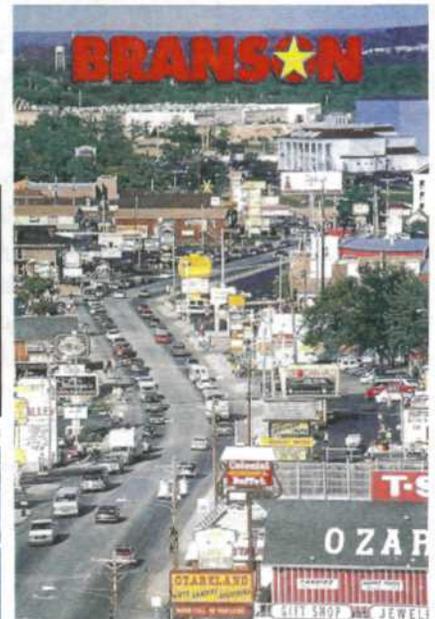
**Phil & Betty Dyer**  
Reunion Chairman

**Lucian Doyle**  
Awards Chairman

## Hi Ho... Hi Ho... it's off to Branson, Missouri we go!

Here we come, by submarine, car, plane or horse, the heroes of World War II, the 13th Air Force, yes that's us folks, Branson, Missouri awaits us. On page 8 of this newsletter you will find the registration form for the reunion. It lists the activities we have lined up, musicals, and comedy, we all need laughter in our lives, so don't miss page 8. Get your registration in early, don't wait because this is gonna be a great reunion and you won't want to miss it.

In this newsletter you will find some biographies of members, I hope to include these in upcoming issues, so send me your bio and we can all enjoy learning about one another and what makes us tick.



## Indianapolis Probable for 2011 Reunion

Contacts have been and are being made to enjoy our 2011 reunion in the great midwest of our wonderful country. "Indy" is surrounded by interstates and has a very active and convenient airport. We probably won't get to see any races, but racing aficionados are very familiar with the Indianapolis Speedway which has an excellent museum. This year's NCAA basketball finals made us more aware of the potential of the city as an exciting site. Actually, AMTRAK runs right thru for those who might consider train

travel. The train station itself is also one of many possible sites for visits. We'll have plenty to keep us occupied.

My wife, Pam, and I really are looking forward to the 2010 Branson Reunion and renewing acquaintances with our wonderful 13th AFVA members and guests. Many of us have already set aside the dates in September. If you haven't, be sure to do so right away.

*Cliff Johnson, President 2011*

**I am sorry to Report our Treasurer Bob O'Brien had a serious motor vehicle accident and is currently on life support in the ICU Unit at Mission Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina. Our prayers got out to him and his family during this difficult time.**

**The hospital address is:**

**Mission Hospital  
509 Biltmore Ave.  
Asheville, NC 28801**



## From Your President

We tried very hard to get the San Antonio reunion trip going, the prices there were considered to be very high, no hotel would price under \$100 for rooms, plus 16.75 tax, 21% tips, \$10 and up to park your car in their parking lot plus tax, \$32 for round-trip from airport, one even wanted a \$6,000 guarantee for the banquet for about 70 people. All of this would make the trip very expensive.

Plans are complete for the trip to Branson starting September 15, 2010. There are about 100 shows in town and I have been told the shows we selected are among the best. You can research the shows by clicking on [www.bransontourismcenter.com](http://www.bransontourismcenter.com). The ones with a box on the side have short reviews, click on the show name and not the box, go to the library and have them help you if you do not have an online computer. Branson has their own airport and will add flights this summer, click on [www.flybranson.com](http://www.flybranson.com) or call 417-334-7813 for connecting flights, trip to hotel will cost about \$10. You can pick your own shows but transportation is limited and our prices are group prices.

The hotel is the Stone Castle, 3050 Green Mountain Drive, [www.bransonstonecastlehotel.com](http://www.bransonstonecastlehotel.com), 800-677-6906 (see hotel info on page 3). Be sure to state that you are with the 13th AFV Reunion, if you need a handicap room be sure to state that as well. Cost per room is \$69 plus 12.6 tax which totals to \$77.69. This is an older hotel but it is clean and the beds are very sleepable. If you are driving leave US-65, turn west on State 76, go about five miles to State 165, turn

south to stop light, turn east on Green Mountain Road and watch for the hotel sign on your right. Please make your reservation NOW. Deadline is August 15 and you can cancel later if necessary.

