



"We Knew You Were Out There Somewhere"

Daughter Reconnects With Father's Family



Gloria and AMM1c Kendall L. Dungey, before shipping out for a second overseas tour.

by Mayli-Anne Waterbury

I was tearing across the country in 2008 in my daughter's shiny Beamer, intent on making a good impression on whom I imagined would be a bunch of blonde, blue-eyed, porch-settin', pie-eating Lutherans. Their blood ran in my veins but I had never met them.

They were the family of my father, AMM1c Kendall L. Dungey, from Deadwood, South Dakota. My father served with Bombing Squadron 105 (VB-105), Fleet Air Wing 7, of the U.S. Navy. Supposedly, he was in the same squadron as Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. He was a top turret gunner on a PB4Y-1 — a variation of a B-24 heavy bomber for service over water — and was stationed at Dunkswell, England. The airmen, all volunteers, were making daily bombing raids across the Bay of Biscay in desperate attempts to keep the Germans off English soil.

Kendall's PB4Y would find a watery grave on October 23, 1943, while on an anti-submarine operational flight over the Bay of Biscay, when it was shot down by a German *Viking* six-engine flying boat. All ten men are classified as missing in action. He and his crew are listed on the Tablets of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery in England, where Britain conveys its gratitude for the sacrifice made by him and the other 28,000 American dead.

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President's Message

by Judy Hoffman

For personal reasons, unrelated to health issues, I have resigned as president of the Board of Directors. I will remain on the board as a member until my term is up in September. This is a very strong board staffed with intelligent, committed people, and I know that all of them will do a great job in AWON's future. A new president should be elected within the next couple of months.

I urge all of you to try to attend the Seattle conference in September and, while you are there, come to the roundtable discussion about AWON issues and our future together. Each roundtable will be led by a board member and I encourage each of you to speak up and participate. There also will be a panel discussion about or-

phan relationships with our mothers, which should be quite interesting and different from previous conferences. Of course, Judi Kramer and Barry Barr-Finch are planning a moving memorial service as well as some fun events. We always laugh and cry at conferences, don't we?

It has been a pleasure to serve on the board these past years (I can't remember how many). I will miss the camaraderie of the meetings, though I hope the solid friendships made through these years will continue. Please consider running as a candidate for the board if you are asked, or contact Norm Burkey if you are interested in serving. His email address is normanburkey@verizon.net.

Attention Snowbirds

If you have returned to your summer address, or are about to, let AWON know. The Post Office will not forward your AWON mail.

Contact:

**Gerry Morenski
AWON Database Manager
dbmanager@awondb.org**



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AWONer Visits Florence Cemetery

by Judy Hathaway

On a warm but overcast day in late October 2013, it was my privilege to visit the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in the hills of Tuscany. I had spent several weeks in Florence with a group studying the art and ideas of the Italian Renaissance, and the trip to the cemetery was one of a few special excursions. It also provided me an opportunity to pay tribute to the fathers of several AWON members. The names were obtained in response to two posts I made to the AWON Listserv, one shortly before I left for Italy and the second two or three days ahead of the visit to the cemetery. In the posts, I offered to visit the graves of any AWON dads.

The day had started early for my two roommates and me. The three of us walked a few blocks from our apartment at the eastern edge of the historical center of Florence to Mercato di Sant'Ambrogio, the daily indoor/outdoor marketplace in Piazza Ghiberti frequented by the people of Florence. There we found the fresh flower vendor and selected small bouquets to honor each of the AWON dads. The vendor was an el-

derly man who became quite animated when I explained the reason for the purchase in my rudimentary Italian. It is experiences such as this which speak volumes to the appreciation of those who remember the war and

crophone and allowed me to speak to the group about the significance of the American cemeteries overseas, the reasons behind AWON, and my interest in visiting the gravesites and finding names on the Wall of the Missing.

I also had a PDF copy of the AWON brochure distributed to everyone in the group. The response was heartfelt. Over the next day or two, many of them shared stories of their own fathers' service in World War II.

The Florence American Cemetery is located about 7.5 miles (12 km) south of Florence, surrounded by the wooded hills of Chianti along the Greve River. The grounds cover 70 acres where American servicemembers who died during the northern Italian offensive from June 1944 to May 1945 are at rest. This campaign was an Allied effort to drive the German forces out of Italy and was led by Gen. Mark W. Clark, Commander of the Amer-

ican 5th Army in Italy. There are 4,402 Americans interred there and 1,400 more memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing. Construction was completed in 1959 during the Eisenhower administration, and the cemetery was



Judy points towards the name of Bob Taylor's father on the Tablets of the Missing at Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy.

comprehend the sacrifice of so many to the cause of freedom. Many of you have shared similar stories after encountering citizens in countries where your fathers served.

While we were en route on a chartered bus, the study leaders handed me the mi-

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officially dedicated on July 4, 1960. An extract from President Eisenhower's Crusade in Europe appears on the north wall of the Memorial:

Freedom from fear and injustice and oppression is ours only in the measure that men who value such freedom are ready to sustain its possession, to defend it against every thrust from within or without.

Our group was greeted by a young Italian man, Fiorenzo Iacono, who spoke flawless English and provided information about the Italian campaign before giving us a tour of the grounds. We started at a large map made of intarsia marble where military operations on the Italian peninsula are outlined. We viewed part of a long wall upon which are inscribed the names of the missing. Above the Tablets of the Missing is the inscription:

Here are recorded the names of Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country and who sleep in unknown graves.

