



Official Newsletter For **Long Rangers**

307th Bombardment Group

307th Bomb Group Assn. Newsletter

March, 2007, Edition

Thank You

Jim and Dottie

He worked almost a quarter century without financial remuneration. He never missed a 307th Reunion until 2006. He provided material to be printed in the 307th newsletter. He edited and supervised printing of reunion books that surpassed any produced elsewhere. He was a depository of war-time thrills and spills. His quiet manners contrasted to his fact-filled mind. Nothing could slow him and prevent him making the 307th one of the finest, if not the best, WWII organization, until his heart began having its own way. He is Jim Kendall. To Jim and his wife, Dottie, the 307th says "thank you for all you've done for us." In this small but sincere tribute we salute you for all you two have contributed to the well-being of the 307th.



Dottie and Jim Kendall (above) served the 307th as historians for more than 24 years.

Theirs Is A 24-Year Story of Serving 307th Association

Jim Kendall went to his first 307th Reunion back in 1982. It was, he figured, a good opportunity to chat and fraternize with some of his old buddies from WWII. He did that and more.

For the next 24 years, Jim took the lead in serving as historian for the association, sometimes with help from other 307th members and staffers, but mostly on his own, along with his helpmate, Dottie.

His first project was to help Cena Marsh produce Reunion Book #3 following the death of Carl Whitesell, the 307th's original editor. When Jim went to Reunion

#4 in Orlando, he soon learned he had been appointed the unit's historian and producer of the reunion book. It was a job that seemed to be made for him.

Wife Dottie recalls that she was most pleased Jim was handed the 307th job because he needed something to do when heart problems forced his early retirement from Chevrolet's Central Office where he served as manager of the Technical Writing Dept. Dottie also was working and felt the historian's position would give Jim something to occupy some of his time.

It occupied much of his time, as well as that of Dottie. In her words, "this would soon become a thought, time, space, and all-consuming job."

To many of the association's members Jim Kendall was "Mr. 307th". He spent countless hours responding to queries from 307th members and family members. At first it was by letter and telephone that he did his job. Later he spent hours on his computer responding to queries. He collected pictures of missions, planes, crews, camp sites, crew activities and anything else

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Transcripts Near Completion

Final preparations are being made to complete the ten 307th Bomb Group Veteran's interviews conducted during the 2006 reunion in Seattle, and submit the material to the U.S. Library of Congress. More than nine hours of video taped interviews were captured during the reunion by Emily Mount, our interviewer, and Derek Poppe, the camera operator.

Derek then took the video tapes and coordinated the work to transcribe the interviews into written format. This was an Eagle Scout project for Derek, involving true leadership skills and outstanding project management ability, as he coordinated the work of a dozen volunteers (mostly Mercer Island Boy Scouts, plus one AFROTC volunteer, and Derek's parents) to listen to each tape carefully and write down word by word what was said. I'm glad to report that Derek received his Eagle Scout award, with commendations for an unusual project and an exemplary community service effort.

After the transcripts were completed, they were edited, first by me and then by Emily Mount. The transcripts were also sent to each of the 10 interview subjects, and several provided additional corrections or clarifications. Seventy-nine pages of interview transcripts were produced and these are being checked one last time. The entire package of video tapes, transcripts, release forms, and related information will be submitted to the Library of Congress before the end of February.

The 10 veterans who shared their stories and helped to document a little bit of 307th Bombardment Group (HV) history are S.J. "Ike" Ayala, Wayne Cooper, William D. Holston, Edward A. Jurkens, William Manley, Glenn Norwood, Thomas W. Pelle, Robert Robinson, James V. Walsh and Harry E. Coggins.

The President's Corner

Hello, My Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to say Happy New Year to each and every one of you. This year is already flying by and we will have another reunion in our midst very soon. I would like to hear from you regarding this issue as well.

If you will remember, we put out a questionnaire in the last newsletter requesting some feedback. We have to date only received a small number back. The only issue that I have is that we need to have a general population vote at the next reunion for this. Cathy Daniel is looking at Savannah, Ga., for the next reunion and we have several other sites in mind as well. We are trying to centralize the location of the next reunion as to make it easier for all of us get to it. These things take time and we are working on it. I promised that we will have you an answer out quickly.

