



## In This Issue of Saving Military History One Soldier at a Time

### It's #GivingTuesday !

Today you will be bombarded with pleas to support various charities. Many are undoubtedly worthwhile. So if you have any cash left following Black Friday and Cyber Monday and are contemplating some donations we ask that you consider us today. This is a big day for us.

**Thank you for your support!**

[\*\*Donate Now!\*\*](#)



December 7, is the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. The young men in this photo, taken in Hawaii before Dec. 7 had no idea their world would be turned upside down. But they answered the call.

**Other important news: We have just added over 60,000 entries to our database and websites' honor rolls. We thank our volunteers who have been working overtime these past months to produce this data!**

Also in this issue: Read another veteran's story and enjoy photos of various items in the collection from photos to uniforms and learn about one of the videos in the new Cinema.

***We tell history! Saving Military History One Soldier at a Time.***

Remember those that made the #ultimatesacrifice #mia #pow #sonsofliberty. #patriots #army #navy #marines #aircorps #airforce #coastguard #merchantmarine; all those that have worn the cloth.

#givingtuesday #givingtuesday2020 #rememberpearlharbor #pearlharbor #dec-7-1941

Join us on this journey.

In Their Memory,  
Robert Coalter, Jason Weigler  
Executive Directors

"Saving Military History One Soldier At A Time"<sup>SM</sup>  
"Saving History One Soldier At A Time"<sup>SM</sup>

Visit Sons of Liberty Website

## The New Cinema



A few weeks ago we launched our own virtual cinema. Another way to describe it is it's our own Netflix.

We have started out with 130 combat films represented by 209 clips and 1436 minutes of footage.

We will continue to add to the cinema as we have a lot of material and we will be generating much more for you to see.

This is a subscription service of \$14.95/month.

Take a few minutes and go see what's "Now Showing" and decide if you want to signup and start watching.

[Go now !](#)

[Sons of Liberty Virtual Cinema](#)

### This Month's Highlighted Movie

*[497th Bombardment Group - 330th Bombardment Group](#)*

Watch this unique color film lasting over 22 minutes of the 497th Bombardment Group and 330th Bombardment Group in the Pacific of World War II. Watch B-24s and B-17s on missions as well as crews on the ground. Some great scenes and closeups. [Subscribe and Watch This Movie](#)

## Sons of Liberty Museum



The Sons of Liberty has hundreds of uniforms and thousands of other artifacts in our collection from the U.S. Civil War to Present day. Our web presence now numbers in excess of 325,000 pages. We continue to accept new material for education and research programs; a number of these items will make their way on to the website. Our collection includes memorabilia from the front line soldier to the rear echelon clerk. Drivers, infantrymen, pilots, tankers, seaman, medical, artillery, armorers, engineers, quartermasters and much more. Those that were drafted or volunteered; those that did a single tour or made it a career. Those that returned with all types of injuries and those that gave their full measure being killed in action (KIA). All MOS are welcome from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines. We are Saving Military History One Soldier At A Time. We are honoring the service of the Citizen Soldier.

#sonsofliberty



Hawaiian Department. This is the uniform of Lt. W.W.Watkins. Assigned to Coastal Artillery, they were tasked with defending the Hawaiian islands. The Hawaiian Department was the Army Command based in the islands of the Territory of Hawaii. (It would become a state in 1959).



Men in aftermath of December 7 attack.



Bomb crater at Pearl Harbor following December 7 attack.



Left:

Gunnery range on Hawaii.



## Volunteers

We need volunteers to transcribe award and roster documents. You will place the material into a spreadsheet where it will be added to our database and website. We welcome new dedicated volunteers to work from home and help us with this project!

## Interesting Links & Resources

Researching History: <https://www.sonsoflibertymuseum.org/military-history-records.cfm>

Honor Roll: <https://www.sonsoflibertymuseum.org/honor.cfm>

## Donations

We welcome donations of papers, books, photos, gear, uniforms, jackets, medals, ribbons, weapons, equipment, scrapbooks, biographies, diaries and more. Please [Contact Us](#)

Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Cold War, Gulf War and current conflict donations accepted. From small to large multi-item donations, they all tell a story.