Finally, we walked among the graves, marked by Latin crosses and Stars of David, while our guide spoke of bravery, heroism, volunteerism, and sacrifice. We visited several special graves including those of two brothers buried side by side, a Tuskegee airman, and a Medal of Honor recipient.

After the group tour, Mr. Iacono helped me find the graves of Frank J. Piller, father of Kathleen Piller Ames; Sydney W. Bennett, father of AWON founder Ann Bennett Mix; and Godfrey J. (Fred) Savard, father of Bill Chiodo. The names of two additional AWON fathers were located on the Walls of the Missing: Robert Taylor, father of former AWON member Bob Taylor; and George M. Paddock, father of Marilynn Paddock Reese. My two roommates helped carry and distribute the bouquets of flowers and took most of the photographs.

Just before boarding the bus to return to Florence, I was introduced to Superintendent John Luncheon. He was quite cordial and spoke of past visits of AWON members and mentioned the names of several fathers. This special day at the American Cemetery was certainly one of the most meaningful experiences of my time in Florence.

My own father was a B-17 pilot, stationed at Kimbolton, England, whose plane was shot down over Germany on February 3, 1945, the day of a major air offensive directed at Berlin. His body was buried by a German farmer and later transferred to the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium. In 1949, my mother chose to have his remains repatriated to Mt. Hope Cemetery in Topeka, Kansas, where he now rests in the Veterans Court of Honor.

My own AWON journey really began in 1993, five years before I had even heard of the organization. That was the year of my very first trip out of the United States, touring with the Lawrence Civic Choir in England and Wales. At that time, I knew only that my dad had been stationed near Bedford, England. I didn't know the name of the base or even that there was more than one base in that area. Our British guide had the bus driver deviate from the main highway to drive through the edge of Bedford and explained to me that there had been many American airfields throughout that region and East Anglia.

Later that day, the guide had the driver make an unscheduled stop at the Cambridge American Cemetery. All I knew at that point was that my father had been buried somewhere in Europe; I didn't know which country. The British guide took me into the superintendent's office to check burial records in case my dad had been there. Later, walking among all the graves, I was suddenly overcome with tears and had to take time to pull myself together before returning to the group. When I think back on that experience, I realize how far I have come and how much I have gained from my membership in AWON.

Tourists Offer Another Surprise at Cemetery

AWONers Meet Unexpectedly on Cruise

by Pat Albani

It's a small world.

In November, before embarking on a Hawaiian cruise, AWONers Dick and Pat Albani enjoyed lunch and the afternoon with AWONers Roger and Sharon Connor at Harrah's Casino in San Diego. Pictured top right, from left, are Pat, Roger, Sharon and Dick.

On the first day of the cruise, as passengers were gathering at their muster stations for the mandatory safety session, Pat and Dick walked right into AWONer Patty Temte and her husband, Jerry. Neither couple knew that the other would be on the cruise. They partied all the way to Hawaii and back to San Diego. Dick, Pat, Jerry and Patty are pictured middle right for formal night on the ship.

During the cruise the

ship stopped in Honolulu for a day. Pat and Dick planned to spend a good part of that



day visiting Pat's dad, S1C Albert M. Cervenak, and other AWON fathers who are buried or memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, better referred to as "Punchbowl" since it is located within an old volcano crater. Patty and Jerry accompanied the Albanis for the Temtes first visit to Punchbowl. Patty Temte's dad, Sgt. Ernest G. Radcliff, is memorialized in the Philippines.

It just so happened that one day in Honolulu was Pat's dad's 95th birthday. Pat mentioned the birthday serendipity to some other Punchbowl

visitors. These visitors asked if it would be okay if we sang Happy Birthday to Albert. It was okay and so we did. In the bottom left photo Dick is pointing to Albert's name on the Wall of the Missing.

...Waterbury, from page 1

I was born three months later to a young widow, Gloria, who was inconsolable and trying to stave off grief by losing herself in books. She named me Mayli-Anne, after a Chinese heroine from a Pearl Buck novel. She had met Kendall while he was stationed at Quonset Point Naval Air Station in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Later, she would marry another sailor, a big, strapping Swede from the cornfields of Iowa. They would have two sons.

Having a Chinese name and a different surname was a real problem for a kid living in Warwick, Rhode Island, during the 1950s. Family problems would emerge, and the family tension would send me outside to escape. I would sit for hours at the base of a telephone pole reeking of creosote as I tried to will an absent God to bring my dad back on an incoming plane at the nearby airport. The MIA status had created magical thinking in my little-girl mind, because the term implied hope that he might still be found.

I loved my parents and took responsibility for their moods. I forfeited questions about Kendall, thinking it might hurt their feelings or puncture a fragile household peace.

Sixty-five years later, with childhood loyalties lost, and feeling a powerful drive to know my other family, I found a name online and called to see if they had ever heard of me. My cousin knew my name at once. Within an hour, she arranged a family meeting during a 50th high school reunion that the now-scattered family was coming back to attend a few months away.

I was almost to Deadwood when I noticed an exit off the prairie for the Black Hills National Cemetery. Veering off on a hunch, I pulled the car into an unexpected oasis of brilliant green grass capped with rows and rows of look-alike headstones. A large com-

puter spat out directions to an MIA plot and a marker that I never knew existed.

