

# March 2015

**Yes, indeed, we are still focused  
on New Orleans!**

**Hello 307th BG Veterans, Family Members and Friends.**

**Can you believe it's half-past March already? Does time really fly? Does this have something to do with aging? I better get**



**busy and take down my Christmas decorations... ya think?**

*Don Calarco*

This issue of the 307th BG Newsletters is loaded with questions. And some good answers have been provided by our executive team, as they work toward making our New Orleans Family Reunion a big hit! We hope

you are looking forward to it. We sure are! Family and friends are welcome.

**Just a few quick notes on what's inside this month.**

**A Reminder from our Host and Reunion Chairperson**

**Ann Williams-Warner and Beth Kendall**

**Questions from Members**

**Who's Who?**

**A Few New Memoirs**

**About Laura Hillenbrand**

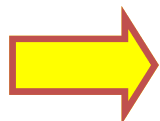
**PX News**

**A few Questions from Us**

**Historian's Corner**

**A Note from the VP - Christine Hoover**

## IMPORTANT REMINDER



We have an Early  
Hotel Registration  
Deadline of March 15, 2015

**Don't Miss it!**



Hello everyone, it's Ann Williams-Warner and Beth Kendall. Just reminding you that hotel rooms in



New Orleans are becoming more and more scarce for our reunion dates. As of today, there are only 12 rooms available. This is an exciting event and you don't have to miss it if you find yourself without a room at the Drury. [Click HERE](#) for surrounding hotels in the French Quarter, or call Beth Kendall and she'll do her best.

Come join us for some Louisiana Fun! So Call Now!

**504-529-7800**

**Drury Inn & Suites  
New Orleans**

**820 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112**

[Drury Website - Driving Directions & Map](#)

**Early Registration Deadline: March 15th, 2015**

**Reunion Dates: September 16 thru 20, 2014  
(Wednesday thru Saturday - Depart Sunday)**

**Our Group Number is: 2230673**

**307th Bomb Group**

[Open the Online Registration Form HERE](#)



# Questions from Members!



**Q:** In a past newsletter, you explained how to rename a photo found in our website archives. Where do I send the details to make this happen?

**A:** Yes, that was in the November 11th Newsletter. Once you find the photo, and it is open on your screen, copy the URL (the address in the white space at the top of your browser) and paste it in an email. Type the name of the person or personas in the photo and send the email to [member.services@307bg.net](mailto:member.services@307bg.net). Don't forget to provide your name and email address.

**Q:** I attended the Santa Fe reunion and really enjoyed the free breakfast buffet, snacks all day and a free dinner buffet. We are staying at a Drury Hotel again. Will we still have the same freebies?

**A:** Indeed! We had such a great time in Santa Fe, and everyone was so happy with the hotel, we decided to tap the Drury Hotels once again. Yes, all the same benefits we enjoyed in Santa Fe will be ours in New Orleans. Check out page 2 of the January 7th 2015 newsletter for full details: <http://www.307bg.net/Newsletters/2015/Newsletter-1-7-15.pdf>

**Q:** In the past, we had a collection of items from the PX, available for purchase in the hospitality room. Will we be bringing that feature back in New Orleans?

**A:** Actually, we went one step better. The hospitality room will have several tablets and laptops available with a direct link to the PX. You can order directly online and your shipment will be processed as soon as we return.

**Q:** I am a new member and I can see some great things happening with the 307th association. I would like to help out in any way that I can. Are there any committees that can use an extra hand? I am good with the computer and have had secretarial training, and I'm not afraid to get my hands dirty. What can I do to help, and who can I contact?

**A:** Yes, yes, of course. We have several committees that are handling a variety of tasks, and we always welcome an extra pair of hands, eyes and talent. See the next page!



# Making Contact With the 307th BG

**Did you know that there are over a dozen officers, chairpersons and staff volunteers actively working behind the scenes of our association? The key word, of course, is “actively!”**

Rest assured that a day does not go by that one or more of the team are engaged in a discussion, a decision or a task, including weekends. Meeting once a month, on a Skype call, they discuss current projects and share information about our progress, with the upcoming reunion taking the top priority.

Please, don't be shy! If you have a question, a suggestion, a will to help on a committee or if you just want to share a comment, don't hold it in.....send us an email!

