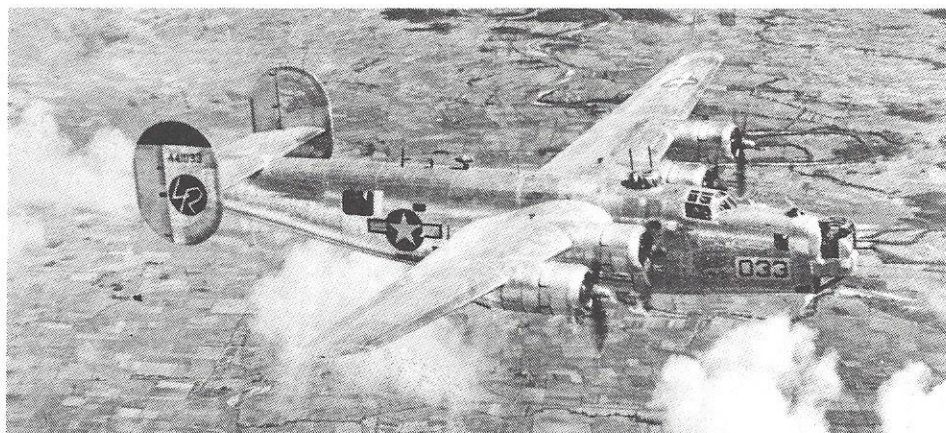




370th



371st



372nd



424th

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

2001-2

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2001

QUOTES OF NOTE:

"Most folks have presence of mind. The trouble is absence of thought."

- H.W. Newton

"The pleasures of the senses pass quickly; those of the heart become sorrows; but those of the mind are with us even to the end of the journey."

- Spanish proverb

"I want nothing to do with natural foods. At my age, I need all the preservatives I can get."

- George Burns

"The best way to show that a stick isn't crooked is not to argue about it, or spend your time denouncing it, but lay a straight stick beside it."

- Dwight Moody

"If I've had a rough day, before I go to sleep I ask myself if there's anything more I can do right now. If there isn't, I sleep soundly."

- Lester L. Colbert

"There are many fine things which you mean to do someday, under what you think will be more favorable circumstances. But the only time that is surely yours is the present."

- Grenville Kleiser

"We don't need to do a hundred things well. All we need to learn is to do less, better."

- Robert E. Hannegan

REUNION UPDATE:

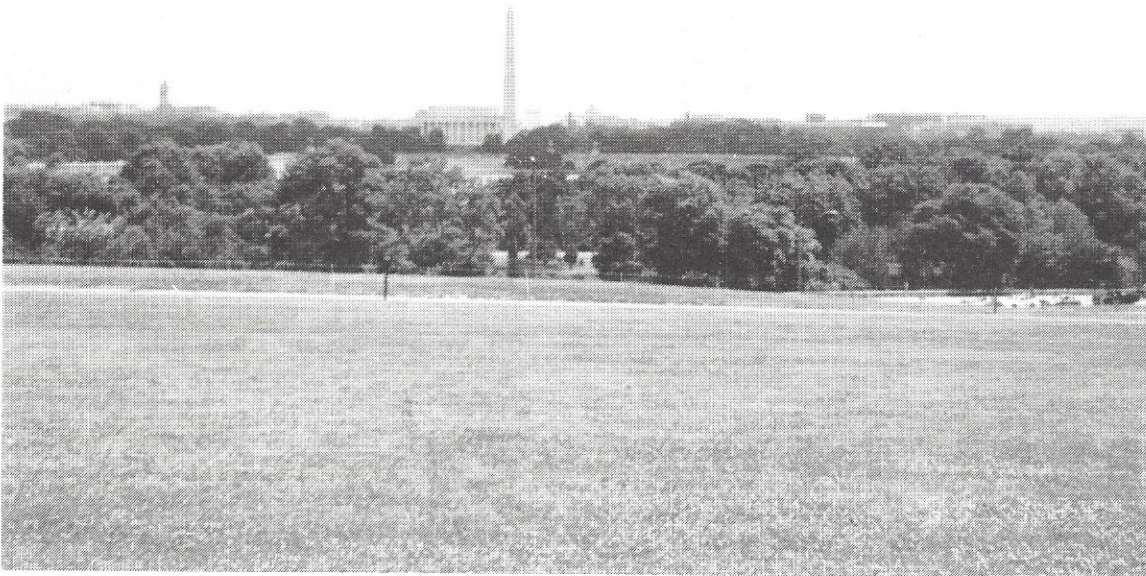
Plans are gradually taking shape for our 2002 Reunion in Salt Lake City. Since the Wyndham Hotel is one block from Temple Square, ZCMI Center, Crossroads Plaza, Union Pacific Depot Museum, and the Gateway Plaza, we are scheduling no tours in these areas. I could see no reason to set up tours at a cost to you when each of these sites are so close to the Hotel and can be visited on your own time and at no cost. The Crossroads Plaza and Gateway Plaza have theatres, restaurants, and shops available.