Our schedule is complete:

**Wednesday, September 15** - Registration \$30

Get acquainted party at 6 pm with free snacks.

**Thursday, September 16** - Twelve Irish Tenors

Show 10 am, \$30; Yakov comedy 2 pm, \$30

**Friday, September 17** - Stone Hill Winery Tour

10 am, Free; *Six*, a musical 2 pm, \$30; *Noah*, a musical 7:30 pm, \$50

**Saturday, September 18** - Business Meeting

9 am; Memorial Service 10 am; Ladies Luncheon 12 noon, \$20; Banquet at College of Ozarks 6 pm, \$30.

Transportation is in the process, meals will be on your own but we are arranging to have the busses stop between activities for meals. We will have a color guard from the college for our Memorial and Banquet. College students will present a program of when they went to Normandy and the banquet as well.

There is some free time so if you have a show that you want to see you can make your own ticket purchases. If you have any questions please call Ray Perkins at 918-994-6577 or email him at [Ram.perk@cox.net](mailto:Ram.perk@cox.net).

We will also have a WWII film for individuals wanting to get their personal history to be recorded. Bring photos also.

BC Pipes

## From the Editor

Branson, MO has been signed, sealed and delivered to hold our 2010 reunion and the registration form with prices, etc. on it will be found on another page in this newsletter. Members, in the event you make your reservation and for some reason cannot attend, Bob (our treasurer) will gladly refund your money.

Ray Perkins has worked hard putting the program together and deserves a lot of credit. Everyone should have a good time meeting old friends again and making new ones.

Heard from Lee & Phyl Koppen, John VanBuiten, Bruce & Mary Johnston (she is the pretty one), Lee Railsbach - our Biloxi Miss. foreign correspondent, Lucian doyle - our Louisville KY host, Joe & Gloria Nobile - the eyes and ears of the state of Connecticut. Each and every one of these people help to make the newsletter possible with lots of news and information. Jim Brazzil, retired

editor-in-chief of a fine newspaper in Texas keeps me in line with suggestions and compliments that help a lot.

Cliff and Pam are currently starting to work on getting the 2011 Reunion in Indianapolis, IN and more will follow in the next edition.

Better send in the reservation form that is in this newsletter to get a room that is in the 13th AFVA block at the Stone Castle in Branson. Don't forget your bath mats.

We have not heard from the Polish Philosopher lately. I hope the Florida crocodiles have not devoured him. Many watch him close, you know how wild he gets. Be sure to inform the Stone Castle in Branson that you are with the 13th AFVA to get the rate Ray secured for us.

Phil Dyer

## Robert O'Brien's Story



I got in the Army by mistake. I had an uncle in the Massachusetts National Guard as a cook and he talked me into joining so I could earn a little extra money. My first duty in the mornings was to prepare coffee for the regular cooks then they would add a little whiskey to it and after

that they were ready to fix breakfast for the troops.

On our first field exercise the mess sergeant turned out to be a drunk, he would drink up all the vanilla extract and then trade our food for more from the cooks in the other batteries. I talked to our first sergeant and he got me a job as a truck driver delivering gasoline to our troops, what a nice change. Then along came the war and we were nationalized into the Army and shipped off to Florida. We had 75mm cannons and our job in Florida was to fire on any German subs that got too close to the shore. Needless to say none were that stupid.

A notice came around about openings for Officer Candidate Schools and I applied and was sent to the OCS for Ordinance Officers at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. On completing and graduation as a 90-day wonder I was sent to a unit in Florida which consisted of one other 90-day wonder and since he graduated a week before me he became my leader. After a month I received orders to report to truck maintenance school in Omaha, Nebraska for training. From there I received orders to report to a night fighter squadron. Why you might ask? So did I. The officer I spoke to in the Pentagon said an ordinance officer is so well trained that he can serve anywhere and I was the proof of that. What could I say to that? So I joined the 419th Night Fighter Squadron and spent the years 1943 to 1945 with them on many islands in the Pacific.

I am proud of my service with them and they are my dearest buddies. I re-entered the Army in 1948 and left finally in 1965. I spent 3 years of that in Germany and 3 years in Okinawa before leaving the service for good. Enjoyed every moment of my Army service mostly because of the great guys I got to serve with. Went into the reserves and retired in 1990 as a Lt. Colonel.