➤ Matters of management or questions related to the structure of the organization should go to the officers of the 307th:

President-John Poggi [johnpoggi@aol.com](mailto:johnpoggi@aol.com)

Vice-President-Christine Hoover [dadwasinthe307thbg@hotmail.com](mailto:dadwasinthe307thbg@hotmail.com)

Secretary-Laurie Kendall [lak1204@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lak1204@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer-Jim Walsh [treasurer@307bg.net](mailto:treasurer@307bg.net)

Assistant to the Treasurer—Carol Bowers [home@bowerstraining.com](mailto:home@bowerstraining.com)

➤ By now, everyone is familiar with Jim McCabe, our historian. When Jim gets a letter or a call from a member or a stranger looking for information about a veteran of the 307th BG, his wheels start turning immediately. Jim lives for questions and if he doesn't have the answer immediately, you can depend of Jim to point you in the right direction. Contact Jim for all your veteran or historic questions:

[james-mccabe@comcast.net](mailto:james-mccabe@comcast.net)

➤ Do you have a question about our By-Laws? Or did you ever wonder if we are following agreed-upon procedures for running the association? Captain Jack Palmer, our Parliamentarian, will gently guide you to an answer.

Go ahead... ask! [n6fea@yahoo.com](mailto:n6fea@yahoo.com)

# Making Contact With the 307th BG

## (continued)

> The upcoming reunion is always on the front burner. Members have questions about itineraries, agendas, alternative choices, meals, shuttles, tours, facilities, the hotel ... Shall I keep going? You get the picture. Pretty much, every question that you can possibly ask about the reunion can be covered by Beth Kendall, our Reunion Planning Committee Chairperson, or one of her reunion team members, which consists of our New Orleans host, Ann Williams-Warner, Christine Hoover, Don Calarco, and Jim Walsh. Beth can be reached at [bethkendall0407@gmail.com](mailto:bethkendall0407@gmail.com). Ann Warner is on the front lines in New Orleans and plays a very important role in preparing the city for the 307th. Ann can be reached at [jjwarner@hughes.net](mailto:jjwarner@hughes.net)

> Behind the controls of the PX is Lisa Kreder, Betty Kreder's daughter, and John Wright's granddaughter. Lisa is in charge of inventory control, order processing and shipping PX orders. If you have a question about an item in our PX.....Ask! Lisa can be reached at [px@307bg.net](mailto:px@307bg.net)

> Member Services covers a wide margin of tasks including the creation of the newsletter, design of the PX, management of the 307th website, construction of the new Reunion Gallery, database management and overall assistance to all other committees. Don Calarco is the Member Services manager and he is assisted by some really talented members of the team. Don would not publish a word without the eagle eyes of Christine Hoover and Cathy Krieger (Ben Waldo's daughter). Watching over his content, grammar and spelling, Cathy is the 307th Editor and Christine is his "voice of reason". If you notice any typos, or grammatical errors, you can contact Cathy, and she'll get him back on track [cathy@kriegerstudios.com](mailto:cathy@kriegerstudios.com). The creation of the new Reunion Gallery started almost immediately after the Santa Fe trip. The idea was the inspiration of Amy Kendall-Flanagan. If you still have a quantity of digital photos from past reunions, please contact Amy at [alf4mjf@cox.net](mailto:alf4mjf@cox.net).

Another priceless contributor to Member Services is Sonia Garza. Sonia's impeccable attention to detail is pressed into service on a variety of tasks, including database development and assistance with web related tasks.

Reach Sonia at [soniagarza2003@yahoo.com](mailto:soniagarza2003@yahoo.com).



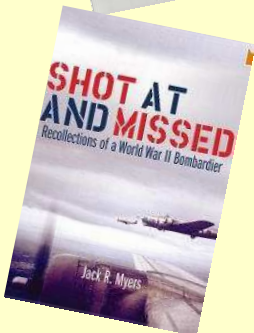
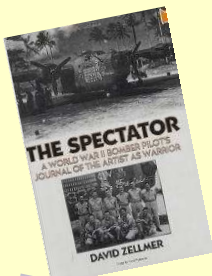
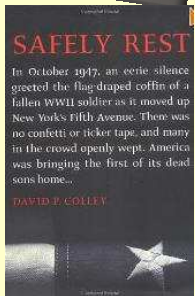
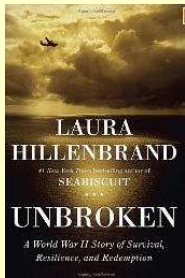
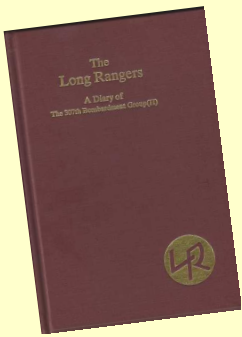
# War Stories, Great and Small

*by Jim Walsh*

Great stories come in a variety of sizes. If you are lucky enough to be around when a story is first “told,” you’ll know the difference. Some stories are put into print and some are published. Others even make it to a screenplay and hit the big screen.

