



# AIR APACHES

# STRAFER

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## President's Message

### Mary Roby, 500th

Plans are now being finalized for the 2022 reunion of the 345<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association in San Antonio April 29, 30, and May 1.

The Historic Menger Hotel that we previously selected for the 2020 reunion has worked with us through the two postponements, and they are looking forward to our attendance in April. They are offering us a very good room rate and reasonable costs for our other needs. Please see the registration form elsewhere in The Strafer for the reservation link.



*Historic Menger Hotel, San Antonio*



*At the Museum: A B-25 representing Doolittle's plane on the carrier deck*

At long last, we will fulfill the special purpose of our Texas visit when we dedicate a plaque to the 345<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg. On Saturday, April 30, we will travel to the museum by bus. There will have plenty of time to tour the Museum, have lunch, and visit Fredericksburg.

In addition to renewing long-standing friendships, we will have some special guests, Dave Gutierrez and Alfredo Paredes, who have collaborated with our member, Sandy Knudsen, to tell the story of the B-25 Cactus Kitten. Sandy's mom's first husband was 2Lt Andrew Johnson, pilot of the ill-fated airplane and Mr. Paredes' father, Alfredo P Paredes was the Engineer-gunner.

Take a look at this interesting YouTube video about the Cactus Kitten at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3F7II-6BOU>.

Dr. James Shaw, author of the new book, "Unsung Heroes," will speak at our dinner about Major Howard Brigham, who served the 345<sup>th</sup> as Operations Officer.

I am excited that so many of you plan to attend the reunion and I think you will enjoy what we have planned. If we are lucky, the beautiful Texas Bluebonnets will be blooming during our visit!

If you have any questions about the reunion, please write to me at [mroby1916@gmail.com](mailto:mroby1916@gmail.com).

See you in San Antonio!

*Did you know you can follow us on Facebook?*



### Honoring Those Who Have Passed

Veteran Michael Buchkoski (500<sup>th</sup>) on April 30, 2021

Author of "Warpath Across the Pacific," Lawrence Hickey on August 14, 2021.

We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

### What We're Reading

*These authors will attend the San Antonio Reunion*

#### **Letters Across the Pacific: A Love Story in the Time of War** by April Martin Beltz (499<sup>th</sup>)

After her mother's death, April Martin Beltz discovered letters exchanged between her parents during WWII and the Korean War conflict. She deftly weaves their intimate letters into the war era time-line to provide context for their developing relationship. The letters define the everyday stresses faced by her father, Bob Martin, overseas, and her mother, Mariellen, stateside, as they negotiate their respective roles. An especially interesting part of the story is during Bob's deployment to Korea following WWII, as the Korean conflict rarely receives the same level of acknowledgement.

#### **Unsung Heroes: Major Montgomery H Throop of the "Mighty Eighth" and Major Howard H Brigham of the "Air Apaches"** by James A Shaw, M.D. (HQ)

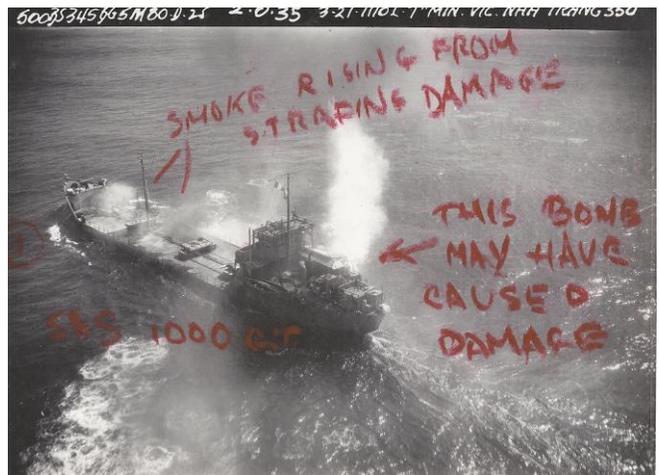
Letters to family are also integral to James Shaw's book recognizing the WWII contributions of two relatives, including Major Howard H. "Hitch" Brigham, who was one of the first members of the 345<sup>th</sup>. Initially, he was assigned to the 498<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron and later became the Assistant Group Operations Officer. Perhaps because he was writing to his father, and not to a sweetheart or wife, Brigham's letters provide a bit more information as to what was happening in combat. Brigham, with 56 missions, was discharged home in 1945. This book also provides some background about combat fatigue, now called PTSD, from which he suffered later in life.

### A Recent Contribution: Cecil L. Long and A Call

*Do you have a 345<sup>th</sup> collection? If you are downsizing or it is something you no longer want, please let us know. We are exploring museums or libraries that may be interested.*

Recently, Faye Long, the daughter-in-law of Cecil L. Long, has sent to us a remarkable trove of WWII items that belonged to her father-in-law. Some of the items were displayed in the 345<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group exhibition from the EAA Aviation Foundation 2015-2017. The collection includes original orders that authorized aeronautical rating, assignment to active duty, and award of the Air Medal in 1945. There is a Pilot's Information File and several Preflight and Air Force magazines.

There are many photographs, from Long's personal collection, and photographs from missions. Luckily, many of the mission photographs, from each of the 4 squadrons are labeled as to location and activity.



