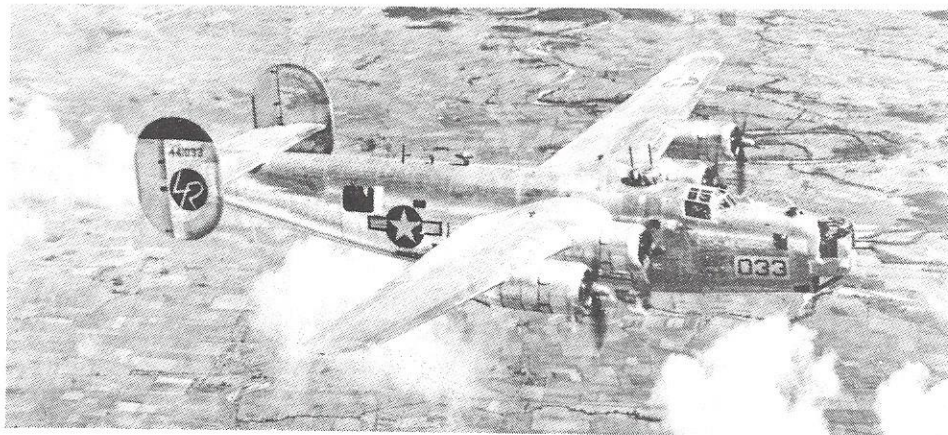




370th



371st



372nd



424th

## 307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) ASSOCIATION - THE LONG RANGERS - 13TH AIR FORCE

2000-2

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2000

### QUOTES OF NOTE:

*"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving; To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it -- but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor."*

- Oliver Wendall Holmes

*"If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each one's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."*

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*"A man has to live with himself, and he should see to it that he always has good company."*

- Charles Evans Hughes

*"Gentlemen, do you not see that so long as society says a woman is incompetent to be a lawyer, minister or doctor, but has ample ability to be a teacher, that every man of you who chooses this profession tacitly acknowledges that he has no more brains than a woman?"*

- Susan B. Anthony

*"Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please."*

- Mark Twain

*"One way to solve the traffic problem would be to keep all the cars that aren't paid for off the streets."*

- Will Rogers

### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It sure is a lot simpler to be president of the 307th than the president of the USA. Don't have to run for office, don't have to raise funds, don't have to campaign; just don't say no and "bingo" you're in (It must be the pay). Of course it is possible, though, that the buck still stops here. The job is interesting, however, and a lot of letters, e-mails and calls come in from people that you would never hear from otherwise. It makes it all worth it, and I'm sure that there is someone just chafing at the bit to carry on the position the next two years.

It looks like we will have a good reunion just down the road in a little over a month. The programs and activities are all set and otherwise ready. All we need now are for all procrastinators and last "minuters" to come on board and get those forms in. The total count affects whether we get certain items such as the banquet room free or whether it comes out of our Group account reserve. The Activities sign-up and Hotel deadline for assured reservations is Aug. 25th. You won't want to miss our two speakers presentations about Palau and Balikpapan. Remember, you were there! The Balikpapan presentation (Cliff Neve) will be at the NCO Club luncheon on Friday and the Palau (Dr. Pat Scannon) presentation will be at the Saturday Night Banquet. We will also have a VCR and TV monitor in the Hospitality Suite where videos can be watched. If you have one you think we should see, bring it along.



John Gorrone is bringing a tape compiled from Japanese films taken in and around Ambon showing what happened to some captured Americans. Ambon is sure in the news lately concerning the Muslim-Christian fighting.

We regret that the costs of this reunion might be a bit higher than our usual, but at our Hampton reunion, we picked San Antonio and chose a downtown location. The die was cast. We got one of the best prices available. San Antonio is not a low priced town due somewhat to their rather high hotel tax. We hope that it doesn't prohibit some of you from being able to come. Should we shorten our next reunion to three days? It would lower the cost and perhaps reduce the fatigue factor for us seniors. Is this a concern? We will put this on the business agenda.