Other stories may have the same impact on our emotions and may not always be bound for the book shelves.

Below are three such stories that are worth reading. They have just been posted to the Veteran’s Memoirs page of the 307th Website.



## THE WASHBURN STORY By Herbert Kurz

*“It all started during our short stay on the island of Nukufetau, in the Ellice group just south of the equator. Frank Washburn was our bombardier....”*

[Read on....Click here](#)

## A Time to Remember

### The Gathering at Wheeler Field By Herbert Kurz

*“Little did we know at the time what our fate was to be, other than that we were to come out to the Pacific to fight the war against the Japs in our newly acquired B-24’s....”*

[Read on....Click here](#)

## WWII in Tuvalu

A Chapter from Logs in the “Currents of the Sea”, Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1978. The story is about Neli Lifuka's account of the Vaitupu colonists of Kioa island in Fiji.

*“One day, in 1941, we received a telegram that the Japanese had dropped bombs on Ocean Island [within two days after Pearl Harbor]. A few months later we saw airplanes for the first time....”*

[Read on....Click here](#)

<http://307bg.net/memoirs/>

**Sometimes, the story doesn't always end when the credits are scrolled on the screen!**

**Such is the case with Laura Hillenbrand!**



Wil S. Hylton, author of "Vanished," The Sixty Year Search for the Missing Men of WWII, has recently released a short, yet in depth and very personal story about...

**The Unbreakable Laura Hillenbrand**

[Read Wil's entire story HERE](#)



# Wait till you see what we have done to the **PX!**

## A Note from Lisa Kreder

Hi, it's Lisa. Within the next few weeks the **New and Improved 307th BG Online PX** will be activated. You won't have to do anything different to get there. All the links and buttons on the sites and in our newsletters will take you to the right place.

For you, it will be easier to navigate, faster to process an order and loaded with new items. For me and Jim Walsh, the internal processing software will be faster and easier to use and all our future orders will be seamless and delivered on time, by the US Postal Service.

You'll see a few new items that are currently under development, like the addition of four new patches and lapel/hat pins.

How about a selection of hundreds of Brand Named Apparel items that can be "embroidered" with any of the current patch designs? This is not a "patch." It is direct embroidery on a shirt, a jacket, a blouse, a hoodie or anything that you choose.

By next quarter we'll be adding "Nose Art" and even embroidered "Dog Tags."

And all our apparel selections will be available at "below retail."

We are open to suggestions, and we'll be adding items up to the start of the New Orleans Reunion. If you have questions or suggestions...don't be shy! Send an email to [px@307bg.net](mailto:px@307bg.net) and we'll consider every idea!

Here's a peek at one of the catalogs that we will be using for embroidered apparel. Be prepared, it's a big one. <http://goo.gl/tPOaL4> Add an embroidered WWII design on anything you select.

I'm excited! Hope you are too! See you in New Orleans,

*Lisa Kreder*



## We can sure use your help!

Nothing difficult.

Just a few Easy Survey Questions!

We have a dire need to get a clear perspective on the thoughts, opinions and expectations of our members. Please help us accomplish this task.

All we need is answers from each of our members to a few basic questions. There are no right or wrong answers, all we need is your personal input.

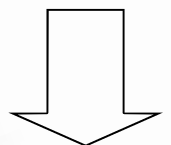


Dear 307th Members

In the next few weeks, several important decisions will be made on a variety of topics. Some relate to our corporate structure and others are more focused on our expansion plans for the PX and other features of our association. Without your input, we are handicapped. Please take a few moments and answer these brief survey questions. Your help is greatly appreciated.

*John Poggi*

John Poggi  
President  
307th BG (HV) Association



**Click here to  
open the Survey**



## A typical response from our Historian, Jim McCabe

An inquiry was recently received by Member Services, from the “Contact Us” page on our website. Don Calarco responded briefly and forwarded it to Jim. It read:

Hello,

I am Gayle Ihde, Wm. Ihde's only granddaughter. I am ashamed to say this, but unfortunately during my younger years I had no interest in WWII history and knowing what exactly my Grandad did there for our country. He passed away a year ago in April. So, now I will never hear his story. From the tiny tidbits I could find of him it points to the 307th Bomb Group.

I have asked my dad and he is pretty sure my grandad flew in B-24's.

One thing my dad did remember is that his plane had to make an emergency crash landing on one of their missions. My mother recently told me someone was writing a book about a mission or something he was in but the names were being changed and she didn't know anything about it either.

I found a letter on fold3 written by Charles Dowdy referencing my grandad as a navigator and that he had caught a bad case of malaria and they had to take him to Port Moseby then to Nadzab.