We need you ! We need your help to further our mission of preserving and bringing this history to you and your families. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit your qualifying donations are tax deductible.



## Army Air Corps Museum

The Air Corps Museum online presence encompasses over 225,000 web pages with thousands of photos and other materials. Our artifact collection contains hundreds of uniforms, albums, logs, medals and more from the Army Air Service, Army Air Forces and U.S. Air Force.

World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Cold War, Gulf War and current conflict donations welcome!

## Volunteers

We need volunteers to transcribe documents, placing the material into a spreadsheet. We welcome new dedicated volunteers to help us with this project! Work from home.

## Interesting Links & Resources

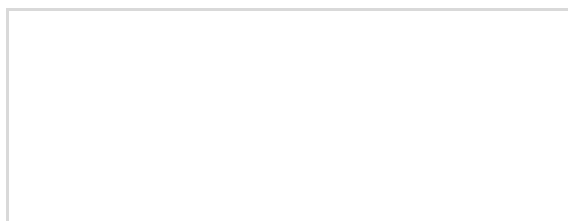
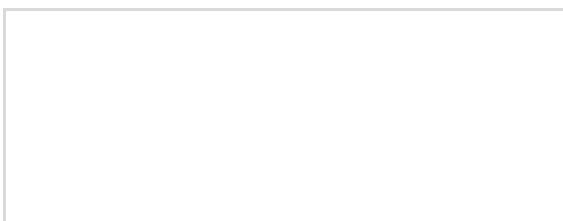
Trace a Family Members Military Service: <https://www.armyaircorpsmuseum.org/veteran-research.cfm>

Honor Roll: [https://www.armyaircorpsmuseum.org/honor\\_roll.cfm](https://www.armyaircorpsmuseum.org/honor_roll.cfm)

## Donations

We welcome donations of papers, books, photos, gear, uniforms, jackets, medals, ribbons, weapons, equipment, scrapbooks, biographies, diaries, letters and more. Please [Contact Us](#)

You can make monetary donations through the following links. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit your qualifying donations are tax deductible.





Destroyed Hangar.



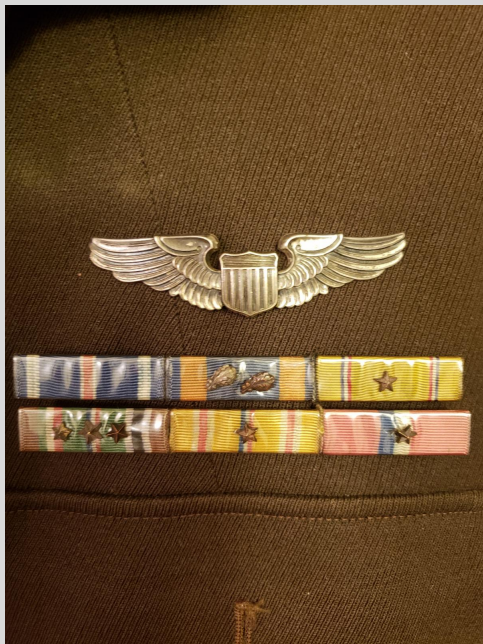
Destroyed aircraft and hanger on Hickam Field.



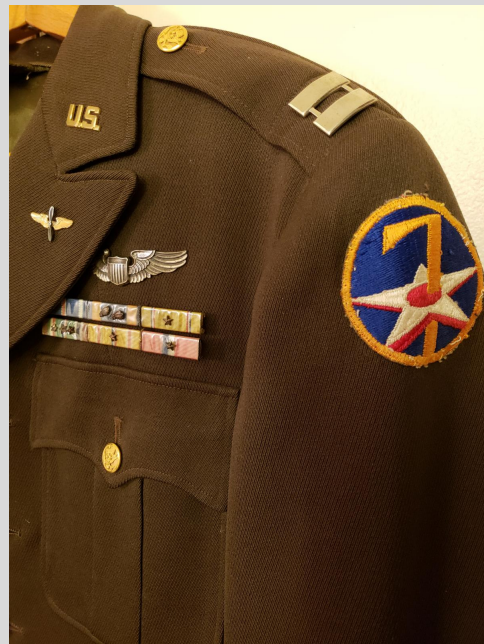
One of many outdated aircraft at the dawn of war.