Years of impacted grief burst out of me as I neared his dazzling white marker. I wept for Kendall, for me, and for the families of everyone else flanking his headstone. Finally, emptied out of sorrow, I drove to the VFW Hall in Deadwood to meet my family.

It wasn't hard to know who the members of my family were, as 23 of them leapt to their feet and flew toward me with outstretched arms. My cousin, Jerome, acting as spokesman, said something I had not known that I had always longed to hear: "Welcome to the family. We knew you were out there somewhere, but now that you're here, the missing link has been found. We can close the circle forever. Welcome home, Mayli."

I had the sense that I had known them forever, as though I had just come back home for another Thanksgiving.

As many of them were my age, memories about Kendall were scarce, but I was told that after high school graduation in Lead, South Dakota, he worked on ranches, at sawmills, and at the nearby Homestake gold mine. He loved to ski almost as much as he loved to fly. Discovering all of the places that he studied, worked and lived gave me a sense of knowing him beyond meeting his kin. I was presented a folder that was filled with family stories, poems and historical records of how our great-grandparents had come to settle in the Black Hills. The next day, my cousins took me to the family homestead that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and solidly planted deep in the Black Hills.

Leaving my newfound family was bittersweet, but I knew I would return for I had discovered my own love of the land that came connected with a gnawing desire to get back to the prairie whenever I could.



Mayli-Anne "Lee" at her father's marker in South Dakota.

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New Address for Deceased Personnel Files

IDPF requests can be mailed to the address below, but email requests are preferred and faster. Email specialist Susan Kilianski at susan.m.kilianski.civ@mail.mil, or call 502-613-4203. Provide your name and relationship to the deceased, and deceased's name, rank, serial number, unit and date of death.

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
ATTN: AHRC-FOIA
1600 Spearhead Ave., Dept. 107
Fort Knox, KY 40120

Thanks to Vic Muller for the updated contact information.

2014 AWON National Conference I'll Be "Seaing" You - In Seattle Conference Program Book Memorial Ad Form

If you would like to place a memorial ad in the conference program book, complete the form below and include a photo(s) or email an image. Forms and payment are due by **July 1**. If you send photos by mail, **do not send originals**. They will not be returned. Identify the subject of the photo on the back. If you email a photo, please send a high-resolution jpg.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Select one: (8½ x 11 page)

\$20 ___ 1/8 page \$35 ___ 1/4 page

\$70 ___ 1/2 page \$100 ___ full page

**Everyone placing an ad
will receive a program book,
whether or not they
attend the conference.**

Message to accompany photo
(enclose separate sheet if necessary):

Make check/money order payable to **AWON**
and mail form, photos and payment to:
Kathy Le Comte
1004 Williams Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704
email: johnkath5@comcast.net

...Waterbury, from page 6

Later that summer and back in Rhode Island, I took in a popular event in downtown Providence called Waterfire. Wandering alongside the canal, I was attracted to the sight of the Rhode Island World War II Memorial, dedicated in 2007. It was aglow with the reflected light from the huge flames leaping from the braziers fixed in the nearby Providence River. As I ran my fingers along the names etched deeply into the granite face of the monument, I came across my father's name and the shock of the discovery drove me to a bench in disbelief.

I still don't know how his name came to be placed on that shrine, but I realized instantly that there are no coincidences in life. A loving force, the God I thought had deserted me, and severed me from a connection to a father I would never know, had kept track of my little girl yearnings. He guided me and reconnected me, to find my father, his land and his family, despite the distance of 2,000 miles.

AWONers Meet in September 2014

Alaska Cruise Option Added to Seattle Conference

Here's the latest news about the 2014 AWON National Conference in Seattle:

Roundtable Discussions

All attendees are invited to participate in a roundtable discussion session on future planning for AWON. Potential topics include the length, frequency and topics at future conferences; AWON Regional Gatherings, how best to use AWON funds; improvements to the AWON website, newsletter and List-Serv; where to place the AWON Archives in perpetuity; AWON board and elections; and other topics.

New Hotel URL

When making hotel reservations by phone, be sure to mention the hotel name - the Renaissance Seattle Hotel. There also is a shorter url for web reservations. See the ad on this page. A conference registration form appears on page 9.

New Vamik Email

Dr. Vamik Volkan is facilitating a discussion about AWON mothers. Those who are interested in participating by talking about their mothers should email their story to Vamik at this new email address: omervamik@aol.com.

AWON Digital Photo Frame

Anyone who is attending the conference and does not have their father's photo in the AWON Digital Photo Frame that is on display at all conferences and wants one to be included should email their father's photo to Rik Peirson at RikP@dayone.com. The photo should be a minimum size of 5x7, scanned at 300 dpi. If scanning is not possible, mail a copy, not an original, to Rik Peirson, 100 Oceano Ave. #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93109.

Memorial Ads

All members, whether attending the conference or not, may purchase a memorial ad in the conference program booklet. Everyone who submits an ad will receive a copy of the booklet. Photos and personal messages are encouraged. The form is on page 7.

Alaska Cruise

The deadline for the Alaska Cruise option is approaching. The cruise is September 7-14. Per person rates are from \$899-\$1,549. Down payment is due at booking, and the balance is due June 18. Passports are required. For more information, contact Penny LeGrand at 520-907-1404, or penylg@msn.com.