Cena Marsh is working to get the boxes packed up and she has assured me that she will have them ready in 60 to 90 days. We are planning to send a UPS delivery truck to pick them up and have them delivered. We should be able to have a supply of items shortly.

We are in the process of securing a location for Pat Ranfranz to store the items that Jim Kendall and Dottie have.

Thanks are due the many volunteers who worked on the project: Interviews and Editing: Emily Mount; Camera Operator and Transcripts Coordination: Derek Poppe; Transcripts: Christopher Amico, Colin Dess, Tyler Herr, Phillip Foster, Matt Fry, Carl Garret, Cole Johnson, Victoria Kunze, Joey Nishida, Anita Poppe, Jeff Poppe, and Peter Rasmussen; Additional Editing: Gretchen Kunze and Elizabeth Manley. Once received, the ten 307th Bomb Group Veterans interviews will become a part of the Library of Congress' permanent collection, housed in the American Folklife Center. For more information on the Internet about the program, see: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>.

—Greg Babinski

These are Historian's files. Pat has found a very nice location that is temperature controlled and waterproof. These documents will be scanned and then the images will be placed on DVD or CD's. Pat also has purchased a website URL for the 307th. This means that we will soon have our very own website where you will be able to do any type of research that you would like.

I want to thank you for your patience this year. I have started working on my Master's degree and as an old man this is not easy. At any rate, your board is working hard to keep this organization moving forward for you.

Please keep Dottie and Jim Kendall in your prayers and now we need to remember C.E. Jordan's wife. She fell and broke a bone. She is not doing very well at all. Please keep all of them in your prayers as I will keep you in mine.

I am looking forward to talking to you soon and better than that seeing you soon. Feel free to call me anytime you have a question. You can reach me at my office at 1-800-444-4336 x2319, my cell at 615-268-9110, and my home at 615-261-9337. Take care and keep flying high.

I am your president

Jim Walsh

ANNUAL REUNIONS

Replies to questionnaire about the possibility of having annual reunions, while smaller in number than hoped for, show an overwhelming agreement in favor of annual shorter reunions.

No action has been taken or decisions made by the association's officers in response to the comments received.

Further information will be dispensed in the newsletter in the future.

Also, see reference to this questionnaire in Your President's letter in this newsletter issue.

An Old Timer Remembers

Bill Grisaitis may be the oldest living member of the 307th. At the age of 90, he wrote some of his remembrances of his days in the SoPac. Two other members of his crew, Del Harp (engineer) and Slim Summerville (bombardier) are living. Their plane was named "Lucky Shamrock". The pilot was Lt. Lamontagne.

By Bill Grisaitis

I transferred from the Pennsylvania National Guard to the Army Air Corps and after completing basic training for the second time, I went to aerial gunner and radio operator school.

I was then assigned to the 307th BG at Ephrata, WA.

A short time later we left for Sioux City, Iowa, where they delivered our shiny, new B-24 Liberators. We were on our way but we did not know where.

We then flew to Hamilton Field, San Francisco. When our plane took off and we were flying over the Pacific we learned we were on our way to Hawaii. Sounded good. But that was only the landing place. We left the U.S. with forty B-24 bombers and during the year I was with the 307th BG, we lost 29 of them.

Our squadron was stationed at Kippa Gulch. We did have barracks like the other squadrons. We lived in small wooden sheds that were made so that they had just enough room for each combat crew member to sleep in. But after being in the Army and sleeping in a tent, this for me was luxurious living. While we were there we went on search and destroy missions looking for Jap submarines, etc. This also gave us a little more time to become familiar with the crew members we flew with, and with our airplanes.

My first mission was to Wake Island on Christmas Day, 1942. We were on

our way to deliver them a few Christmas presents like 500 pound bombs. Some of them would go off on contact while the others would go off at indefinite times. Surprise, surprise! Anyway, I could see Wake Island in the distance and that the lead bombers had indeed caught them by surprise. I hoped it would be the same with us. Just before we got to our target, I also thought that I really put myself from the frying plan into the fire. Maybe I should have stayed in the Army.