Come prepared for a good time and a joyous reunion.

See you there,  
John Reeves

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#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Almost daily we receive a request from a former 307th member or a family member requesting information about our Group or information on a relative.

Jim Kendall, our Historian has covered a number of these requests -- here are a few more.

#### Tom Burnham letter

Gentlemen: I am Tom Burnham, son of General Robert F. Burnham who passed away when I was in college in 1969. I have undertaken a project to write a novel about the activities of the 307th focusing on the real experiences of many of the members. Unlike a historical book, this requires far more detail on the life and times of the guys when they were over there. I am off to a small start with good stuff from T. Wiley. I would like to attend the San Antonio reunion if you would be so kind as to tell how, if it is OK.

I want to do this justice and any thoughts you may have would be most welcome. Most people in this current generation seem to lack, shall we say, the character that you all had and the only way to learn is to tell your story. I will weave the history around it but really want to bring out the character through the trials of wartime. We owe you all this country, but less and less folks seem to remember that.

Thank you,  
Tom Burnham  
4140 Miller Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(tnburnham@aol.com)

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#### Mary Taylor Young letter

I heard about your 307th Bombardment Group reunion from Mary Ann Qualia. I have been researching the history of my mother's first husband who was with the 307th BG, 424th Squadron. His name was Lt. Don F. Hathaway and he was a pilot flying out of Carney Field on Guadalcanal and was shot down July 6, 1943 after bombing Kahalli Aerodrome on Bougainville.

I wondered if you might be able to put a request for information about him, or for anyone who knew him, in your next newsletter and/or at your reunion. I would appreciate any help. My mother never knew what happened to him (since it was all classified) until this year, when I obtained the Missing Air Crew Report from the National Archives. Fifty-seven years was an awfully long time for her to wait, and now she enjoys hearing anything about his history during the War. A friend of his kept in touch with Mom for a few years. His name was O.C. Fitzhenry, but Mom thinks he has since passed away. I don't have any contact information for him. I'd like to hear from anyone who was stationed at Carney Field as I would like to find out what life was like there during 1943.

People with information could contact me at Mary Taylor Young, 4703 East Florida Ave., Denver, CO 80222; 303-759-9162, (mtyoung@netway.net)

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# USO singer who died young not forgotten

Dear Ann Landers: You recently printed a letter from a World War II vet who asked about Wynn Murray, a young singer with a USO troupe who entertained soldiers on Morotai in 1944. She performed in a downpour while lightning streaked across the sky. He said she was magnificent, and asked whatever happened to her.

Thank you for printing that letter, Ann. Wynn Murray was my sister. Shortly after Wynn performed for those troops, she was hit with shrapnel in New Guinea, for which she received the Purple Heart. She was lucky. Two young chorus girls from the company were killed. Later, Wynn went to the European theater, where she met and married a captain in the U.S. Army.

She then retired and settled down as an Army wife. She and her husband had three daughters, Mary, Alice and Kathleen.

In 1957, Wynn died at the age of 35 from a heart attack. She is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Please tell the man who wrote how much our family appreciated his kind words about my sister. Her daughters were very young when Wynn died, and his letter gave them some insight into their mother. It meant a great deal to us that she has not been forgotten.

— Ann Henning in Carbondale, Pa.

Dear Ann Henning: Thank you for letting us know what happened to your sister. I am sure countless veterans remember her and will be sorry to hear she died so young. We received a phone call from Wynn's daughter, Mary Russo, who confirmed the information you gave us, and let us know that her mother appeared in several Broadway shows and had a promising career before the war. Wynn's husband, Bill Rau, retired as a full colonel in the Army.

I heard from several veterans who remember Wynn Murray, as well as others who were moved to write about her courageous performance on Morotai.

From Long Island, N.Y.: I was on the island of Morotai when Wynn Murray entertained the troops. She was beautiful, and had the voice of an angel. She really knocked herself out, doing at least eight encores. What a great babe!