B-18 Bolo Bomber at Hickam Field.



Closeup of pilot wings and ribbon bar for Capt. W.J. Tepe. Top row left to right: Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), Air Medal (AM) with Oak Leaf Clusters, American Campaign Ribbon with Campaign Star as worn by those at Pearl Harbor and/or the Battle of Midway.



Captain W. J. Tepe. 7th Air Force, Stationed in Hawaii, Dec, 7 1941.

Following early Pacific duty Capt. Tepe was assigned to the 15th AF participating in 3 campaigns and then returning the Pacific for the liberation of the Philippines. His uniform carries 9 Overseas Bars for over 4 years and 6 months of overseas service in WW2.





Edward A. Fox. 5th Air Force.



Side View. Edward A. Fox.

[www.32ndbombsquadron.org](http://www.32ndbombsquadron.org)

We have rescued this website. It was available for many years. The creator passed in 2016 and the website disappeared. Fortunately, we had a copy of the site and have recreated it in his and all the other 32nd Squadron members memory. re-launched November 2020.

Read one of the stories you will find on the website below.

[Visit the 32ndBombSquadron.org Page](http://www.32ndBombSquadron.org)



## Disaster at 18000 Feet by Co-Pilot Lt. Keith Taylor

**ON THE 11TH** of January 1944 the 32nd and the 301st were assigned to bomb the Piraeus Harbor in Greece. After our formation was organized and on its way to the target we ran into a weather front of 10/10 clouds. At eighteen thousand feet we entered an overcast. The clouds were very thick and visibility was not much beyond the wingtips, making it almost impossible to see other aircraft in the formation. At this height and with the thickness of the clouds some ice began to form on our wings. I learned later that the trailing squadrons initiated the procedure of flying off course for a couple minutes to obtain some spacing from the lead squadron, which maintained its course.

**WE WERE ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES** from the target when our plane made a severe movement up and down, and then sideways, before returning to its place in the formation. The whole plane shook and vibrated with a loud noise like an explosion. Our Pilot was Captain William Wofford, and between the two of us we were sure this was the end. Everything that was loose in the cockpit was all over the place. It threw the bombardier up against the Plexiglas nose, knocking his oxygen mask off and then flipping him on his back. We continued on and bombed the target with reported excellent results. After we left the target area, about thirty Luftwaffe planes swarmed all over our formation. Our plane suffered some minor damage from flak and we lived to fly another day. I'm sure there was someone looking after us. The 32nd lost aircraft number 42-30466 on this mission and the fate of the crew was unknown.

**THE OFFICIAL REPORT** reveals the cause of the severe disturbance during the approach: Two 97th Bomb Group B-17s had engine trouble and began to leave the formation. Instead of making a 180-degree right turn, away from the formation, they turned to the left and flew head-on into the 301st formation. One flew below the leader's left wing and the other above and to the right, clipping the vertical stabilizer of Colonel Barthelmess's aircraft, and apparently hitting another 301st bomber before colliding with the lead

bomber of the second element. One fortress in the lead element exploded, as did two B-17s in the second element. The P-38 pilots, who were flying low cover (beneath the overcast) for the mission, said they watched B-17 pieces raining from the sky for what seemed like five minutes.

**THE COMMANDER'S** and two other aircraft went over on their backs, not an ideal position for a fully loaded, iced up B-17. Two of those aircraft recovered at 10,000 feet. Others were not so lucky; the 301st lost five B-17s and their crews on this fateful mission. A navigator from the 419th bailed out and became a prisoner. One of the strangest stories of the war came from this mass accident. The collision severed the tail from one of the 353rd Squadron's bombers, trapping the crew in their positions. However, luck was with the tail gunner, James Raley, as the accident had left the tail section with adequate lift and weight distribution to allow it to fall or "flutter" to earth. Raley described the tail spinning around before finally impacting in a clump of pine trees. He was on his thirteenth mission, and did not realize what had happened until the tail came to rest. He opened the bulkhead door to find no aircraft. Raley was the only survivor. There was also a collision that downed a 99th Bomb Group bomber and a P-38 within 40 miles of the Group's disaster.

