

G.A.R. Cemetery

Grand Army of the Republic
Miami, Oklahoma



Jill Davies in front of the BFTS #3 hangar. July 2015
The last original hangar still in existence.



To follow in “Her Father’s Footsteps”

Jill Davies’ father, Edward Owen “Ted” Hawkes, was one of the 2124 Royal Air Force who came to Miami, Oklahoma, and trained at the Spartan School of Aeronautics British Flying Training School #3. He attended Course #24, and went on to serve in the War. Afterwards he married and had a family like so many others, but sadly passed at the age of 56.

In July, Jill made a very emotional and heartfelt journey to follow in her father’s footsteps, and visited Miami, OK, to see where her father had spent a very pivotal time of his life. She is pictured in front of the last original hangar that is still in existence. Cont... pg 6

WWII “Candy Bomber” Coming to Miami!

MIAMI – The extraordinary story of a very special pilot began right here. Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen, now age 94 of Arizona, began his career as an aircraft pilot on June 17, 1944, at the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Miami. Halvorsen would later be known worldwide as the beloved “Candy Bomber,” but it was here in Miami where he got his wings. Halvorsen was one of the 172 Americans that trained alongside the British Flyers as a Senior Cadet Officer from 1943 to 1944. Cont... pg 2

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Phone (918) 541-2288 ~ (918) 542-2124 FAX

British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony

10:30 a.m., Saturday, November 7th, at G.A.R. Cemetery, Miami, OK.



Col. Gail Halvorsen

Photo Credit: www.wigglywings.weebly.com



Col. Gail Halvorsen

Receiving his Wings in Miami, OK
At the BFTS #3 during WWII

Photo Credit: www.wigglywings.weebly.com



Col. Gail Halvorsen

Kentucky Air Guard commemorate
Berlin Airlift 'Candy Drops' during Thunder air show in
Louisville, Ky. on April 21, 2015

Photo Credit: www.wigglywings.weebly.com

Bringing "The Berlin Candy Bomber" Back to Miami

Where he got his Wings

Excerpts taken from the Miami News Record article written by Melinda Stotts

mstotts@miaminewsrecord.com

Photography Courtesy of www.wigglywings.weebly.com

After World War II, from 1948 to 1949, the former U.S. Army Air Corps pilot became famous for dropping candy along with food to the German children in Berlin. Halvorsen had been assigned to fly U.S. airlift missions in 1948 into West Berlin as part of Operation Vittles in efforts to keep those residents who were displaced by the destruction of war supplied with food and other necessities. The airlifts were essential for the desperate and starving people of West Berlin after the Soviet Union blocked road and railway access into the territory to force acceptance of its plans for the future of Germany.

Halvorsen began the candy drops after he came across a group of about 30 bedraggled German children in tattered clothes while out filming aircraft landings with his home movie camera. The children at the fence were watching the planes on the outside of the perimeter fence at Operation Vittles headquarters, West Berlin's Tempelhof Air Base. Those children who could speak English spoke to him about freedom.

"One wistful blue-eyed girl made the point that they could get by with very little for quite a while if they knew they could depend on us to stick by them and do the best we could," Halvorsen wrote in his autobiography 'The Berlin Candy Bomber' published by Horizon Publishers. "Instinctively I reached in my pocket. All there was two sticks of Wrigley's Doublemint gum," and Halvorsen wrote that he was afraid the children might fight over the gum with so little to give but felt he must share what little he had. He broke the sticks in half and handed a piece through the fence to four of the children in the group outside.

He wrote about what happened next, "In all my experience, including Christmases past, I had never witnessed such an expression of surprise, joy and sheer pleasure that I beheld in the eyes and faces of those four young people. Nor do I remember seeing such disappointment as was evident in the eyes of those who came so close... there was no fighting or attempts to grab away the prize given to the four who were busy carefully removing the wrapper. No chance could be risked that the smallest piece might fall to the ground. The quiet was broken with a rising babble from the rest. They were requesting a share in the tin foil or the outer wrapper. Strips were torn off and passed around, the recipients' eyes grew large as they smelled the bits of wrapper and recalled better times."



Photography courtesy of: www.wigglywings.weebly.com

The impact from that encounter inspired Halvorsen to begin adding candy and gum, which he and the other airman gave from their rations, to the airlifts dropped by small parachutes for the children. The children at the fence wanted to know how they would know which airplane was Halvorsen's, so he told them he would wiggle the wings of his plane several times.

Halvorsen became known to the German children affectionately as "Uncle Wiggly Wings" and his war time post war efforts became famous. It is estimated that, with the help of other American aircrews, more than 23 tons of sweets and candy were airdropped to the children of West Berlin. In the U.S. children and businesses donated candy and many ladies donated handkerchiefs to make the tiny parachutes used to drop the candy.