## Thanks From the Treasurer

Our 13th Jungle Air Corps Piggy Bank is once again filling up thanks to all of you who have sent in your 2010 dues. To the rest of you, who are just now finishing up paying off your Christmas and New Year's bills we are ready to receive your dues now. I have installed a new larger mail box in anticipation

of the flood of checks that will soon be heading my way. I estimate less than half have sent in their dues. Let's make 2010 the year our Treasury became what it should be - FULL!

*Thanks to all, Bob.*

**DUES NOTE:** Bob is going to collect dues at the Branson Reunion at certain times of each day. Only at these times will he be taking dues, so as to keep the reunion separate from his treasurer duties.

**Nothing says you can't send in your dues right now though... \$25.00 per year, cheap at half the price!**



Make Your Reservation Today... Don't forget to tell them you're with the 13th AF

**800-677-6906**

### AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- 300 Beautiful Rooms
- All non-smoking rooms
- Handicap accessible rooms
- 37 Theme rooms
- Suites with Jacuzzis
- Iron, Ironing board
- Inside Corridors and elevators
- Hot Breakfast
- 2 Indoor Pools & Spas
- Satellite TV and WI-FI
- Guest Laundry
- Video Arcade
- 24-Hour Coffee

## Biography of Raymond Earl Perkins



I was born February 16, 1922 at Pittsburg, Kansas, raised in Parsons, Kansas, graduated from high school in 1940 and have 31 credit hours of college with an IQ of 128.

I enlisted in the Air Corps at Coffeuville, KS and was sworn in on October 24, 1942 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, transferred to

Jefferson Barracks, Missouri for basic training, transferred to Lincoln, Nebraska for teletype operators school in November and transferred back to Jefferson Barracks in December for overseas training, put on a troop train in January 1943 and sent to Pittsburg, California via Texarkana. El Paso, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco (took one week). Sailed on USS Republic (under Golden Gate Bridge) with 5,000 airmen and had the cruiser USS San Francisco and two destroyers for escort. We landed in New Caledonia on March 20, 1943, was there for several weeks and put on a hospital ship to New Hebrides. All of us were assigned to the 13th Jungle Air Force, and I was assigned to the 72nd (H) Lightning Bomb Squadron of the 5th Bomber Baron Group. I was assigned to the orderly room as clerk typist. We had two people that knew how to make a payroll and one was sick with malaria and the other was away on assignment. They were worried that the payroll would not be made. I took records and studied them and started making the payroll when they asked me what I was doing and told them that I was typing the payroll; that was my job for the duration plus I was the personnel sergeant major and handled the casualty reports. Was promoted to PFC on June 19, 1943. Corporal on August 16, 1943, Sergeant on December 14, 1944. I was released on September 2, 1945 for travel to US with 88 points. Overseas from February 26, 1943 to October 13, 1945, discharged from Denver, Colorado on October 21, 1945 with 2 years, 11 months 28 days of service, Honorable Discharge.

I was at bases in New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, Munda Point, Wadke Island, Samar Philippines, we lived in tents with wooden floors. While in Philippines we had a house boy and an enlisted men's club, we were packed and ready to move to Okinawa on 24 hours

notice to start bombing the Japan mainland when the war ended.

While at New Herbrides, the Japs would send a plane over every night just to keep us awake. Munda Point was the worst as Japs were killed in caves, they were not buried as caves were booby trapped and dangerous to remove bodies. Wadke Island was about a mile long and very narrow, this held the entire 5th Bomb Group of 4 squadrons, the end of the runway was built high to give the loaded B24 an uplift on take off.

I tried the Marines, Navy and AF and wanted to be on an air crew but am color blind and they would not take me. Believe I am alive today because of being color blind, I probably would have been shot down. I was in the islands for 32 months, did not have Malaria or Dengie fever, tell people that mosquitoes did not like me because I had bad blood.

We were sent overseas fully equipped with both tropical weather (mosquito netted, light clothing) and winter weather (overcoats, etc.). Winter weather clothing was turned back to supply.

When arriving at a new base we could always rely on Kilroy being there first. A good part of our entertainment was listening to Tokyo Rose for good music.

After the war, I worked at several jobs and ended my working career as a US Postal Carrier and retired in 1981. In the 90s I took up volunteering, I started and was the chef for the soup kitchen at the First Presbyterian church for 7 years and I celebrated 20 years in May 2010. I also started for the church a mission to Mexico in 1993 which is an annual trip. I also was a leader in getting a community relief organization started in 1993 and was a director for many years. I have been the chef or helped in many fund raisers for various individuals or groups over the years and estimate that \$100,000 has been raised.