2014 AWON National Conference Hotel Reservations

Renaissance Seattle Hotel

Conference Dates: Sept. 4-7, 2014 Group Rate Starts Sept. 2
Room rate for 1-2 pp - \$129/tax Room rate for 3-4 pp - \$139/tax

Reservations by Phone: (877) 901-6632

Reservations Online: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/orphans>

Registration Form
2014 AWON National Conference
I'll Be "Sealing" You – In Seattle
Seattle, Washington • September 4–7, 2014
Please return registration by July 1, 2014

Member Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Is this your first AWON Conference? (circle one) yes no

Do you want registration information listed in the conference roster? yes no

Do you have special needs? (If so, please indicate below) yes no

Please indicate choice and number of banquet entrees: Chicken _____ Fish _____
Vegetarian _____ Beef _____ (additional \$5)

Registration Fee

(includes banquet)

Active Member \$125 / \$75 deposit \$ _____

Inactive Member \$150 / \$75 deposit \$ _____

First Guest \$75 / \$50 deposit \$ _____

Add'l Guests w/banq. \$65 / \$50 deposit \$ _____

Add'l Guests no banq. \$30 / \$15 deposit \$ _____

Total registration fee/deposit enclosed: \$ _____

Final payment due by July 23, 2014

Name Tag Information (please print clearly)

Name (include maiden name) and state of residence: _____

Name of spouse/partner attending: _____

Name of mother attending: _____

Other guests attending (designate if veteran): _____

Serviceman's name: _____ Branch of Service _____

rank first middle last

KIA or MIA (circle one) Date KIA/MIA _____ Country KIA/MIA _____

Mail registration form with check or money order payable to **AWON** to:

AWON 2014 National Conference
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216

More than 200 Families Included

19 Added to AWON Family Photo Albums

*By Patricia Gaffney-Kindig, President Emerita, AWON Board of Directors
Daughter of 2LT George P. Gaffney Jr. and Daughter-in-law of Major Earl R. Kindig*

The recent "last call" for photos of fathers and AWON members as children brought nineteen packets to my mailbox!

I've been collecting these photographs for more than a decade. This project, *Portraits of Men Who Died in WWII and the Children Who Love Them*, was conceived as a way of seeing us with our fathers. It was meant as a tribute to them as well as their children left behind. What started with a few has grown to include 205 fathers and their children.

Thanks to all who have participated. Digitized copies will be available through the AWON Bookstore soon. Watch for information in the next issue of *The Star*. Below are the names of the most recent participants:

Paul Bremer ★ Pvt. Ludolf Bremer

Judith Durkee ★ Pvt. Glenn Ward

Nancy Gorlesky ★ Pvt. Russell Gorlesky

Patricia Inselman ★ Capt. Russell Miller

Peggy Lockwood ★ 2Lt. Harry McKain Jr.

Billie Meeks ★ Cpl. William Myers Jr.

Maxine Olson ★ 2Lt. Max Graham

Sharon Sullivan ★ Fireman1C Carson Fuls

Howard Walker ★ Pvt. Wallie Walker

David Colinan ★ Maj. George Colinan

Jay Fitzpatrick ★ 2Lt. Francis Fitzpatrick

Susan Holmes ★ Lt. Fred Hunckler

Sheila Logan ★ Tech5 Emil Veik

Kathleen Mayerski ★ Pvt. John Donohue

Nancy Meyer ★ 1Lt. Paul Meyer

Annis Sisco ★ Cpl. John Howe

Nellie Vass ★ Pfc. John Turman

Sandra Walker ★ Maj. Robert Lane

Jerry Pinkerton and Judy Graves ★ Pfc. Ralph Pinkerton

Welcome New Members

Robert D. Hadler, IA, son of unknown Smithhart, unknown unit

Marion F. Rainey, ID

Kay Thiem, AZ, half-sister of dau of Lt. Col. Morris C. Crossen, Army Air Force

Joan Tedesco, AZ, half-sister of dau of Lt. Col. Morris C. Crossen, Army Air Force

William Wilson, TX, son of PVT William D. Wilson, Army

(new members since the January issue of *The Star*)



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



CD / VIDEO

___ **NEW! Leather and Strings**
by Mark LaPointe, grandson of Sgt William G. Aubut
featuring *Somewhere in Germany*, written and sung by Mark
at AWON's 10th conference memorial service \$6.00

___ *Letters of Love and War* (CD for Mac or PC)
by 1LT John and Betty Peirson \$19.44

___ *AWON 2004 Conference & WWII Memorial Dedication*
\$ 5.00*

___ *We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers*
produced by Patrick Tierney and **Terry Boettcher**
was \$15.00 \$ 5.00*

___ *AWON 2000 Conference: Journeys - Finding Our Fathers*
by Justin Taylan was \$15.00 \$ 5.00*

___ *Sleep My Sons: The Story of the Arisan Maru*
by **Shawnee Brittan** \$30.00

AWON Logo Products

___ Sweatshirt \$45.00
(circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X)

___ Windbreaker (blue) \$40.00
(circle size: S M L XL 2X 3X)

___ Denim shirt ___ short sleeve ___ long sleeve \$40.00
(circle size: S M L XL 2X)

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(circle size: S M L XL 2X)