Uncle Sam paid a lot of money to train us. Now it was payback time and if I got shot down and was killed I hoped that future generations would appreciate what I did. We then went right over the target and got caught in their searchlights. I watched as the antiaircraft came closer and closer to our plane. I thought somebody down there is trying to kill me. Our plane did get hit by their antiaircraft fire. It was a scary experience as the searchlights lit up our airplane the night turned into day. Our pilot, Lt. Lamontagne began to take evasive maneuvers. Our bomber went into a steep dive. For a while I thought the wings would come off. But this was an effective maneuver and we shortly got out of the enemy's range.

In January, 1943, we left Hawaii. Our first stop was Canton Island. When we got there, we pulled sea searches for about a week because it was rumored that Japs might be in our area. The runway on this island was just barely long enough for our heavily loaded bombers to take off and land. The commander of this island tried to have some of our planes stay there because of the Japanese threat to attack this lonely island. But I understand that our pilot declined and we proceeded onward to our destination.

In February, 1943, The 13th AF was formed and the 307th B G became a part of it when the Marines, Navy and Army beat the Japanese on Guadalcanal and it was considered secure. It then took the 13th AF about 10 months to complete the jobs and

reduce Japan's powerful military might from offensive to defensive forces.

When we landed at Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, I noticed that the tops of the palm trees were shot off and there was a peculiar smell. Was it dead Japs?

I had one mission under my belt and I knew that we were going to have a rough time of it. I heard rumors of what the Japs did to their prisoners and I thought if they capture me I would empty my gun and try to kill as many of them as possible but save the last bullet for myself. They thought that white men were racially inferior and if we allowed ourselves to be captured then we deserved to die. They showed no mercy. I know that none of my buddies who were shot down ever came out of it alive. (To be continued in future 307th Newsletter)

Your Help Is Needed

Officials at Walter Reed Army Medical Center are seeking donations for wounded troops who are forced to leave behind personal belongings when medically evacuated from war zones.

The Family Assistance Center requests no cash or used items be donated. The Center is looking for everything from shoes, gloves and winter jackets to postage stamps, prepaid phone cards and razors.

Donations can be sent Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Medical Family Assistance Center, Bldg. 2, Third Floor, Room 3E01, 6900 Georgia Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20307-5001.

*(Information provided by
National Military Family Assn.)*

Tell Us About SoPac Humor, Pleasant Memories

Recalling tragic events from your days in the South Pacific probably isn't difficult, but neither is it any fun. At the same time, chances are you have some pleasant memories of humorous, lighthearted occurrences or events. Would you be willing to share some "South Pacific Funnies" with 307th readers?

With this issue we are starting such a column. Continuing this column depends upon you, the 307th veteran, and your contributions to this endeavor. The first contributor is Lt. Col. John Vanderpoel who tells how he used some subterfuge to insure the 424th had ample fresh water without wearing out their water truck hauling it from the Morotai island water point to the squadron area. Perhaps some of our 424th Sqdn. members will recall this event.

If you will share some of your truthful South Pacific more humorous happenings, please jot them down and send to 307th Newsletter, Attn: Harry Coggins, 1818 East North St., Greenville, SC, 29607. Keep each story within about 200 words or less, if possible.

And thanks in advance!

South Pacific "Vignettes"

By John Vanderpoel

An Australian hospital was founded on Morotai in anticipation of the 1945 invasion of Borneo. There suddenly appeared down the road in front of the 424th squadron area a large aluminum pipe. It lay on the ground except where it crossed the entrance to the 424th area. It was buried at that point.

I immediately called the commander of the hospital to ask if I could "tap" the pipe for 50,000 gallons of water a day. He immediately rejected my request.

I then had my First Sergeant Fred Benevento go to the Australian campsite and borrow a dozen Australian hats. I also had Benevento pick a dozen of my 424th men who were the best tanned. Australians never worked with their upper bodies covered and the hats clearly identified the wearers from any distance. In full daylight I then had Benevento supervise digging a large hole under the mid-section of the pipe length and weld in a short vertical pipe that then made a 90-degree turn in a ditch to the 424th area and the backside of a large palm tree. When the pipe was finished and active, I took all the water I wanted for showers and the mess hall from this pipe without the wear and tear on our trucks going to the "island water point".