I have organized and held class reunions for Parson, Kansas for the class of 1940. When it dwindled to a few attendees, I started have all class reunions, there have been 3 class reunions and 5 all class reunions with a peak of 500 attending. This is my second 13th AF reunion to organize in 2010. I have a belief that everyone should do some good in this world before they leave, I hope that I have made a difference.

## Our 80 Year Old Skydiver!

Low and behold is none other than Owen Carr. Remember him? Owen said he enjoyed it so much he would do it again. Great photo Pat... why did Owen have his eyes closed? The next thing we know Owen and Ex-President Bush will be diving together.



Gentlemen,

My father was a veteran of the 13th Air Force in WWII. His name is Otto Richard Stutts and he went by the nickname "Toad". He served in the Southwest Pacific in the 14th Aerodrome Squadron.

He died this past summer but I have since found several photos made while he was overseas. Other than that, I really know very little about them. There are pictures of several of his friends, at the time, but I know none of them.

I'm in the process of scanning them all and I will create a disk of his pictures. I was wondering if your association might like a copy for your archives. There just may be something here for some of your members.

Generally, I have been preoccupied the last couple of years trying to recapture my own service history and, thanks to the Air Force's "Together We Served" website, I've been able to do just that.

Norman Stutts

5028 Christenbury road

Charlotte, NC 28269

Email: grover.stutts@att.net

## The Tomato Garden

An old Italian man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his tomato garden, but it was very hard work as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

*Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden at my age. If you were here, my troubles would be over.*

*I know you would dig the garden plot for me.*

*Love, Dad*

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

*Dear Dad, Sorry... but don't dig up that garden. That's where I buried the BODIES!*

*Love, Vinnie*

At 4 am the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son, it read...

*Dear Dad, Go ahead and plant those tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.*

*Love, Vinnie*



## A Step Back in Time

Ever so quickly as our days go by,  
 It seems another veteran has to die,  
 Memories go with us as did our youth,  
 they were the best years and that is the truth.  
 We gave ourselves for people to live free,  
 Now we search for our Air Forces history.  
 It is a lot of work, our job not yet done,  
 To claim the 13th Air Force place in the sun,  
 But this is a sun that will never forget.  
 God bless our buddies, once again up in the blue,  
 Give them lasting peace in heaven with you.

Author – Robert "Bob" Pappadake • 70th Fighter Squadron, 13th AF  
 Read by Phil Dyer, President 13th AFVA at the Dayton Reunion 2000

A great big *Thank You*  
 comes from my heart to our THIRTEENTH AIR  
 FORCE ASSOCIATION friends for the beautiful  
 plant sent to me after I had my  
 accident. The plant helped to cheer me  
 up during the many bad days I had. A special  
 thank you to Bob for sending me  
 the plant, also for the calls and cards I  
 received from you members.  
 Love and God Bless you all!

*Betty Dyer*



Some time, after I left the service, I answered the government's plea for pilots to man, and help build, a new Air Traffic Control System. I answered the call and controlled high density air traffic in the Washington ARTC Center for seventeen years. I don't think anyone has controlled high density traffic that long without gradually going deaf afterward. You folks with the Jungle Air Force Newsletter, and Dick Phelps, with the Snooper News have performed a great service that is much appreciated by the retirees. Since we were such a small squadron and there are very few Snoopers left now, I suggested to Dick that, in the interest of his and Nora's health, he hang it up and discontinue the Snooper News. I knew Nora was very ill and thought he would want to spend more time with her. However, she died shortly afterward and he did, indeed, "hang it up."

I have read the articles by Mauro Messina with some interest. The memory has always been my mind that, to the best of my knowledge, not a single 868th Snooper ever received any award other than the Air Medal while I was a Snooper. The Air Medal was, in my opinion, akin to a Sunday School pin for attendance. I find it hard to believe no Snooper crew had earned any award for valor, especially the crews that didn't make it back home.