Antioch, Calif.: After Wynn Murray sang that night, her jeep never showed up. Luckily, I saw her running in the rain, and offered her a ride back to her tent.

Aptos, Calif.: I met Wynn in 1951 at Fort Knox, Ky., where her husband was an instructor. Wynn was a warmhearted, beautiful woman whom I admired. I also dated Wynn's younger sister, Ann Marie.

Santa Barbara, Calif.: In 1937, Wynn and I worked together in her first musical on Broadway, "Babes in Arms," which had a very successful run. She was truly gifted, and some reviewers called her "a young Kate Smith."

Dear Ann: Wynn Murray was well-known on the Broadway musical stage from the mid-1930s until she retired to raise a family. I was a close friend of Wynn and her husband from 1953 until her death at Fort Meade, Md. After her death, I lost track of the family. If any of them contact you, Ann, I would love to get in touch.

— Lt. Col. David M. Ginsberg, Germantown, Tenn.

Dear Lt. Col. Ginsberg and everyone who wrote: Thank you for your fond memories of Wynn Murray. I will forward your letters to her daughter, Mary Russo, who will no doubt share them with the entire family.

— Creators Syndicate Inc.



## THE LAST FLIGHT

The following is a list of names of 307th Members who have taken their "Last Flight". So many of these men have been members of the 307th Association for many years. These are old friends and we will miss them.

Name	Sqdn.	Date
Barnard, Curtis B.	424th & 371st	01-18-00
Fetchenhier, Orland	370th	08-09-99
Guerin, Edward B.	370th	04-21-00
Harshbarger, Glenn		10-19-99
Hughes, Dr. Parker	370th	02-22-00
Kerby, Elmon A.	371st	11-30-99
Ladd, Robert	424th	03-27-00
Michel, Verne E.	424th	06-23-00
Warfield, Joseph B.	371st	07-20-00

Our sincere sympathy goes out to all the families of these 307th members.

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## UPDATED E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Anthony, Ron - ranthony66@earthlink.net  
 Bauer, Jacob - jakebauer@mindspring.com  
 Binder, Joseph - 999@webcomb.net  
 Boyer, Gerge - gemwood@dellnet.com  
 Brown, William - wpbrown@tpi.net  
 Burgess, Elwood - elfly4@bestnetpc.com  
 Burns, Gerald - jerbur@bellsouthnet.com  
 Carlisle, Norman - pacaylisle1@cs.com  
 Carroll, Wesley - wmc@bellsouth.net  
 Coggins, Harry - ifharry@mail.lig.bellsouth.net  
 Cooper, Wayne - wmcoop@pacbell.net  
 Cosgrove, Edward - medcos@net.net  
 Crock, William - crockbve@june.com  
 Curle, Fred - mavcofved@aol.com  
 Dixon, Richard - dix8220@juno.com  
 Dohogne, Urban - dojeanne@6mco.net  
 Doyland, Russell - jd2000@lightspeed.net  
 Duerk, Charles - eduerk3070@aol.com  
 Dunn, Robert - kiwhale@aol.com  
 Evans, Armstead - aj-med@juno.com  
 Flanigan, Thomas - taflanigan@earthlink.net  
 Glass, Gordon - scglass@aol.com  
 Gordon, Norman - ngordon703@aol.com  
 Goulding, Charles - ctgain@voicenet.com  
 Green, George - Cgreen3307@cs.com  
 Greninger, Dale - drgreninger@s.l.com  
 Grisaitis, William - wigpopop@aol.com