___ **NEW! 20th Anniversary Logo T-shirt (navy)** \$20.00
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___ Hat \$15.00

___ Scarf (royal blue fleece) \$15.00

___ **NEW! AWON 20th Anniversary Totebag** *\$10.00
* small, P&H included

___ Tote bag (large) \$20.00

___ **NEW! 20th Anniversary Garden Flags** \$15.00
without holder

AWON Gold Star crystal pendant (no chain included):

___ Gold Star crystal pendant 1 1/8" (28mm) \$10.00

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___ *AWON lapel pin \$10.00

___ Gold Star earrings \$20.00

___ *AWON button (2 1/4 inch) \$3.00

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(4" x 6") blue with white lettering \$6.00

___ *AWON note cards w/envelopes (pkg. of 20) \$20.00

___ *AWON bookmarks
(circle amount: 1/\$1.00, 5/\$3.00, 10/\$5.00)

___ *AWON auto magnet \$6.00

___ *AWON holiday ornament \$10.00

___ AWON blanket (royal blue w/gold lettering) \$30.00
(send father's name & rank (if desired) with order)

The Star NEWSLETTERS

___ * Individual issues \$2.00 includes P&H

___ * All archived issues: \$35.00 includes P&H

___ * Special! Most recent five issues: \$7.50 includes P&H

Ordering Information

Postage and handling: \$8 for each item. Items marked with an asterisk (*) include P&H. For multiple purchases:
Up to \$40: \$10 P&H \$40-\$60: \$12 P&H Over \$60: \$15 P&H Washington State residents add 7.8% sales tax.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Send check or money order to:

AWON Bookstore

5745 Lee Road

Indianapolis, IN 46216

email: bookstore@awon.org

For more information and color photos go to: www.awon.org/bookstore/bookstore.html



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



BOOKS

(Authors in **bold** are orphan or family members)

____ *The Lost Submarine: A True Story of Love and War*
by **Nancy Kenney** \$16.00

____ *"Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the
Lives of America's Children*
by William M. Tuttle Jr., PhD \$30.00

____ *In My Father's Words: Letters From A World War
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by **Bill McElvain** \$16.00

____ *If These Stones Could Talk* **REDUCED!**
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____ *The Dad I Never Knew: A War Orphan's Search for Inner
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Standard Book was \$49.95 **REDUCED!** \$10.00
Leatherbound Book was \$79.95 **REDUCED!** \$25.00

____ *The Fighting Tigers: The Untold Story Behind the Names on
the Quachita Baptist University WWII Memorial*
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____ *The War Journey of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause*
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____ *An 8th Air Force Combat Diary*
by John A. Clark \$49.95

____ *When I See a "Forty and Eight" ... I Remember World War Two*
by Jacques Adnet, Lt. Col. USAF (ret.) \$12.00

____ *For Those Who Love, Time Is Not*
by **Kay Brigham** **REDUCED!** \$16.00

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____ *After the Liberators: A Father's Last Mission, A Son's
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____ *Shobun: A Forgotten War Crime in the Pacific*
by **Michael J. Goodwin** \$19.95

Family of Yap Island Crashes Meet

by Sharon Crowley Connor

On July 15, 1945, two B-24s, each with an 11-man crew, collided near Yap Island in the Pacific as they returned from a bombing mission. While there are several different accounts of the collision, one fact is confirmed: Lt. Anthony Diederich's plane veered into Lt. Ulna Saylor's plane, and they both crashed into the Pacific. They rest somewhere on the bottom of the ocean to this day.

Pat Ranfranz, a devoted and determined researcher, in his unending quest for information about his uncle, T/Sgt. John McCullough, whose plane also crashed near Yap, has documented much about the Yap Island losses. You can visit his website at <http://missingaircrew.com/>

Three years ago, Pat's website caught the attention of Lorraine Vitale, the half-sister of Lois Saylor, the pilot's daughter. Lorraine is very interested in Lois' father and contacted Pat, who notified Sharon Crowley Connor. Seventy years after that wartime loss, Lorraine and Sharon met in Dana Point, California.

Lorraine, her daughter Kelly, Kelly's partner Bob, Roger McKee Connor and Sharon, met at a kooky little Mexican restaurant in Dana Point, looking out on that same Pacific



Lorraine Vitale, third from left, and Sharon Crowley Connor, second from right, share an interest in two B-24s that crashed into the Pacific Ocean.

ic Ocean where Lt. Ulna "Babe" Saylor, Sharon's father, Sgt. William E. Crowley, and their crewmates rest today.

Lorraine and Sharon were familiar with the information contained in the military reports, so their conversation turned to personal stories about their lives after Lt. Saylor and Sgt. Crowley disappeared.

Pat Ranfranz has developed a partnership with the Yap Island Visitors Bureau, and together they have created a memorial park, where Pat has had all-weather memorial signs fabricated and installed, as well as the two marble markers for the Saylor-Diederich crews.



The memorial markers and sign for the Diederich and Saylor crews.