Douglas C. Whitesell  
 Lt. Col. USAF Retired

## 13th "Jungle" Air Force Veterans Association

*World at War this makes II,  
 they took us all as our numbers grew.*

*We went in boys, we came out men,  
 fought side by side till the bitter end.*

*Blood, sweat and tears we shared all three,  
 promising to keep the memory alive of those  
 who died or were not set free.*

*We've seen more wars, more blood shed for Old Glory,  
 but the friendships we made tell a powerful story.*

*That the lives we gave and the ones we took  
 would not have been in vain,  
 or just another chapter in a book.*

Shelby Bacon "93"



### **Ralph Dunavant Sr.**

It is with sadness that we  
 learn of the loss of  
 Ralph on  
 February 23, 2010  
 He will be greatly missed  
 by his family and friends.

January 19, 2010

## 13<sup>TH</sup> MAIL BAG



*Thank you so much for organizing such a wonderful reunion.*

*Everyone had a good time and it was great.*

*We were busy day and night, which is always good. What a wonderful group of people! There were also some that attended for the first time.*

*Better to multiply. The newsletter was the best! Outstanding! It is enjoyed more than you will ever know. We read everything twice. I know you work hard on everything and it shows. Hope to see you in San Antonio or Branson or wherever. May God be with you and stay healthy. Heartfelt Thanks.*

*Dick Bailey & Loretta*

*1257 S. Center St. Ext.*

*Grove City, PA 16127*



Lt. George E. Schade

March 24, 2010

My name is Aric Bruggeworth, I am the great nephew of Lt. George E. Schade who was a bombardier with the 75th Bomber Squadron, 42nd Bomber Group. I am seeking any information pertaining to him from anyone who potentially served with him or knew him. Attached is his photograph, any information whatsoever would be greatly appreciated. I can be reached at the following address.

Best Regards,

Aric Bruggeworth

103 Island Drive

Howey In The Hills, Florida 34737

(772) 342-1069

CWReenactor2002@aol.com

*Dear Phil, I remember the first reunion we attended, in fact, it was the first reunion for 14 Veterans and their wives. We met at a small Inn in Dayton, Ohio, near the Air park. It brought back many memories. When the veterans listened as the planes flew low over the Inn all night we had a great reunion and it was the birth of the 13th Jungle Air Force as we are today. You and I attended most of the reunions until you fell ill to Guillain-Barre Syndrome, we nearly lost you, but God said hang in there fly boy - you can't go yet, and you did hang in there as best you could.*

*Last year - 2009, you decided to try one more time and put on the reunion in Grand Rapids. It was a great reunion Phil, except for the fact that when you tried to use the mike for a few minutes at the Saturday banquet, you were told there wasn't time for that. I felt so sorry for you, but as usual, you put on a happy face and we went home knowing you had done your best to please the troops one more time.*

*Love and God Bless,  
Betty*

**13th Jungle Air Force Veterans Association  
2010 Reunion Registration Form  
Branson, Missouri – September 15 - 18, 2010**

Member Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

13th USAAF WWII Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Spouses Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Guest # \_\_\_\_\_ Names & Address \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITY AND REGISTRATION FEES**

Registration Fee (All Attendees) .....	\$30.00
Sept. 16 Twelve Irish Tenors (Musical) .....	\$30.00
Yakov Smirnoff (Comedy) .....	\$30.00
Sept. 17 Noah - The Musical .....	\$50.00
Six-Six Brothers (Musical) .....	\$30.00
Stone Hill Winery Tour .....	FREE
Sept. 18 Ladies Luncheon .....	\$20.00
Reunion Banquet.....	\$30.00

**GRAND TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note Change**



Make checks payable to: 13th USAAF Veterans Association (13th USAAFV)  
Mail to: Richard Phelps, 931 Portsmouth Circle Maryville, TN 37803-6794 • Phone 865-977-4490

**Deadline for reservations is Sept. 1, 2010**

**Note: Bring all your old name tags so we can reuse them  
Bathtubs are not anti-skid, bring your own bath mat.  
Busses will not return to hotel until end of day.**

**Note Change**

**Hotel has Deadline for Reservations of July 15, 2010**

**Make your reservations early, cancel later if necessary.**

**Stone Castle Hotel • 3050 Green Mountain Drive • (800) 677-6906**



## Phil Dyer and The War in The Pacific

Written by Ludington Daily News Columnist George Wilson – August 17, 2001

Will the real Phil Dyer stand up? Is the world ready for Phil Dyer the warrior? Born in a log cabin in Boston, Mass, Phil Dyer came to the territory around 1950 and owned and operated the Scottville Dry Cleaners, located in what is now Smith & Eddy Insurance on South Main, Scottville. At least I think it was about 1950. I left for Uncle Sam's Air Force in 1948, and there was no Phil Dyer in town. Came back in 1952, and there he was.