If you have any information or could lead me in the right direction, I would be so grateful.

Gayle Ihde



Being a man of few words, Jim's Follow up response follows >

## Jim's Response

Dear Gayle,

It is great to hear from you. First and foremost, it is essential that you free yourself of any guilt pertaining to your lack of knowledge regarding your grandfather's service. Of the thousands of men who would serve in the 307th BG, not a one has fully discussed their experiences. There are about a dozen books which will give you much information and insights but I have learned that even these resources have omitted the horrors faced by the 307th BG. In so doing, the authors protected themselves, the men with whom they served, and each of us. The only reason you do not know more about your grandfather's service is because he did not want you to know. Had you somehow pursued this endeavor while he was still with us, it is most unlikely he would have shared much if anything. I can assure you he would not have wanted for you to create the images in you mind of the horrors he experienced. I am pleased to know my father stood by his side in their Navigator Mission Briefings and that my father and Don's father, flew with him. I am proud of you for somehow knowing your grandfather's distinguished service should be brought to light.

Like my father, 2nd Lt. Michael J. McCabe, your grandfather, Lt. William M. Ihde, was a Navigator in the 307th Bombardment Group, 424th Bombardment Squadron. My father, Don Calarco's father, S/Sgt. Dominic Calarco, 424th BS Nose Gunner, and your grandfather flew many missions together. It will be my pleasure to inform you of his distinguished service to our country. I have contacted your father's pilot, A. J. Evans, to confirm if he is still with us and to see if he is well enough to speak with you. I have also contacted Alan "Smokey" Guild, another 424th BS pilot who was in the skies with your grandfather on 441119. On this date, your grandfather's B-24 Bomber was with the 424th BS on a combat mission to the Alicante Airdrome(Japanese Airbase) in the Philippine Islands. They were hit by 20 mm canon fire by one or some of the dozen Japanese fighters that attacked them for over thirty minutes. Two of your grandfather's crew members were wounded. Your grandfather's friend and Bombardier, Lt. Curtiss W. Finney, from DeKalb County, IL, was severely wounded in his right leg.

## Jim's Response (continued)

Your grandfather tended to him for hours, administered blood plasma and according to our records rendered, "all possible assistance". Regrettably, Lt. Finney would die from his wounds with his friend, your grandfather, by his side, an hour before they reached their base at Morotai.

I have a photo of your grandfather's crew. Let me know if you need a copy. What information do you have? If you are interested in further information on your grandfather's military service with the Long Ranger's, to start, I would recommend you secure copies of both Up The Slot by Samuel I Walker, and The Long Rangers A Diary of the 307th Bombardment Group (H), by Sam Britt. Both of these are available at our websites PX at our cost plus S&H: <http://www.shop.307bg.net/>

If you join our Assoc. I will research our records and provide you with any Mission Plans, Mission Reports, Crew Loading Lists, Photos and Combat Videos available. If you have not already done so, read Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand. The movie came out Xmas Day. Louie Zamperini was one of our Bombardiers. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrjJbl7kRrI>

Your grandfather enlisted one year plus one day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Here is his enlistment record:

[http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=4&cat=WR26&tf=F&sc=24994,24995,24996,24998,24997,24993,24981,24983&bc=,sl,fd&txt\\_24995=IHDE%23WILLIAM&op\\_24995=0&nfo\\_24995=V,24,1900&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=6532703&rlst=1685744,2837781,6532703,8012911](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=4&cat=WR26&tf=F&sc=24994,24995,24996,24998,24997,24993,24981,24983&bc=,sl,fd&txt_24995=IHDE%23WILLIAM&op_24995=0&nfo_24995=V,24,1900&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=6532703&rlst=1685744,2837781,6532703,8012911)

Start a file with the above. Having his ASN (Army Serial Number) is essential to additional searching. Please inform me of any additional information you, or potentially other family members may have like: photos, letters home, insignia on his uniform/bomber jacket, etc. Push hard on this. It is common that someone in the family has a box somewhere and that they have had it so long, even they don't remember.

## Jim's Response (continued)

Write these folks and request your grandfather's military records and replacement medals. They will re-issue you his original medals for free:  
<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html>

Register your grandfather's at this site and he will be forever memorialized at the WWII Memorial in Washington DC. Have you been to it? <http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>

I hope you will consider joining us at our next reunion this coming Sept. in New Orleans. I know you would never regret meeting some of the veterans who flew missions with your grandfather. Call me if you'd like.