Dallas Gathering April 26

AWON members in north Texas and Oklahoma are invited to a gathering on Saturday, April 26, in Dallas, for lunch and conversation. For details, watch the AWON ListServ or contact

Jerry Pinkerton at:
jerry.pinkerton@sbcglobal.net

Mom Continues to Run After Telegram

Editor's note: This is the conclusion to the article from the January 2014 issue.

by Robert A. Wasmer

The Selective Service had not been calling fathers to serve but they needed more men, so they started calling them up. In March 1944, Carl was drafted and went to Cheyenne for his physical. In spite of several ailments which Mom and Dad hoped would disqualify him, he passed his physical. We returned to Monte Vista at the end of March. The engine block of their car had frozen and cracked, so instead of buying another car, we went by train. They rented a small house in Dolores for us, and Carl bought a car for Mom. In April he was inducted in Denver. His basic training was at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas.

He came home on furlough by train in late June 1944 to Gallup, New Mexico. Mom drove the 80 miles to Gallup with Jerry and me, with her mother along to help care for us. While he was home, they talked about buying a house in Monte Vista, but before the furlough was over, they decided that was not a good idea. Carl said Mom would never be happy in Monte Vista. I have heard at least one of my Divine cousins refer to Carl's mother as "Stern Fern" and whether that was part of the decision or not, I can't say. Mom did say that neither of them seemed to feel Carl would return from the war.

Dad was sent to Europe. He was killed in action on November 25, 1944, in the Battle of the Hürtgen Forest in Germany. Mom, Jerry, and I were living in Cortez, Colorado, along

with Mom's sister, Evy, and her daughter, in a double motel room. Evy's husband was in the Navy aboard a destroyer.

Carl's last letter to Mom was received on November 19th. With each passing day, she began to fear something had happened to him. Then, on December 11th, a car stopped in front of the motel where we were living, and Hazel got out of the car with a suitcase. Mom assumed Grandma was going on a nursing case. Instead, she had brought Mom the telegram about Carl's death. It had been delivered to her folks' farm by mail. Mom im-

mediately called Carl's mother at the store in Monte Vista where Fern was working as a seamstress, to let her know of Carl's death. Carl's older brother, Robert, was in the Philippines, and didn't learn about Carl's death until much later.

We went to Monte Vista to spend some time with Carl's family and, not wanting to drive over Wolf Creek Pass in the snows of December, we took the train from Durango to Alamosa. We stayed in Monte Vista until after New Year's 1945. Mom had some im-

portant decisions to make, and didn't waste too much time making them.

Mom's parents thought if she took Carl's \$10,000 government insurance in one pay-off, and with the Social Security money, she could go to nurse's training. That sounded possible, but what to do with the boys? They thought she could leave us with someone, maybe them (which was what Grandma had done with her own three back in the 1920s), but Mom felt it was her job to take care of us. Besides, her mother was not well enough to take care of us, and Carl's mother had to



Carl and Marjorie Divine, with Robert and baby Jerry, in 1943.

work since she was a widow and still had three kids in high school. Mom decided to take the money in monthly installments. The clincher came when Grandpa said he would build her a little house in the orchard. Recalling earlier years on farms, she ran (her word) all the way to Austin, Texas. She was not about to live in any little house in the orchard!

Mom had a friend she had met while living in Casper, Wyoming. The friend had been a clerk at Gordon's store while her husband was in the Air Force. Her husband had since gone to Italy, and the friend had returned home to Austin. She wrote to Mom upon hearing of Carl's death and suggested Mom come to Austin for a visit and to look around. Mom left us with Grandma Fullerton and took the bus to Austin. It was nice in Austin in January. Spring was coming, and Colorado still faced several months of winter. She bought a little house in Austin for \$4,000, about \$30 a month. She said she didn't know how or where she got the nerve to buy one, or even how to go about buying one. Maybe the thought of a little house in the orchard spurred her on.

Plans were quickly made to move to Texas. Mom's dad helped make plans to ship our things. She went to the ration office to get gas stamps for the trip, and they also gave her a re-tread tire. Evy and her daughter went along as far as Gallup where they caught a train to San Diego to meet her husband who would be stationed there. Evy's husband's uncle and aunt would go along as far as a small town in northern Texas. It must have been one packed car. Mom had never driven her car any further at one time than the 80 miles she drove down to Gallup to pick up Dad when he came home on furlough, but now she was planning a trip of 1,100 miles. Somewhere north of Austin, we had a flat tire. She had never changed a tire, so taking both Jerry and me with her, she walked to a tavern whose roof she could see through the trees for help. When she entered the tavern with us, all the Texas gentlemen stood. The barkeeper sent one of the men to help Mom change the tire and she

drove on, again with the thought, she said, of the possibility of a house in her parent's orchard as her motivation.

Austin was a good change for her, but the summer was pretty hot and humid, and Jerry's asthma began to trouble him. She decided to take us back up to Colorado to spend time with her folks and with Grandma Divine. We took the train as far as Gallup, then on to Cortez by bus. After that visit we returned to Austin, but Jerry's asthma continued to be a problem. A doctor there suggested Mom move us to the Ozark Mountains for the next summer, but she decided to take us back to Colorado. We went by car that time. She rented her house to a young service couple while we were gone. She had heard a lot about western Oregon and wanted to check it out as a place to live. She asked her parents to drive to Oregon with us. They looked at a lot of places east of Springfield, up the McKenzie River, but then it started raining and Jerry started wheezing. She knew it was not the place for us.

When they returned to Colorado, she went to Alamosa to pick up Evy, who was pregnant and coming home so Grandma Fullerton could take care of her when the baby was born. Mom was gone about a week and when she returned home, she learned that her mom and dad had sold the farm within that week and were getting ready for an auction of the farm equipment. They were moving to Oregon!