Besides being a Scottville businessman, Phil Dyer also dispensed justice in the city as Scottville Justice of the Peace. He was a died-in -the-wool Boston Red Sox fan who, along with his father "Pop Dyer", made up a formidable duo arguing baseball at Burt Moore's restaurant.

A charter member of the Scottville Optimist Club, Phil established the facts and figures that he was a boney-fidey member of Scottville list of "characters" right from the git-go. True, he eventually sold the business, moved to Ludington and took up the contracting trade with a title as Epworth Heights resident carpenter in waiting. On the side, Phil became a hustler on the golf course, card shark in the World class Set Back Games Ruby Creek (or is it crik?) International Rules, hanging out in the hallowed halls of the Scottville Optimist Community Center.

A quick pause here, the Scottville Optimist building is formally titled the Donald Sanders Community Center. Back Phil Dyer... most of the world doesn't know that Phil Dyer won the war in the Pacific in WWII. Well, Phil and a few thousand of the Army guys under the direction of General Douglas MacArthur and a smattering of Marines under the direction of Admiral "Bull" Halsey, were in the South Pacific from Guadalcanal to the Philippines. Did some heavy work in New Guinea. Truk and other Japanese strong holds. Now you didn't hear much back home about the war in the Pacific other than General MacArthurs four year shall return journey and the marines engaged in may bloody beachhead battles from Guadalcanal, Tara etc. The 13th Air Force was there also with "Dugout" Dougs Troops and General Howling

Mad Smith's Marines, but nobody knew about it. Even though the Air Force was part of the Army in WWII, no self-respecting soldier would admit it. They were the fly boys, who slept on cots and beds in well appointed tents with mosquito netting; ate in mess halls with ice cream on the menu. Air Force people wore class A uniforms in combat, it was rumored, and their war was just 30 seconds over Balaban or some other remote unknown island. Even though many of 13th Air Force airman flew out and never came back. fly boys were still the glamour boys, especially the rear echelon where they got three-day passes and other goodies.



Phil Dyer

It wasn't just the 13th Air Force you never head about, it was also the 5th, the 7th, the 10th, the 11th, and the 14th (after the flying tigers were absorbed), the Air Forces that fought in the Pacific and other Asian Theaters lost the battle of the news reels to the 8th Air Force that operated out of England bombing Hitler's Germany because all the big shot war correspondents headquartered out of London.

Even after the war, there were no Hollywood versions of the air war in the Asia-Pacific Theater, no 12 o'clock highs, Memphis Belles, strategic air command, etc. There was one magnificent exception on April 18, 1943, Admiral Yamamoto was shot down by P-38 fighters form the 13th Air Force after intercepting radio broadcasts that the admiral was going on an inspection tour of Japanese bases. Yamamoto, the author other attack on Pearl Harbor, was Japan's best admiral and his loss devastated the Japanese Navy right through the end of the war two years later.

Back to our man Phil Dyer. Phil is very active wit the 13th WWII Jungle Air Force Veterans Organization, helps organize their reunions of the outfit here 56 years after the end of WWII. I got the story of the 13th from Phil because he found out that I, for a very short time, was a member of the 13th Air Force, statewide in 1949. couldn't find out what rank Phil Dyer wore during the war, knowing only that he wasn't commanding general.

*Biography of Phil Dyer continued*

There are those of us who know Phil Dyer, though, and the only reason he didn't command the whole 13th was because the war ended too soon.

A bit of military lore here. Armies of the United States consisted of a lot of men a lot of divisions a lot of support units, a lot of regiments, a lot of platoons, companies, squads and individual troops. Famous armies included Gen. Patton's Third Army, General Omar Bradley's first, General Mark Clark's Fifth etc. comparable Air Force armies were the first through the 20th. Generals like

Like, Mac Arthur, commanded groups of armies. Navy were identified by their theaters of operation, and marines got shot at a lot.

I don't know about Navy people, but in the Army and Air Force, at least through my years, you swore your branch of service patch on one shoulder of your uniform, your Air Force number on the other. In four years with never ever being close to shot at I wore the 13th, 12th, 14th patches; spent four years sewing on patches, stabbing myself with the needle. No Purple Heart here.