Historians and foreign relations experts believe these simple acts of kindness left a lasting impression and helped changed the postwar view of West Berlin's people toward the Allied forces. Many events and honors have been bestowed on Halvorsen since then including the naming of a loading aircraft by the U.S. Air Force, and two schools in Germany in his honor. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service.

Learning of Halverson's story, the staff of Miami's G.A.R. Cemetery, Nancy Bro and Kim Horn, reached out to the pilot about his time here in Miami training with the British Flyers. Bro and Horn have invited Halverson to be the featured guest at this year's British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony.



Save The Date!

Special Guest: Col. Gail Halvorsen
"The Berlin Candy Bomber"

www.wigglywings.weebly.com

B.T.F.S. #3, Miami, OK, 1944
"Where he got his 'Wings!'"

British Flyers

Remembrance Ceremony

Saturday, November 7, 2015 10:30 am
G.A.R. Cemetery ~ 2801 N. Main ~ Miami, OK

** 2 Day Event! **

Friday, November 6, 2015
Meet and Greet Col. Gail Halvorsen ~ The Coleman Theatre ~ 6:00-7:00 pm
Free Showing "The Candy Bomber" ~ The Coleman Theatre ~ 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 7, 2015
Continental Breakfast Miami Regional Airport ~ 8:00-10:00 am
Aviation Day/Open House Miami Regional Airport ~ 8:00 am-4:00 pm

*** British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony ~ G.A.R. Cemetery ~ 10:30 am ***

Book Signing "The Berlin Candy Bomber" ~ Chapters ~ 31 N. Main ~ 2:00-4:00 pm

"Lest We Forget"

For More Information call: (918) 541-2288 ~ email: nbro@miamioke.net ~ website: www.miamioke.net





Frank L. Batman

1888-1914 age 26



Peter McCallum

Royal Air Force

12TH November 1941 AGE 19



Lee Gene Frankenstein

1928-1929



William Vernon Babbitt

1928-1929

Well... That's All Folks



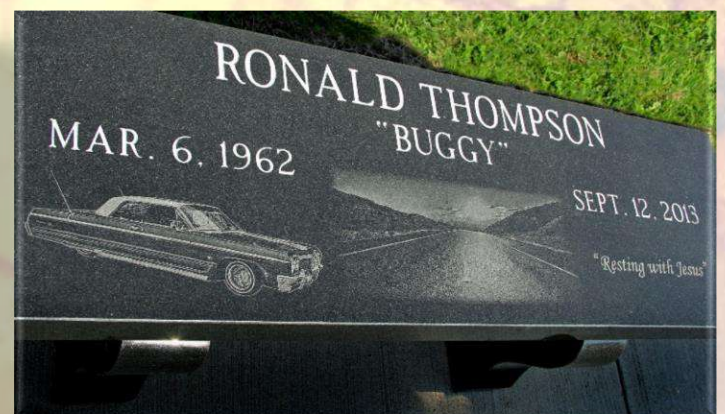
BABY

KNOWN ONLY TO GOD

1923

G.A.R. Markers...

*Unique by name,
individuality, personality,
and ingenuity.*



Ronald Thompson

"BUGGY"

1962-2013



FYI...

Autumn Is In The Air!

Chad Masterson
G.A.R. Cemetery Manager

Fall is right around the corner, you can feel it in the air! What with the nights getting cooler and the days getting shorter, it won't be long until we can say goodbye to the hot and humid weather... at least for a while.

The leaves should start turning colors shortly and when they do the new Maple trees that were planted on the north end of the cemetery should be "old" enough to show some vibrant reds & oranges, and add some "WOW" to that end of the cemetery.

Before long, hoodies and hot chocolate will be a staple and days when you can see your breath will be common. So get out and enjoy the fall!

A Day at G.A.R.



Nancy Bro
G.A.R. Cemetery
Office Manager

Recently we acquired a piece of paper about 16" x 24" in size, placed in a slightly worn but proper frame that we have proudly hung on our wall.

On this piece of paper is an eloquent definition of precisely what a cemetery is.

This Is A Cemetery

*L*ives are commemorated – deaths are recorded – families are reunited – memories are made tangible – and love is undisguised. This is a cemetery.

*C*ommunities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information and our heritage is thereby enriched.

*T*estimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments and to the life – not death – of a loved one. The cemetery is homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living.

A cemetery is a history of people – a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering – always.