## UPDATED E-MAIL ADDRESSES - cont.

Guild, Alan - GuildACG@aol.com  
Hackley, Lewis - lbh2@hit.net  
Haskin, Dana - dhaskin@WCVT.com  
Helms, William - Helms4cars@aol.com  
Henry, Walter - bamdbhenry@aol.com  
Hensley, L.W. - shpeh@webtv.com  
Herb, Thomas - herb@ensco.com  
Hernandez, Sergio - chiliverde@earthlink.net  
Heynneman, evert - quernico@aol.com  
Hockins, Richard - rwhockins@fl.comnet  
Hostetler, Delbert - bhostetler@juno.com  
Huyck, Willard - wmhsr@aol.com  
Jose, Alfred - alcarole@jps.net  
Jones, Sara - sarasaucyjones@aol.com  
Kaestner, Fred - mkfk@excelonline.com  
Kendall, James - jmk307hist@aol.com  
Kehayias, William - atsabl1k@aol.com  
Kirstien, Walt - WaltK442@aol.com  
Klein, Frank - klein-5k-aj@min.com  
Konrardy, Merlin - brkonrardy@aol.com  
Lacy, John - lacy-08@dial.net  
Luke, Edward - eluke@carolina.net  
Lynch, Robert - blynch7425@aol.com  
Mandl, Alois - marola2@prodigy.net  
Marsh, Walt - B17Rlroadr@aol.com  
Matthews, David - dandee41Ajuna.com  
McKibben, Geraldine - gerri50@earthlink.net  
McMurray, Lionel - mactgb24@webtv.net  
Mitchell, Windell - mitchellr@picif.com  
Neve, Clifford - katy4neve@msn.com  
Palmer, John - jmpn6fea@juno.com  
Paulin, Marvin - meabjp@aol.com  
Payton, Moses - oldmanmosr@aol.com  
Phibbs, Forest - FOREST\_PHIBBS@  
southwire.com  
Pickett, John - PPickett@acpub.duke.net  
Pekol, Edward - epekolone@uswest.net  
Reeves, John - Ranger1able@juno.com  
Reich, Phillip - p.reich@woldnet.att.net  
Ryan, Bill - blryan@mailhost.det.  
ameritech.net

13th AF Assoc - Vets13thAF@aol.com  
Vogt, Eugene - vogtee@prodigy.net  
Ward, Clyde - abwardlj@aol.com  
Wells, Jerry - jwells1921@aol.com  
Wettengel, William - b45wet@aol.com  
Wiley, Thomas - tpwiley@aol.com  
Wilkerson, Donald - carmadon@juno.com  
Winick, Melvin - karemel24@aol.com  
Wintringham, Thomas - twintringh@aol.com

Please review your E-mail number and if we have mistakes, will make the corrections in the next newsletter.

\* \* \* \* \*



### Gratis?

A father is a person who spends several thousand dollars on his daughter's wedding, then reads in the paper that he gave the bride away.

### Togetherness

Displaying her wedding gifts, the young bride came to the present from her husband's old army buddy.

"I just adore these personalized gifts," she told her friends. "We received towels with HIS and HERS on them, but (blushing) this is even more personal."

She then held up an olive drab blanket with the letters "US" stamped in the middle.

## FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

### Search for Information

We continue to receive requests for information from relatives of 307th men who failed to return from the Pacific War or who did return but passed away years later without ever letting their loved ones know where they had been or what they had done. Now we can help these families learn the details of their sacrifice that a grateful government could have, and probably should have, provided them decades ago. Perhaps some of you who knew them can give the families first person news about their loved ones. If you have any memories of the men discussed below please call or write the families. In a few cases we have no address or phone number, just an e-mail address. If you don't have e-mail, let us know and we will contact them for you.

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#### Don A. Anthony

Don Anthony (371st) was last seen entering a weather front just before the group reached Yap on July 11, 1944. He apparently failed to locate the Group after emerging from the front and decided to bomb the target alone. Radio Tokyo reported one heavy bomber shot down over Yap that day. Following the war the Japanese reported to War Crimes Investigators that two gunners from the Anthony crew were captured and a month later sent to Davao, PI, on the Jap cruiser KINU, never to be seen again.

We recently received two requests for information on Anthony - one from Don Anthony's wife at the time of his death

and the other from his son, Ron Anthony. Both would like to correspond with anyone who knew their husband and father overseas. Both would like to attend the San Antonio reunion in the hope of meeting and talking with anyone who was acquainted with Don Anthony and his crew.