We really appreciate Faye's sharing this collection with us. As you will see elsewhere in this Strafer, we are trying to collect information about each veteran. We welcome your participation by providing veteran's information, scanning your materials, and providing them to us on a flash drive or DVD, or lending your materials to us for processing. Help with creating searchable databases would be most helpful. Please contact us if you can help in any way.

345<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group  
Veteran Information Form

**Attention 345TH members and friends:** We are looking for information on veterans that served overseas with the 345th Bomb Group. Most of the history that we have about them is during the war, but we know little from before or after the war. Our goal is to populate an online database of the 345<sup>th</sup> veterans that can be viewed and searched by registered users. Feel free to contact us if you need any help interpreting information in pertinent records.

The information from completed questionnaires will be posted and updated as new facts on each veteran are discovered. **Please note:** a little information is better than no information. Whatever you can provide is very much appreciated. Thank you!

Please return the completed form to:

Dennis O'Neill  
2321 Ellen St.  
Granite Falls, NC 28630

or by email:

[do3269@gmail.com](mailto:do3269@gmail.com)

Please provide as much information as possible or whatever you are comfortable disclosing.

General Veteran Information:

- Name, including any other spellings or nicknames:

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

- Nicknames or other names used:

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

- Date and Place of Birth:

Date (mm/dd/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

- Is veteran still living?  Yes  No If not, closest living relative:

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Relative information:

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Current phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-War Information:

● Hometown: City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

● Known Addresses:

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

● High school, location, dates attended, date graduated:

High School Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Years Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Date Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

● College, location, dates attended, date graduated:

College Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Years Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Date Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

Any particular honors or comments (i.e. literary societies, sports teams, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

● Other training, licenses:

\_\_\_\_\_

● Employment:

\_\_\_\_\_

● Family

Parents:

\_\_\_\_\_

Spouse, children, and any other family members:

\_\_\_\_\_

● Any other pre-war information:

\_\_\_\_\_

War-time Information:

● Enlistment Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

● Training (i.e., armorer, navigation:)

Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

● US Bases where stationed (i.e., Columbia AAB):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

● Ranks and Dates Achieved:

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_; Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Overseas Service:

● When did the Veteran go overseas? \_\_\_\_\_ From where did he leave? \_\_\_\_\_

● How did he get overseas (i.e., by ship or airplane?) \_\_\_\_\_

● Wartime Addresses (i.e., APO 713 Nadzab)

\_\_\_\_\_

● End date of overseas service: \_\_\_\_\_ How did veteran get back to the US? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

● Missions or other wartime activities:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post-war (i.e., re-enlistment, service in Korea in the 345<sup>th</sup>, military or another career.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

● Places lived after the war:

Addresses:

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

● Family:

Spouse, children, and other family members:

- 
- Is the veteran still living: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
  - If known to have passed away, date of death: \_\_\_\_\_ Where interred? \_\_\_\_\_
  - If veteran's obituary is available, please provide or share on-line link \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is spouse still living? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
  - If known to have passed away, date of death: \_\_\_\_\_ Where interred? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - 345<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association Membership and Reunion Attendance: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please mention any participation as a member or leader of the organization, years attended, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

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*The following items are of particular interest to those of us who are collecting and maintaining the 345<sup>th</sup> history. Hard copy items may be scanned or legibly photographed and emailed to Dennis. Arrangements can also be made to send items to us for scanning. They will be returned to you in good condition at our expense. Please check if you have the following:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs (Name and place information is most helpful)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Flight records, mission logs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Manuals and group documents
- \_\_\_\_\_ Letters and diaries
- \_\_\_\_\_ Books and other written material

If you want us to contact you, please provide your phone or email:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Person completing form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

May we contact you with further questions? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Any other comments or information you wish us to have: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Note to our Members and Friends.** Thank you for your membership in the 345<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational and historical organization to which your contribution may be tax deductible on your federal return. Memberships and contributions help us achieve our goals to remember and share the accomplishments of the 345<sup>th</sup>.

**345<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association  
Membership Form**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Please check if new

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am a:

345<sup>th</sup> Vet or Widow  345<sup>th</sup> Family Member  Vet from another group  Other

**Please tell us about yourself and your interest in the Association. We are especially interested in hearing from grandchildren and great-grandchildren of veterans. If you are a family member, please tell us who your veteran is and about your relationship to him. We urge you to share any information you may have about your veteran with the Association, by completing the enclosed questionnaire and returning to the Association by mail or on a flash drive or DVD.**

**Please check here  if you have documents and other items you would like to share with us.**

*(We will be happy to scan and return your items or you may scan and send them on a flash drive.)*

**Please check here  if you would like to be contacted by the Association about getting involved.**

*(What would you like to do?)*

Please make your check payable to  
345<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association  
and send it with this application  
page to:

**Clint Roby, Treasurer  
345<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association  
PO Box 8755  
Roanoke, VA 24014**

*Have you paid your 2022 dues?*

*Only \$15 for veterans and their spouses/widows.  
Other individual memberships are \$35 per year.*

*Your support enables us to publish The Strafer, maintain our web presence, install, and maintain our 345<sup>th</sup> monuments, and hold our Annual Reunions. Additional contributions beyond membership are much appreciated!*

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Roanoke, VA 24014

President

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