Russ Neely, commander of the 370th squadron, was soon advised by his men that my trucks were no longer seen at the water point. One day he asked me,



Vanderpoel

"Did you tap the Aussie pipe?" Of course the answer was "yes", to which he replied "I am going to do that tonight." I quickly warned him the pipe was "wet" and we would be caught if he tried to tap it under pressure.

The result was he took another 50,000 gallons a day at my water point, cutting his truck's travel to a few hundred yards.

After the war I often thought of the humor of the natives not being able to "salvage" that one pipe length as it was firmly attached to the earth.

It has been fun writing this as it brings back one of the "happy type" memories from the SoPac.

-John A. Vanderpoel

Time to Pay

In case you've forgotten, it is time to pay your 307th dues for 2007. Please send a check for \$30 to Cathy Daniel, 510 Riverview Rd., Colonial Heights, VA, 23834. Check should be made payable to 307th Bombardment Group.

Last Flight

This "Last Flight" compilation may include some who have previously been listed here or in other publications. Rather than possibly omitting someone, decision was made to list all.

Capt. Robert J. Raya, 424th Sqdn, Sept. 26, 2006

Charles Rex Lewis, Oct. 1, 2006

Russell E. Bean, Sept., 2006

Phoebee Perry, wife of Col. Jim Perry, Feb., 2007

Samuel S. Britt, Jr., Sept. 23, 2006

Memberships Available

Memberships in the 307th Assn. are available to all WWII members of the Group, and family members.

Encourage any who are not members to join. Dues are only \$30, and should be sent to Cathy Daniel, Secretary, whose address is in adjacent column.

Requests For Help

As is commonplace with the 307th we are continuing to receive requests from relatives seeking information about love ones who served overseas with the 307th. Many of those serving returned home but never spoke of their wartime experiences. If you can help any of those listed below, please write or call them.

William (Bill) Decker

Rob Stitt, Lt.Col USA (Ret), writes that he is trying to help the widow of William (Bill) Decker who served with the 370th Sqdn. in WWII. "I know he was a B-24 tail gunner but little else. "Anything anyone can provide would be of great assistance." Stitt's address is 2901 Slough Dr., Temple, TX, 76502. Email address: robstitt@hotmail.com

John Nelson

The MissingAirCrew.com has been contacted by Lorna Nelson who writes that she has been searching "for anyone knowing a John Nelson, a navigator bombardier with 307th. He originally left Wendover Field in 1942, then to Hawaii and to Guadalcanal". She states that her information is sketchy because it was never recorded "and that's what I need help on. Can you possibly help me get started?" Her address is 430 Palm St., Huntsville, TX, 77340. Her email address: kangaroolady@suddenlink.net

Dale E. Riley

Dee Edens (postal address not given) writes: "My father was in WWII and was a member of the 424 B.S./307th B.G. He was a tail gunner on a B -24. I really don't know much about him or the war as I was very young when he died in 1972. I understand he was in a plane crash on July 7, 1943. He has some awards and he had some medals but they were stolen. I have been trying to piece together some history as I now have a son serving in the Air Force. If you have any information you think I would be interested in, I would love to hear from you. My father is Dale

E. Riley and at the time he was a private. He went on to retire as a major in the OSI." Ms. Edens' email address is edensdd@insightbb.com

Royce Tasker

A request for help also has been received from the grandson of Royce Tasker, who was involved in a crash in the Philippines during a mission in January, 1945. Excerpts from Sam Britt's book have been sent David Patterson, the grandson, who is trying to find individuals on the mission who may be able to help substantiate some of the grandfather's recollections. Unfortunately, the grandson has since been sent to Iraq on a year long mission. His email address has been DPatman@adelphia.net. Whether that email address is correct now is unknown but further information will be in the newsletter when available.

Thomas A. Ryan, Jr.

Douglas Ryan has contacted President Jim Walsh for help in finding information about his father, Thomas A. Ryan, Jr. The only information the Ryan family has is that he was a navigator in the Army Air Force, having graduated from Navigation School at Hondo AAF, TX, Apr. 21, 1945. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. His records were destroyed in the Personnel Records Center Fire in 1973. Anyone having any knowledge of this former navigator should contact Jim Walsh at gatorjw@gmail.com or Douglas Ryan at dugkim@comcast.net

13th AF Praised For Leyte Gulf Mission

An article by Air Force Maj. L.W. Spinetta in the Air Force Magazine, journal of the Air Force Assn., several months ago discusses the key role land-based airpower played in decimating Japan's WWII shipping.