We began our return to Austin, but shortly before we arrived Mom decided to move to Montana. Her brother, Jim, was living in Belgrade and worked as a railroad express agent in Bozeman. The house sold rather quickly for \$1,000 more than she paid for it. She also sold the car Carl bought her for a little more than he had paid for it. It would be the first week of October before we left, and she didn't want to drive that far with just us two kids with winter coming on. Arrangements were made to ship the household goods to Montana, and we would go

...continued on page 16

by train. I was almost five and have vague memories of that trip. The train seemed to be full of returning servicemen. We had a Pullman berth for the trip. One day, a young serviceman asked Mom if he could borrow her two boys to visit in the car ahead. Jerry and I spent most of the day playing on the floor with our toys and being entertained by servicemen who apparently missed their own kids, or were looking forward to the day they would have children. Some of them even gave us money, which Mom tried to give back.

Mom bought a small house in Bozeman and we were rather quickly settled in. Mom was offered a job as a secretary/receptionist by our doctor, and the VA offered her a job, as it was their policy to try to do, but Mom chose to take care of us instead. She soon met a former serviceman who was working at the airport in Belgrade and they started dating. She married John (Jack) Wasmer in Seattle, Washington, on September 30, 1947, and he adopted Jerry and me when we were 7 and 5, respectively. Grandma Divine had come up to Bozeman to visit us, and she really liked Jack; she approved of the adoption as long as he was good to us. Mom's mother did not approve of the adoption, but as Mom said, she didn't ask her.

By then, it was time to decide whether to bring Carl home to be reburied. She decided to leave him in Belgium, where he is buried

in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. Again, Carl's mother was fine with that decision, but Mom's mother was not.

Life became somewhat settled for the new Wasmer family. Mom was to move ten more times as part of Jack's job, and again after his retirement as an air route traffic controller in Auburn, Washington. In addition to Jerry and me, they had two children of their own, Kathy and Paul. Mom and Dad finally settled in Glendale/Peoria, Arizona, where

dad died in 2013 at the age of 93. Mom died a month later, at the age of 92. Both are buried in the Phoenix National Cemetery.

Mom certainly was a "mover." That part of her background, as well as the early household experiences she had, served her well when she decided to "run" after Carl's death in 1944. She did what was necessary to raise Carl's two boys. It was not easy, but she was successful. All of her children attended college. Both Jerry and I received advanced degrees, funded in part by the War Orphans' Educational Assistance Act of 1956, and both of us became successful biology col-

lege professors. Mom (and later, Jack) made sure that Jerry and I knew Carl's relatives. Grandma Divine came to Washington for our wedding in 1964, and we wrote and visited her as often as possible until her death in 1986. We made sure she knew Carl's grandchildren. We still write and visit with Carl's two surviving sisters, Margaret, age 93, and Eleanor, age 85, who never moved away from Monte Vista and Alamosa.



Jerry, Marjorie, and Robert in front of their home in Bozeman, Montana in 1947.

AWON Board Business 8 December 2013

Election of Secretary: Judy Hathaway was elected as board secretary.

2014 Conference Report: Conference co-chair **Barry Barr-Finch** reported that all conference speakers have been lined up with the exception of JPAC which is awaiting funding. Hotel reservations are being taken. The next step will be the formation of committees. **Patty Temte** will be in charge of the registration desk. Several local (Seattle) people will be contacted to fill other roles. Conference co-chair **Judi Hollis Kramer** talked to **Vamik Volkan** about his presentation, which will be about our mothers, presented in the format of a panel discussion as was done at the Indianapolis conference. Judi will put an announcement in the next newsletter to solicit panel participants. **Walt Carter** will give a presentation on how historians view World War II today as opposed to how it was viewed at the time. **Linda Chavin** will give a presentation on working with JPAC to search for her dad's plane in Belgium. **Joe Lippe** and World War II veteran **Art Mahler** will speak about the local citizens who adopted Lippe's father's grave in Belgium. JPAC will send a speaker if government funding is approved. The board requested a round table discussion on the future of AWON as well as two sessions of Sharing Circles. The conference schedule will be set by the January board meeting.

Financial Report: Treasurer **Jerry Pinkerton** reported that for the current year AWON is under budget in income, with approximately 80% of operating income with at least a \$2,000 shortfall in membership dues. However, total expenses have also been less than budgeted. The revised 2014 budget was submitted to board members prior to the meeting by email. Line items for telephone and public relations were eliminated.

Discussion on several proposed budget items followed, however, no changes were made. A line item for website redesign of \$6,000 was included in the budget. A \$12,000 budget deficit is anticipated; however, historically many budgeted expenses do not happen. The 2014 budget was approved.

AWON Election Policies: The board voted to revise some election policies and procedures.

Veterans Group: Ed Peters received a letter from a group composed of AmVets, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, who have banded together to create an independent budget for veterans by veterans. The group asked AWON for an endorsement rather than a contribution. **Judy Hoffman** and Ed will find out more about them and report to the board at the January meeting.

AWON Database: Following up on the board's request from the October meeting, Database Manager **Gerry Morenski** reported that it would not be feasible to have a database assistant as too much time would be involved in teaching an assistant how to use the database. Treasurer Jerry Pinkerton noted that the proposed budget just approved included \$600 for possible clerical help if work becomes too pressing.