**Readers: Please don't believe everything Big George writes. In the next issue I will put in an article about being led from the jungle by a man who later became my neighbor and friend.**

## Cambridge, Iowa – Veterans Memorial Mural



*American Legion Building in Cambridge, Iowa*

This is a picture of a large mural that was just dedicated on our two story Legion building here in Cambridge, Iowa. I worked with two artists in Des Moines to design a patriotic mural with the theme "Freedom is Never Free". We felt this would be very appropriate for a Veterans building. The emblem on the nose of the B-24 is that of the Bomber Barons, 5th Bomb Group of the 13th Air Force. It is not very obvious in this picture but is more prominent when actually viewing

the mural. We received a lot of publicity in local papers and Fox News covered it for Cable TV just hours after it was dedicated last month.

Drop a note or e-mail me to let us know how you guys are doing and if you are staying out of trouble. Best Regards and God Bless.

Max Olson

email: [netemax810@hotmail.com](mailto:netemax810@hotmail.com)

*Editor's Note: Max and Juanita Olson are great members of our 13th AF group and attend the reunions whenever possible. Max and Juanita hosted a SUPER reunion in Des Moines, Iowa.*

## The Fighting Thirteenth – The Jungle Air Force

*Please read this article - This article you are about to read is your Editor's first and last venture into trying to track down some history about our group. This I believe is the best summation about the 13th Air Force and low and behold it came out of the History of the Fifth Bomb Group book.*

The tiny 13th Air Force destroyed 1,435 planes and sank or damaged 1,346,742 tons of shipping from its entry into the Pacific War during the Battle of Guadalcanal to V-J Day.

The 13th's own losses consisted of slightly more than 500 fighters and bombers.

One of the smallest of General H.H. Arnold's Army Air Forces, the 13th's striking power consisted of two P-38 fighter groups, one B-25 medium bomber group, two B-24 heavy bomber groups, and a squadron of night-flying "Snooper" B-24s.

Despite its size, the 13th flew 91,597 combat sorties and dropped 60,834 tons of bombs on targets in the South, Southwest, and Central Pacific, and the China-Burma-India zone. It is the only air force that fought in four theaters of war.

Dubbed the "Jungle Air Force" because its squadrons never were based near cities or civilization, the 13th battled over millions of square miles of ocean and tropical islands, ranging from Tarawa in the Central Pacific to Hong Kong, Singapore and Java in the west, and Java, New Guinea, and the Solomons to the south.

The Battle of Guadalcanal was the "Jungle Air Force's" first campaign. Activated January 13, 1943 at 1300 hours, the 13th was assigned the initial mission of defeating the Hap Air Force over Guadalcanal and the rest of the Solomons.

Heavy, daylight enemy raids on Guadalcanal stopped when the Japs sent 110 fighters and bombers over on June 16, 1943. The 13th Air Force fighters shot down more than 70 planes, losing only six.

Ranging over four theaters of war, the 13th undoubtedly gave the Japs the impression it was a huge air armada, when actually seldom more than four squadrons took part in a single strike. The men, who flew the bombers on 19-hour missions and the fighters over 2,100 non-stop miles in all weather strikes that fanned out like a spiderweb over the far reaches of the Pacific, made up for lack of aircraft with cunning, resourcefulness and guts, guided by such able leaders as Major Generals Nathan B. Twining, Hubert R. Harmon, St. Clair Street, and Paul B. Wurt-Smith.

The 13th's heavies, first commanded by Brigadier General William A. Matheney, then by Brigadier General Carl D. Brandt, flew 3,000 miles non-stop to hit Soerabaja, Java, an 18-hour 40-minute flight described as the longest ever flown by loaded B-24s.

Fighter groups pioneered the development of P-38s as long-distance weapons - flying 1,900 miles to Balikpapan, 2,500 to Soerabaja, and 2,100 Singapore.

The 13th's medium group, the "Crusaders" frequently flew missions longer than those flown by the U.S. heavy bomber

groups in the European Theater. "Firsts" stud the 13th's record.

"Jungle Air Force" heavies were the first land-based bombers over Truk, coming from the Solomons and Admiralty Island bases, 1,000 miles away, to knock out Jap fighters and antiaircraft at that mighty base.

Shortly after joining General Kenney's far eastern Air Forces, in April, 1944, the 13th, in a series of long-distance strikes, also neutralized Yap, Woleai, and Palau, protecting the flank of U.S. forces that invaded Guam, Siapan, and Tinian.