Addresses of his wife and son are:

Geraldine McKibben  
1 Towers Park Lane #218  
San Antonio, Texas 78209  
e-mail: gerri50@earthlink.net

Ron Anthony  
511 Monticello Boulevard  
Alexandria, VA 22305  
e-mail: ranthony66@earthlink.net

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**Robert W. Madden**  
**Arthur J. McCurry**  
**Wilbur E. Morgan**

David L. Cox, RO on the Gregory crew (370th), only recently heard about the 307th Association. He is now a full fledged member and has been searching for his old crew. Thus far he has located or accounted for everyone but the three EM listed above. It is thought that Morgan contracted TB and was sent back to the States shortly after this crew's Northern Solomons ditching and rescue. He would appreciate it if anyone could help him locate any of these three men. His address is:

David L. Cox  
2334 Candlewood Drive  
Redding, CA 96003  
e-mail dlcox@snowcrest.net



## **Melvin Feigen**

On July 13, 1943, Melvin Feigen and his 372nd crew took off from Espiritu Santo on a standard sea search. The plane was never seen again.

Feigen's niece, Sally Hohensee, recently wrote us asking if we could help her locate anyone who served with her uncle. She writes:

*"I don't expect to learn any more about the circumstances of his crew's loss for the MACR states that 'there is no information pertaining to the circumstances causing this plane to be lost.' However, it would be nice to hear from anyone who might have known him in the 307th. I have already sent to the National Records Center for his military records but they answered that they were destroyed in the fire."*

Mr. Hohensee would very much like to correspond with anyone who knew or remembers her uncle, Melvin Feigen. Write to Mrs. Hohensee at:

Mrs. Sally Hohensee  
7311 Falmouth St.  
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

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## **Richard Hershey**

John Bills recently phoned to talk about his late uncle, Sgt. Richard Hershey, a 6th Combat Camera Unit photographer apparently assigned to the 307th. John would like to communicate with anyone who knew his uncle during his tour with the 307th. He has a collection of his uncle's photographs which we hope to be able to copy for our archives.

This request for help leads to some questions about the status of our combat photographers. Each of our squadrons seemed to have had a group of photographers whose photo subjects ranged all the way from publicity shots (though not many of these were needed in the 13th AAF) and crew pictures to target and strike pictures. Is it possible that these photographers were not "our" men but rather assigned to us by the 6th Combat Camera Unit?

So, in this case, we ask for double your help: Write to John Bills if during your 307th tour you knew or worked with his uncle, photographer Richard Hershey; and write to Jim Kendall if you can clarify the status of our squadron's combat photographers. The addresses are:

John Bills III  
5305 John's View St.  
Alpharetta, GA 30005  
Phone: 770-346-9517  
e-mail: John@austinkelly.com

James M. Kendall  
2350 Derby  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
Phone: 248-649-2388  
e-mail: jmk307hist@aol.com

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## **Everett E. (Pat) Ryan**

Pat Ryan (424th) passed away in 1981 and now his son, Bill Ryan, is trying to learn as much about his father's WW II experiences as he can. Pat left a surprising quantity of personal notes which provide a framework for the information his son is trying to flesh out.



Pat Ryan was a 424th bombardier from mid 1944 through March of 1945. He flew mostly on the Rausch crew but often filled in as bombardier on other crews. Bill would like to communicate with those of you who were acquainted with his father during his tour of duty with the 307th and could perhaps fill him in on things as they were with him then. You can contact Bill at:

Bill Ryan  
41520 Allegheny  
Canton, MI 48188  
734-397-0786  
e-mail: blryan@ameritech.net

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**Quentin Wagner**  
**F.W. McChesney**  
**Woodrow Arthur**

Some time ago in our Newsletter Arnold Jirak asked for information on the loss of his cousin, Quentin Wagner (424th). Several members wrote him in response to that article. Today he has more questions.