All the best,

Jim

Jim McCabe, Historian

**If you can imagine the amount of work that went in to searching archives for Gayle's granddad's military record, you will see the volume of diligent work done by Jim McCabe on a daily basis.**

**Creating the resources to make Jim's searches possible was the life's work of Jim Kendall, our previous Historian and a myriad of others who have dedicated their time and passion to keeping the memories of our WWII heroes alive in our hearts, forever and always. That's what membership is all about!**

**A huge thank you goes to Jim McCabe for making us all look so good!**

**At the September reunion in New Orleans, Jim will be searching individual records and showing mission videos and much more. Just ask!**



## **A note from Christine Hoover Vice-President 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association**

### **What the 307<sup>th</sup> Means to Me**

Each time I attend a reunion I discover a new connection with our past. My first was in San Antonio, Texas in 2000. I was fortunate to watch my dad interact with his crewmates and life-long friends. They embraced, smiled, laughed, teared-up, and reminisced. They fell into a natural rhythm as if little time had passed. My dad was a ball-turret gunner on Pistol-Pakin Mama, with a crew of outstanding young men, who all did their part to serve and protect with the 307<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group. I watched them spend time together and realized that each of these veterans was incredibly humble, yet silently proud. I assumed that I would stop attending when Dad could no longer travel, yet when that time came I went to honor him and his crew. After he had taken his Final Flight I was determined to spend time at reunions as I realized that not only his crewmates, but also all of the veterans, were part of his history.

Now I enter with wide eyes and open arms. I leave with a full heart and a mind overflowing with snippets of information and snapshots in time. The smiles, the hugs, the laughter, the tears, the memories of the war years, and the moments seized to listen to a veteran tell a story are some of the many reasons I join the 307<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group at their annual reunions. The 307<sup>th</sup> has become an extension of my family and a connection to my parents' past. There is an unspoken family bond whether it is veteran-to-veteran, veteran to adult "children," veteran's children who may never have known their parent or who lost their father during WWII. As the years have crept along the bonds extend to grand children and great-grand children. Now I'm the one with silent pride. We strive to preserve the memories forever, and desire to keep those efforts going in the coming years. I think of the veterans with the deepest respect, and hold them in the highest esteem.

Christine Hoover

Vice President of the 307<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group

Proud daughter of Wm. Ray Pruett 370<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron





# Did we miss anyone?

## Not hardly!



Laurie Kendall, Secretary of the 307th BG Association, has her hands full with a deep research project needed to assure our correct tax status, among other tasks, which she shares with the executive team.



Carol Bowers, our Assistant Treasurer is watching Jim Walsh's back. Having professional people on our board is a serious upgrade compared to many of our associated military associations.



Captain Jack Palmer has been keeping busy traveling. He's out to break his record for miles in flight. He has a message for Veterans and he's quite serious about it. ***"Fella', time is flying by. Don't let it pass you up. There are fewer of us now than ever before. All the more reason to get off the couch and get your butt to New Orleans in September. Don't let a cane, crutch, walker or wheelchair stop you ! I'd like to see you again. Let's do this!"***



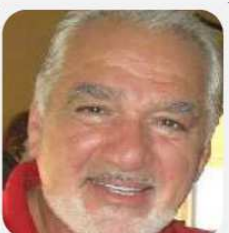
Cathy Krieger is the Eagle Eye of the bunch. As the 307th BG Editor, Cathy gets to read all the rough drafts....sometimes three and four times. Oh, what fun!



If you know the "Bird Lady," Amy Kendall-Flanagan, then you know she has one of the busiest work and home schedules of anyone you know. Yet, as the creative director for the 307th's new Reunion Gallery, she still finds time to keep pace.



Sonia Garza spends her days keeping the municipal IT department in her home town in Texas seamless and worry free. And when she gets home from a hard day's night, she is just as eager to tackle the IT and publicity issues for the 307th. She's currently working on compiling a master list of military reunion managers for an upcoming promotion.



Don Calarco heads up the Member Services department for the 307th. Keeping focused on developing new ideas and concepts for drawing new members to our group, Don lends a helping hand to each of the 307th Executive team and committee members.

## MEMBER APPRECIATION



**And a special thanks goes to the Arizona Kitten, Debbie Drake (veteran Dale Stickrath's daughter), for her help in kick-starting the task of compiling our promotional lists of military associations.**

**Deb, thanks for your help!**

In a recent email, we had asked all our members and guests to let us know your passion or talent, as it may come in handy to help us grow. Debbie stepped up to the challenge and found out that it wasn't so tough a job after all.

Yes, we can still use a few more arms and legs to help with some light teamwork projects. Don't be shy!

Your help is always appreciated and we'll never ask you to take on more than you can handle.

We'll see you all soon!

*Don Calarco*