Provided as a service by the Barre Granite Association



Donated By:
Virgie and George Curtis
Classy Brass Antiques
13 N. Main St., Miami, OK

G.A.R. VISITORS



Edward Owen "Ted" Hawkes
(Second from the right)



BFTS #3 hangar, Miami, OK 1941



E.O. "Ted" Hawkes
(Far Left)

Jill Davies decided to make a sentimental journey from England to Miami, Oklahoma to visit where her father began his Military career. She was able to see and experience many of the same things as her father, and during her stay she expressed how she was greeted with the same type of hospitality of which her father often spoke. Some of her stops included The Coleman Theatre, G.A.R. Cemetery, The Dobson Museum and the original hangar that her father spent many hours in during his training.

Jill acquired her pilot's license several years ago, and was able to experience the thrill of flying just as her dad did, even though he never flew again after the war. "Dad loved the AT6, and so do I – nothing like the crackle you hear when the prop goes supersonic."

Jill mentioned before she left Miami, that she would like to return for our annual British Flyers Ceremony, but, just didn't think it would be possible for her to do so. However; I received a message from her, and with much joy and excitement we are proud to announce that Jill WILL be returning as one of our honored guests!

It was an honor to meet Jill, and to be able to assist her with her journey of Walking in her father's footsteps.



Homer Kemper

Veterans of Foreign Wars Senior Vice Commander Dept. of Pacific Area

Homer Kemper is a native Miamian, who retired from the military and continued his career by working his way up in the ranks to become the Senior Vice Commander for the VFW in the Department of the Pacific Area. He has spent the last several years stationed abroad. We were honored that he was able to attend our annual Memorial Day Ceremony this last May as our special guest. While he was here, we were able to visit with him and take him to his family's graves and stood with him as he honored each of them with a flag and a salute.

Thank You Homer Kemper for joining us at our Memorial Day Ceremony, and allowing us to be a part of your commemorative moment.

Clip And Save!

G.A.R. Cemetery Decoration Removal Schedule

****All Decorations Must Be Removed From Graves By 8:00 a.m.
On The Dates Listed****

<u>DECORATION REMOVAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>
First Monday in October	10/05/2015
First Monday in February	02/01/2016
Second Monday Following Easter	04/04/2016
First Monday Following Memorial Day	06/06/2016

- Wrought iron basket hangers are not permitted except for the time period of December 15th through January 15th and one week prior to Memorial Day until the first Monday following Memorial Day.
- Notices for our decoration removal schedule will be posted on signs at cemetery entrances the week preceding decoration removals.
- All decorations not collected by date and time listed will be disposed of with no exceptions.
- For more information about the G.A.R. Cemetery decoration removal schedule, please call the cemetery at 918-542-6685.

Genealogy

Miami Public Library

200 N Main * Miami, OK

Barbara Becker

geniedept@miami.lib.ok.us

www.miamipl.okpls.org

918-541-2292

Staff Hours

Mon, Wed, Thu. 10:00 am - noon, 1:00-5:00 pm

Tues 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00-4:00 pm

"Barbara could
not have been
nicer!"

~ M.J. Picket

RECIPE FOR
HAPPINESS:
LIVE WITH ENTHUSIASM,
SMILE FOR
NO REASON,
LOVE WITHOUT
CONDITIONS,
ACT WITH PURPOSE,
LISTEN WITH
YOUR HEART,
AND LAUGH
OFTEN.

Adrian Corday

A single sentence spoken
at the right time could
change someone's life
forever.

The World Is Full
Of Nice People.
If You Can't Find
One, Be One...!!

Adopt~A~Flag Today!

*Let us proudly display an American
Flag in Honor or Memory of your
loved one on*

***Memorial Day, 4th of July
& Veteran's Day***

For a one-time fee of \$50.00

Don't Delay!

For more information visit us at

www.miamiokla.net

Or call (918) 541-2288

We've Got News

**Our goal is to supply updated news and event information to everyone who has an
interest in G.A.R. Cemetery.**

Send all requests to: nbro@miamiokla.net

Or Call: (918) 541-2288

G.A.R. Cemetery Online Burial Records!

www.miamiokla.net

1

- GOVERNMENT
- DEPARTMENTS
- CEMETERY
- ONLINE BURIAL RECORDS

2

- ENTER THE NAME FOR WHOM YOU ARE LOOKING, AND CLICK ON "SEARCH"

✚ **Please note:** If there are multiple people with the same name, simply select the one that you believe is the correct person you are trying to find.

✚ Information that may help assist you with your selection are:

- Dates of birth, Death or Interment (Burial)
- Full Name "or" Middle initial



3

- Find all of the information that we have in our data base.
- Upload:

- ✓ Pictures & Videos
- ✓ Memories
- ✓ Military Records
- ✓ Obituaries
- ✓ Life History

Even Share with your Family & Friends!