Frank Klein, a current 307th Assn. member and 372nd Sqdn. veteran, noted that the 13th Air Force's role received praise for its successful efforts in the 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf. Frank was on that mission.

The article says the 13th AF, among others, received an urgent request from Adm. Oldendorf whose cable was indicative of the problems US naval forces were still having in dealing with attacking Jap aircraft. His cable said that without protection from the 13th and perhaps others, US Navy ships would suffer destruction in covering the Leyte operations.

The article noted that land-based aircraft generated unmatched sortie rates and firepower. They would, the author wrote, have sunk even more Jap ships if not for interservice politics that hindered unity of efforts.

The article points out that carrier based aircraft were responsible for sinking the greatest proportion of Japan's combat fleet, including battleships and aircraft carriers. It was, however, land-based airpower that was most effective against merchant shipping, sinking approximately 23 percent of the total enemy merchant ship tonnage sent to the bottom of the Pacific.

Jim and Dottie

(Continued From Page 1)

sent him by members. At the same time he also spent hours in his darkroom copying many of the pictures and returning originals to the owners. Many of the pictures were used in reunion books. Jim also always credited John Reeves, Harry Sterkel and Cena Marsh for their help in making the job a success for the 307th.

A pleasurable part of the job was answering questions posed by 307th members or their families.

He developed friendships with a host of war-time 307th members, along with Dr. Pat Scannon, Pat Ranfranz, Sharon Connor, and others too numerous to list in this publication.

Perhaps publication of the Reunion Books proved to be his biggest biennial project. Some of his books exceeded 160 pages; all were more than 100 pages. It was Jim Kendall who expanded the books to include pictures of crews, missions, stories and photos of activities during WWII. All the while, he was filling file cabinets with photos, memorabilia from members, books, microfilms, audio cassettes, tapes and scrapbooks donated by members. A major project for the 307th is to follow Jim's wish that these records will be placed in the Air Force Historical Resource Center, Maxwell Field, Montgomery, AL.

Production of each Reunion Book necessitated weeks and months of work. While Jim did much of the work, including determining the identification in many photos, a major job was that which Dottie performed. She did most of the typesetting and Jim made it clear to all who asked that Dottie was the person who made it possible. Dottie finally succumbed to his request for

help, and retired from her job in 1998. As she has said on occasions in later years, Jim frequently asked why she did not retire so she could help him. Her answer always was "Why do you think I have not retired yet?"

Jim is a native of Ohio. His family moved to Detroit in 1933 because his father had obtained a job with a steel company. Jim joined the Army Air Corps early in WWII. He seldom talked about his missions in the 307th but Sam Britt gives a good look at Jim's close calls, including receiving wounds on a couple of missions, in his Long Rangers Diary. Jim was a radio operator and waist gunner.

After his war-time activities, he enrolled in Michigan State to study journalism. In his junior year Jim and three of his roommates found some "blind dates" and attended a party. One of those "dates" was Dottie. They were married in April, 1950 and graduated together in June of that year. Jim and Dottie are parents of four adult children, each with a successful career. They have five grandchildren ranging in age from 7 to 18 years.

Daughter Laurie Kendall lives in Plymouth, MI. which is on the outskirts of metro Detroit. A civil engineer of 25 years, she also is a licensed attorney.

Son Jim Kendall II is an executive with an auto-related company in

suburban Detroit. He and his wife, Leslie, have 3 children: James Kendall III, commonly known as "Mac" and a 4.0 freshman at Michigan State; Jacqueline, a freshman in high school, and Jennifer in the 5th grade. They live in Birmingham, MI.

Another daughter, Amy, is married to Mark Flanagan. They live in San Diego where both have worked at the San Diego Zoo for 20 years. Their children are Isabelle, 10, and Erinn, 7.

The youngest child is Beth Kendall who operates her own cosmetology business in Gainesville, GA.

In February, 2006, Jim had heart bypass surgery. He has not fully recovered. His lack of mobility prevents him living at home which cannot accommodate a wheelchair but Dottie says "he does look good and recognizes and enjoys reminiscing with the friends who visit him.