AWON Website: Ed suggested that a project manager is needed to better address the flow of information between the webmaster and the board. Gerry Morenski moved that the board appoint Ed Peters as the project manager for website redesign, to work with **Bonnie Oates** and **Norm Burkey** as a subcommittee.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled board meeting is Sunday, January 19, 2014.

Judy Hathaway, Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit awon.org.

Guidelines for Submitting Material for Publication

- Topics considered for publication in *The Star* include, but are not limited to, unit reunions, visiting battle or crash sites, cemeteries, ceremonies, seeking or finding families and veterans, poetry, etc.
- Email copy-ready articles and photos to the editor in Word, WordPerfect, RTE, formats, or in the body of an email. High resolution jpeg, bitmap, gif or tiff images are preferred. Text and photos also can be mailed. Photos returned upon request.
- Please keep text to one page (500 to 1,000 words),
- Preference is given to material written by and about AWON members.
- Authors retain copyright to published original writing. Permission to reprint should be obtained from the author by contacting the editor.

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**Deadline for the
July Issue
is June 1**

AWON Board Business 19 January 2014

Financial Report: The financial report was approved as submitted.

AWON Election: The election committee report was postponed due to the absence of chair **Norman Burkey**.

AWON Website: The website committee report was distributed by email before the board meeting. More than 100 pages of website information were submitted by Webmaster **Rik Peirson**, including considerations that might prove useful to the committee. The committee set a goal of May 2014 for completion of website redesign. Rik thought the deadline could be met with a "front end" redesign and navigation upgrades. One suggestion was to restructure the main user interface initially, then work on internal revisions over time. **Ed Peters** talked to Rik by phone about AWON providing him with new AWON-specific software. The cost would be about \$50. Rik also sent Ed contact information for West Point, the location of one of the website's two servers. Ed suggested contracting outside expertise for advice. Discussion followed in regard to designing the front-end interface, revising existing links, removing obsolete information, and improving the online membership process. Board President **Judy Hoffman** suggested the committee ask Rik to distill the pages of information into a more accessible length, then advised the committee to consider the board discussion and proceed.

AWON ListServ: Current AWON policy is to accept only orphans and immediate family members on the AWON ListServ. The board was asked to consider adding associate members (those not directly related to a deceased serviceman). After reviewing the AWON database, Database Manager **Gerry Morenski** reported it is not always clear who is an associate member and who is a complimentary member. Currently, AWON has seven associate members. Judy Hoffman suggested that the matter be presented for discussion at the AWON National Conference in Seattle, possibly at the roundtable discussion topic.

AWON Minutes: Judy Hoffman has three large binders containing AWON board minutes in paper and CD-ROM formats. She will send them to the Indianapolis office for safekeeping and storage. She will retain her records on her computer, a CD-ROM, and an external hard drive.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is Sunday, March 16, 2014.

Judy Hathaway, Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit awon.org.

American WWII Orphans Network

Application, Registration & Renewal Form

- ☐ I would like to become a member
☐ Register my father/family member and me only
☐ Renew my membership

Information about You

(please print clearly)

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ (home, work, cell, other)

E-mail _____

Do you prefer to receive *The Star* electronically? Y N

(Checking Y means you will not receive a copy in the mail. You will receive an email notification to read your copy online.)

Renewing members may skip to Dues Options.

Relationship to Serviceman _____

Your Date of Birth _____

Where did you hear about AWON? _____

Information about WWII Serviceman Who Died

Be as complete as possible. If you do not have some of the information, leave it blank and we may be able to provide it to you. Do not delay mailing the application for lack of information.

Name _____
Last First M.I.

Birth Date _____

Date of Death _____

Place of Death _____

Where Buried _____

Military Unit _____

Service Number _____

Additional details about serviceman's death
and/or service: (rank, medals, etc.)

Home Town and State _____

Wife's Maiden Name _____

Did widow remarry? Yes No

Names and addresses of your siblings with same father, and/or additional family members:

(Please include information on another sheet, if necessary.)

Membership Levels

Any child of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine, who was killed, remains missing in action, or who died in the line of duty or later died of wounds or injuries sustained during World War II, is eligible to join as an **Orphan Member**. Any direct relative is eligible to join as a **Family Member**. Any individual, including friends of those killed in World War II, those who wish to participate in AWON activities, or organizations with an interest in and compatible with AWON's purposes and goals, are eligible to join as an **Associate Member**.

Check Your Membership Category:

☐ Orphan ☐ Family ☐ Associate

Dues Options

Basic annual membership dues are \$25. Sponsor, Gold Star and Multi-year memberships also are available:

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Basic	\$25	\$70	\$110
Sponsor	\$50	\$140	\$220
Gold Star	\$100	\$280	\$440

AWON greatly appreciates gifts beyond these levels.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

AWON is a humanitarian, nonprofit, nonpolitical, public service organization under Section 501(c)3 of the U.S. Federal Tax code (EINB #91-1538912). Membership is not required to register in our database.

Mail form and check payable to AWON to:

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AWON Treasurer
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Dallas, TX 75204

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The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

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AWON Mission

To locate and bring together sons and daughters of those who died or are missing as a result of American involvement in World War II, honor the service and sacrifice of our fathers and provide information and support to these people who were orphaned by the war.

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