Wagner filled in on July 25th, 1943, for F.W. McChesney, the wounded regular co-pilot on the 424th crew of Orlin Wyse. The Wyse crew was one of 22 from the 307th that took off to bomb Munda on the first ground support mission flown by the group. The crew was not heard from after take-off. If any new information has surfaced regarding the loss of this crew please let Arnold Jirak know.

He wonders if F. W. McChesney, the regular Wyse co-pilot who was replaced by Quentin Wagner for this mission, survived the war and if anyone knows where he is. Also, the assistant radio operator on the Wyse crew, Woodrow

Arthur, also missed the 7-25-43 mission. Does anyone have an address for Woodrow Arthur? Mr. Jirak would like to contact both McChesney and Arthur if anyone is still in touch with them.

Write to:

Arnold Jirak  
3396 Co, Rd. B-33  
Waucoma, IA 52171  
e-mail: turk@powerbank.net

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Wartime members of the 307th continue to "find" our Association and join us. Wesley Carroll (424th), one of our newest members, was one of five survivors from three B-24s shot down on the first 307th South Pacific combat mission. Six 424th crews flew the mission, commanded by the 11th Bomb Group C.O. who flew with Capt. Sanny in A1 position with Lt. Jones and Lt. McNeese flying A2 and A3. Capt. Milledge was second element lead with Lts. Rowe and Trager on his wings. Our planes were led on a *five minute bomb run* 13,500 feet over Bougainville's Shortland Harbor. Trager and Rowe went down in flames along with three of the six plane fighter escort. McNeese eluded 10 - 12 Zeros before ditching near Choiseul. Almost a month later, with the help of friendly natives and a coastwatcher, the McNeese crew survivors (McNeese, Vanderslice, Declerque, Carroll, and Adams) were returned to Guadalcanal. We would like to contact anyone from the early days of the 307th.

His address:

Wesley M. Carroll  
847 Pennsylvania  
Slidell, LA 70458  
email: wmc@bellsouth.net



A packet of information just arrived from Buck Harmon (372nd and later Group HQ Ordnance and Armament Officer) with background material on a project with which he has been involved. The project, with the support of the public schools and recent Washington State legislation, operates an organized war veteran oral history program for use in public schools. There isn't time to properly cover this project in this Newsletter but will do so in the near future.

Two other items sent with Harmon's letter are reprinted on this and the next page. He writes: *"To add a note of bitter irony, I have included copies of two newspaper clippings that report on wars still raging on two of our eastern and western Pacific base locations, Guadalcanal on the east and Morotai on the west. It is difficult to choose between laughing or crying at the failure of mankind to be able to exist on our earth without declaring wars, especially after the disaster of WW II. What travesty!"*

The Guadalcanal story

is on this page and the story on Morotai follows on the next page. We have read that the strife on many of the Pacific islands, from

New Caledonia to Indonesia usually follows their government's efforts to settle non-indigenous people on the islands.

Tuesday, June 13, 2000 • THE OLYMPIAN

# Solomons leader likely to step down

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONIARA, Solomon Islands — The prime minister of the Solomon Islands fears for his life and will probably step down, a New Zealand official said Monday after visiting the South Pacific nation to seek an end to rebel warring.

Fighting that erupted last week has cooled off around the capital, Honiara, as rebel groups wait for a parliament vote Thursday on whether the elected prime minister, Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, should stay in office.

A group called the Malaita Eagle Force raided an armory one week ago and used the weapons to stage a stunning seizure of Honiara. The militants, made up of migrants from the neighboring island of Malaita, have been fighting to stay on the main island of Guadalcanal, where the capital is located.

The rebels' foes, the indigenous Isatabu, have been trying to oust the Malaitans from Guadalcanal — the scene of a major turning point in World War II when U.S. Marines began their island-hopping Pacific assault against Japan.

On Monday, New Zealand Foreign Minister Phil Goff said Ulufa'alu had shown "remarkable courage" since the Malaitans took over the capital. The rebels were holding the prime minister at gunpoint, but released him late last week.