[Visit the 32ndBombSquadron.org Page](http://32ndBombSquadron.org)

And read more stories

## Preserve This History, Honor the Service, Provide Education For Future Generations.



Make a \$ Donation to the Army  
Air Corps Library and Museum

Thank You For Your Support !



Make a \$ Donation To the Sons  
of Liberty Museum

Thank You For Your Support !

---- What is Liberty ? ----

"definition. the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views."

Merriam-Webster defines it as " the power to do as one pleases, the freedom from physical restraint and freedom from arbitrary or despotic control.

---- So what is a Son of Liberty? ----

In our context and beginning these were the men and women in America who wanted the freedom from the King of England. They desired a right of self-determination for their lives. They fought for this liberty and codified it in the Constitution of a new country. To keep this liberty they created a military to ward off the any would-be belligerent. For 244 years the men and women who have worn the cloth of our nation's military are the Sons of Liberty. They have fought enemies in other nations, they have fought each other and they have stood as sentinels of the watch.

We celebrate the service of these individuals, we tell the historical story of these selfless patriots.

---- The Sons of Liberty Museum ----

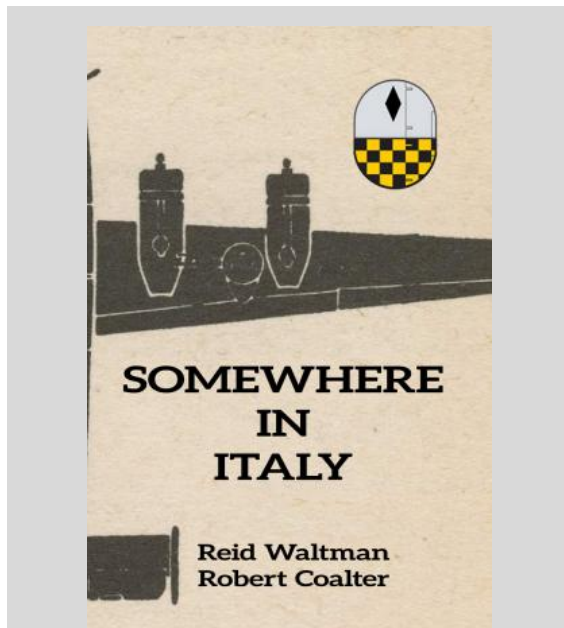
Over a decade ago we chose a name for this organization and our sister the Army Air Corps Library and Museum. We believe these names accurately describe these men and women who serve. We will not change any name to satisfy a radical viewpoint or computer algorithm, we don't allow for any revisionist history, we tell the factual stories.

We are Saving Military History One Soldier at a Time.

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### Need a Good Book?

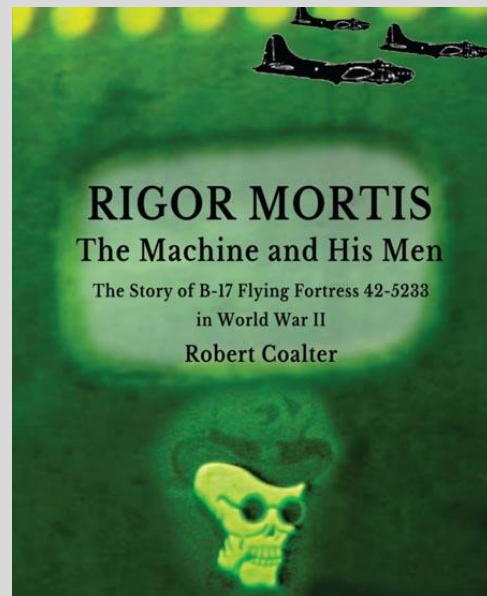
Check out these titles.