Cards, etc., may be sent Jim at Cambridge North, #134, 535 North Main St., Clawson, MI 48017. He is able to receive telephone calls, having his own phone (248-435-2153). Those who telephone Jim should understand that he sometimes is necessarily slow in answering. Dottie says, however, that "he would be delighted to hear from his friends in the 307th".

5 Of Crew Still Living

John G. McLoraine, navigator on the Wilcox crew of 371st Sqdn., reports that five members of that crew are still living.

Survivors include Forrest Wilcox, pilot; Adam J. Baltowski, bombardier; Bob Emge, radio; Rader Reif, radar, and McLoraine, navigator. Can anyone top this crew's survivor number?

An oddity is included in John's note. He and Reif dated the same girl after WWII and Reif asked for her hand one week before John did. As John expresses it, he (John) "married "a sweetheart and we produced a wonderful clan of eight children."

A sidelight of McLoraine's memo notes that "I can still name all the stars in the Big Dipper and many others."

Additions to Membership Roster

These members should be added to your membership list sent you previously. Each has been added to the membership roll since the membership booklet was compiled and mailed to the membership.

H. Gail Wilson
7205 Highland Drive
P.O. Box 94
Beulah, MI 49617
616-882-5213
Wife: Anne
372nd

John E. Davis
237 Westview Circle
West Lafayette, IN 47906
765-589-3827
Wife: Pearl
372nd

James McCabe
9260 Guenevere Place
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
804-789-0335
Child of 307th
jmmce@earthlink.net

Cyndy C. Bowman (New 2006)
8706 Glenfield Way
Louisville, KY 40241
502-327-9333
Spouse: Keith Bowman
Child of 307th
Paul Duke Carlisle
424th
ccb Bowman@insightbb.com

Beverly A. Fleming (New 2006)
6501 Morningside Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714-960-0821
Friend: Jack Palmer
424th
GIGIGrandma@aol.com

Andrea' Yuschak (new 2006)
100 Arabian Road
Schwenksville, PA 19473
610-287-9848
Child of 307th
Paul Yuschak
424th

Jimmie Lynne Scholl Avery
160 County Road 653
P.O. Box 1066
Athens, TN 37371-1066
423-745-2724 Child of 307th
Billie.B.Crew@earthlink.net

Bob Merz
539 Woodbine
Oak Park, IL 60302
708-383-4487
312-496-9595

Elizabeth Manley (New 2006)
410 Dundee Drive
Southern Pines, NC 28387
910-692-8178
Child of 307th
Father: William Manley
371st

Becky Coggins (New 2006)
101 Batesview Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
864-235-1216
Child of 307th
Father: Harry Coggins
370th

James Mahoney
1014 Papen Rd.
Bridgewater, NY 08807
908-526-0325
Wife: Connie Mahoney
371st
jmandcm@webtv.net

Patrick Ranfranz (New 2006)
3165 Victoria St.
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Wife: Cherie
651-490-9720
800-328-2560 Ext. 7610
Historian Assistant
pat@missingaircrew.com

Mary Ann Qualia (New 2006)
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Spouse: Michael
mqualia@comcast.com

David Patterson (New 2006)
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951-926-1587
619-316-7393
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78596 Crystal Falls Rd.
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424th
wmoody@OC.RR.com

Mildred Goodson (New 2006)
11054 S/. Shoshoni Drive
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370th
mildav2@hotmail.com

Mitch & Donna Kiernicki (New 2006)
9607 402nd Ave.\
Genoa City, WI 53128
262-279-0987
Children of 307th
Dominic Calarco
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Carolyn E. Wuertz (New 2006)
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cwuertz@comcast.com

Robert Lynch
blynch@charter.com

Sharon C. Connor
1640 Tenth Ave., Unit 303
San Diego, CA 92101
hjfinds@cox.net

Melvin L. Love
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Forest Grove, OR 97116-7635

Jackson B. & Margie Sneed
1658 Lascassas Pike #354
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
615-895-5085

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307th Bombardment Group

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Do You Remember This?

Perhaps you may recall it from 1942. It is a post card of a recruitment poster from World War II for the U.S. Army Air Corps. It was purchased at the Pearl Harbor Memorial and sent to a 307th member in 2006.