"We have a situation in the Solomons where a prime minister is in fear of his life," Goff told a foreign policy conference in Wellington, the capital of New Zealand.

Ulufa'alu "will resign this week, I am sure, because the cost of staying in power ... is too great," he said.

Goff was with a delegation of lead-

ers who visited the Solomon Islands last weekend and attempted to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Most of the Isatabus, vastly outnumbered by the Malaitans, have retreated to the countryside, where their support base is located. It was unclear who was leading the loosely organized group, which rarely makes statements.

Malaitan rebels, armed with machine guns and grenade launchers, have set up checkpoints at roads that lead to Isatabu-controlled areas outside the capital. In the city, the rebels have taken over police duties, preventing looting and unrest. They have also imposed a temporary ban on alcohol.

Residents and foreigners have been flooding out of the capital, fearing Thursday's parliament vote could bring more violence to Honiara. It was uncertain if the 50-member parliament would have a quorum to vote on the prime minister's fate, since many lawmakers might not dare to return to the capital.

Over the weekend, a third group of militants sailed into the islands and killed a man in Gizo, northwest of Honiara in the Western Province, said Gizo police chief Aloysius Ora. The militants, including men from neighboring Papua New Guinea, thought the man was aligned with the Malaitan rebels, Ora said.

The militants said they would serve as a security force to protect citizens from attacks by the Malaitan rebels, he said. Many of the Papuans have relatives on the western islands.

Ora said his forces lacked the weaponry to apprehend the battle-hardened fighters from the Papuan island of Bougainville, where a 10-year secessionist war took thousands of lives before a 1998 cease-fire.



# Religious clash in Spice Islands claims 14

■ **TURMOIL:** Violence in the islands produces the worst carnage of any religious conflict in the republic's 50-year history.

The Associated Press  
JAKARTA, Indonesia — Dozens of houses and a mosque were set ablaze Saturday as Christians and Muslims clashed in Indonesia's Spice Islands, leaving 14 people dead and three others missing, officials said.

The clash occurred in Masohi, a small town on the island of Seram, said Malik Selang, an administrator at Al Fatah Hospital in Ambon, capital of Maluku province. Nine Muslims were killed, he said.

A Christian clergyman in Ambon, 1,500 miles east of Jakarta, said five Christians were also slain in the clash and three were missing. He declined to be identified for fear of reprisals.

Both men said that most of the ca-

sualties were caused by security forces firing into battling mobs. Military officials were not available for comment, and the claims could not be independently verified.

A total of at least 1,200 people have died in the region — known as the Spice Islands during Dutch rule — since sectarian clashes first erupted a year ago.

Although Indonesia has been plagued by violence in recent months as several provinces seek independence, this week's carnage was the worst of any religious conflict in the republic's 50-year history. About 350 people have been killed in the past week.

Saturday, the army dispatched more reinforcements to end the fighting. About 500 troops landed on the island of Morotai in North Maluku province, local commander Lt. Col. Slamet Riyadi said.

Meanwhile, news reports Saturday said Indonesian President Ab-

durrahman Wahid agreed that his country's easternmost province should change its name from Irian Jaya back to its traditional name of Papua, but he ruled out the possibility of independence for the region.

Speaking on Friday in Jayapura, the province's capital, Wahid also apologized for human rights violations committed against civilians by Indonesian forces in their battle against a pro-independence insurgency.

"As for an independent Papua state ... I will not tolerate efforts to build a country within a country," Wahid told community leaders.

Rebels of the Free Papua Movement maintain that the region has been independent since 1961, when its Dutch rulers agreed to allow self-determination.

Indonesian forces occupied the region in 1963, and Indonesian rule was approved by a hastily convened assembly of village chiefs that pro-independence activists dismiss as a sham.

The region of Papua — known simply as Irian in Indonesia — was renamed Irian Jaya, meaning Glorious Irian, by former dictator Suharto in 1973.

While Wahid expressed support for allowing the province to revert to its old name of Papua, such a change would require the approval of the Indonesian legislature.