I was a navigator in the 459 Bomb Group 758 Bomb Squadron flying B-24's from Torre Giulia Field, tower named 'Coffee Tower', a gravel airfield near Cerignola, on the Foggia Plains of Southeastern Italy during the period August 4, 1944 to May 16, 1945. I flew 50 combat missions over targets in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and Northern Italy.

Project Option: 6×9 in, 15×23 cm  
# of Pages: 386  
IsbnSoftcover: 9781714032860  
Publish Date: Dec 12, 2019

[\*\*Buy It \\$24.99\*\*](#)



Most aircraft of World War II had pictures of sexy girls, tributes to sweethearts, songs and home. The planes were fondly referred to in a feminine manor. That was not the case with this B-17 tail number 42-25233. He was Rigor Mortis.

This is the story of Rigor Mortis and his men who flew over 120 missions from North Africa and Italy in 1943 and 1944.

Project Option: 8×10 in, 20×25 cm  
# of Pages: 382  
IsbnSoftcover: 9781714727803  
Publish Date: Apr 20, 2020

[\*\*Buy It \\$29.95\*\*](#)





### **MIAs - Missing in Action**

We have information on over 90,000 MIAs. This includes most all the World War II MIAs and some from World War I, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War.

With our strategic partners, the MIA Recovery Network, we want to tell the last chapter in the life of these Citizen Soldiers.

We would also like your help in telling the first chapters of the lives of those still Missing in Action. Do you have service photos of a family member that is or was MIA? News articles? Service related material?

Material on Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines MIAs:

<https://www.sonsoflibertymuseum.org/missing-in-action/>

Air Corps:

<https://www.armyaircorpsmuseum.org/missing-in-action/>



### **X-Files - Buried Unknowns**

There are many citizen soldiers whose body was recovered, but they are unidentified. There are thousands of these unknowns buried in American Battle Monument Cemeteries around the world. They are also known as X-Files.

Material on Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines X-Files can be found:

<https://www.sonsoflibertymuseum.org/buried-unknowns/>

<https://www.armyaircorpsmuseum.org/buried-unknowns/>

Get Donation Information: [Artifacts Monetary](#)



### **Awards, Rosters Unit Documents**

We need you ! A continued big thanks to our fantastic army of volunteers. We have



### **Attention Website Owners & Veteran Associations**

Many WWII veterans organizations have shut. Many these organizations had developed some type of website, some with enormous amounts of data and history. Sadly, many had/have not made provisions for their website to be continued and thus when the bill stops being paid, the website

much more so if you can type and have a couple hours each week we can use you !

Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force

We have received material on many units and are hoping to compile much more.

Unit Citations, Awards, Transfers, Rosters

Many groups received unit citations during their particular conflict. The paperwork, in triplicate, would include a roster of all assigned and attached personnel. We are seeking and requesting copies of those roster documents. Please search your papers, talk to your association and help us out with this information and get them to us pronto!

disappears and all the work and information is lost. We want to help and we need you to help us. If you know of a disbanding group, please have them get in contact with us; we would like to bring their website and information under our wing. If they want to continue to maintain it we can give them access to continue that as well. One of our top goals for this and every year is to preserve this history not lose it!

Not a WW2 unit? That's ok. We are also interested in your history and want to help preserve it. Korea, Vietnam and all other conflicts.

If your organization has physical materials such as uniforms, patches, photos and other memorabilia do you have plans for them when you cease operations? We would be honored to be the custodian of your group's history.

## Contact

Sons of Liberty  
Museum  
[www.SonsOfLibertyMuseum.org](http://www.SonsOfLibertyMuseum.org)  
[history@sonsoflibertymuseum.org](mailto:history@sonsoflibertymuseum.org)

Army Air Corps  
Library and Museum  
[www.ArmyAirCorpsMuseum.org](http://www.ArmyAirCorpsMuseum.org)  
[history@armyaircorpsmuseum.org](mailto:history@armyaircorpsmuseum.org)

Directors' Line:  
214.957.1393



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