It was the 13th again that led the way to Balikpapan, 11,000,000-barrel per year source of Japan's wartime fuel. In six smashing 2,600-mile raids, the longest non-stop B-24 missions up to that time, the 13th's heavies and fighters knocked out the huge Pandansari and Edelenau refineries and took a toll of Jap fighters. "Jungle Air Force" bombing continued for 10 months.

Borneo was the heart that pumped Nippon's precious flow of oil, 80 percent of the total required to motivate Japan's war machine. Without it Hirohito's hope for a world empire was doomed. Opposition to "Jungle Air Force" attacks was furious, but unrelenting daily bombardment left Balikpapan 95 percent destroyed - a grotesque mass of twisted steel and scorched masonry.

The smashing of Balikpapan, as well as the blockade, methodical bombing and isolation of Ceram, Lutong, Bandjermasin and other oil centers in the Netherlands East Indies, cut the flow of fuel to the Jap homeland, the Philippines, and China. The Nip war machine stalled because of a gas shortage.

The 13th flew more than 2,500 sorties and dropped more than 3,500 tons of bombs on Balikpapan to soften the "Ploesti of the Pacific" for invasion by the Australian Seventh Division.

Other 13th Air Force firsts: the Manila area's Nichols and Neilson airdromes, Corregidor, Cavite.

In recent tilts with the Jap navy, the 13th sank an aircraft carrier, damaged a battleship of the Kongo class, sank a heavy cruiser, damaged another battleship, and sank several cruisers and destroyers.

The 13th's targets included: the Solomon Islands, Bougainville, Rabaul, Tarawa, Nauru, Kavieng, and the Bismark Archipelago, New Guinea, Biak, Noemfoor, Cape Sansapor, the Celebes, Halmahera, Palau, Woleai, Truk, Yap, Borneo, the Dutch East Indies, and all the Jap-occupied islands in the Philippines, Formosa, Indo-China, Singapore, Hong Kong, the lower Sundas, and Java.

Maj. Gen. Paul B. Wurt-Smith, one of the fighter pilot "greats" in the Pacific, is the 13th's commanding general.



The 13th Air Force Veterans Association  
7049 W. Illinois St.  
Ludington, MI 49431

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## Thoughts on Growing Older...

Your kids are becoming you...  
And you don't like them,  
But your grandchildren are perfect!

The 5 pounds you wanted to lose is  
now 15 and you have a better chance  
of losing your keys than the 15 pounds.

Going out is good.....  
Coming home is better!

Remember when your mother said "Wear clean underwear  
in case you get in an accident?" Now you bring clean  
underwear in case you HAVE an accident!

When you needed the discount you paid full  
price. Now you get discounts on everything:  
movies, hotels, flights, everything.

You read 100 pages into a book  
before you realize you've read  
it before.

You forget names, but it's OK because  
other people forgot they even knew you!

You realize you're never going to be  
really good at anything, especially golf.

When people say you look  
"Great", they add "for your age!"

What used to be freckles are now liver spots.



**LOOK OUT  
BRANSON, MISSOURI  
HERE COMES THE 13TH AIR FORCE!  
COME ONE... COME ALL TO OUR  
2010 REUNION!  
September 15 - 18, 2010**

**ATTENTION ALL 13TH AF MEMBERS** – Soon the summer will be over, September is coming quickly and this year's reunion will be in Branson, Missouri. Branson is celebrating its 50th Anniversary of entertaining families in a beautiful lakeside community in the Ozark Mountains. So register early, registration information and form can be found in this newsletter on page 8. Hotel information and deadline are below. **Deadline for the 2010 Reunion Registration form is September 1, 2010.**

*Please send your reservations to:*

**Richard Phelps  
931 Portsmouth Circle  
Maryville, TN 37803-6794**

Our accommodations in Branson will be at the Stone Castle Hotel, 3050 Green Mountain Drive, Branson, Missouri 65616, phone 800-677-6906 to make reservations, **deadline for hotel reservations is July 15, 2010.**

Entertainment includes the following:

- **Twelve Irish Tenors, a musical**
- **Yakov Smirnoff, a comedy**
- **Noah, the musical**
- **Six-Six Brothers, a musical**
- **Stone Hill Winery tour**
- **Ladies Luncheon**
- **Reunion Banquet**

It's gonna be great fun... you won't want to miss it, so turn to page 8 in the newsletter and send in your registration form **TODAY!**