Tours currently being checked out are: Great Salt Lake, the Bingham Mine (2nd largest open pit mine in the world), and Thanksgiving Point (similar to the Bouchard Gardens in Victoria, Canada). A second tour is planned to visit Hill Field and the Air Force Museum with a drive over the causeway across Great Salt Lake to Antelope Island. Each of these tours would include lunch, either on your own or catered. Two other tours under consideration are: "This is the Place Monument", Fort Douglas, University of Utah & University Hospital, and a day trip to Park City. I have not covered these sites as yet but expect to have this accomplished within the next few weeks.

There is a separate sheet attached to this newsletter re: the tours. I would very much appreciate your inputs as to what you most like to see.



Presenting check to Major General Ed Girlo



View from Memorial site facing Washington, D.C.

News From The President

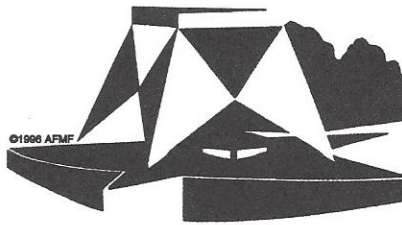
Wow! Summer is gone already. Time is drawing near for the next reunion in Salt Lake City. Plans are moving right along and I hope you all can arrange your schedules to attend. It promises to be a very special reunion. On July 24, Jean and I, along with Cathy and her daughter Ashley and my grandson Matthew went to Washington, DC. Our purpose was to take the \$2500.00 donation to the Air Force Memorial Foundation for presentation and to inspect the site location. We are enclosing pictures for your information. Matthew presented the check to Major General Ed Giraldo of the Air Force Memorial Foundation while Ashley and I looked on. There is only a marker on the site now, so we took a picture for you all to see and last but not least, is the view you see while standing at the memorial site and looking back into Washington, DC. It was a lovely day and I think it is a perfect spot for our memorial. My hope is that each and every one of you can at some time make the trip to see the memorial. It truly is a place of honor and we should all be proud.

If you or anyone you are aware of have something you feel I should be aware of or something you feel needs to be done, please, do not hesitate to let me know. If it can be done, it will be done.

C. E. Jordan, President



Marker at site of Air Force Memorial



AIR FORCE MEMORIAL
F O U N D A T I O N

August 31, 2001

SMSgt C. E. Jordan
510 Battery Place
Coloniel Heights, VA 23834

Dear Sergeant Jordan:

On Behalf of the entire Air Force Family, I want to thank you for your donation of \$2500.00 to the Air Force Memorial Foundation in honor of the 307th Bomb Group Wing.

To me, our memorial is the dream of a lifetime. It's a magnificent work of art and a wonderful legacy of future generations. I get tremendous satisfaction thinking of our future airmen, right down to the greenest recruit, gathering at the memorial to celebrate and reconnect with the heroism and traditions of our service.

Once again, thank you for your friendship and support. I look forward to celebrating the opening of our memorial with you.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Grillo, Jr.
Major General, USAF, Retired
President

P.S. The AFMF is an authorized 501 (c) (3) foundation. This contribution is deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services were received for this contribution. Our tax I.D. number is 54-1629975.

*A million thanks to the 307th
You folks have truly gone
above & beyond.*

1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22209-1198

Phone (703) 247-5808 • Fax (703) 247-5819
www.airforcememorial.org

FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

As I have often commented, about the most interesting aspect of the Historian's job is being able to locate information for families of 307th MIA's and KIA's, or 307th members who survived the war but passed away without telling their families of their experiences. While our records are not too complete, we can usually come up with the general story. Probably the best thing we can do is to provide contact with friends and crew members of the person in question. I hope you can contact family members of the following people who have asked us for help. Also please let me know of any contacts you make to 2350 Derby Birmingham, MI 48009; to jmk307hist@aol.com.; or to 248-649-2388.

S/Sgt Eugene Batten

"I am contacting people who might have known or know of my brother, S/Sgt Eugene V. Batten, radio operator/gunner on the Traendly crew in the 372nd Squadron. Letters to the family from Squadron C.O. Stengele and Group Chaplain Dennis said that Gene's plane, returning from an 8/1/45 mission to Makassar, Celebes, ran short of fuel and the crew was forced to bail out south of Cape Flesko, Celebes. Gene's position message was relayed to base. The next day, eight of the crew were rescued but three, including Gene, were never found. I would appreciate any information anyone may remember about Gene and his crew. Thanks."

E. Stanley Batten
22678 Cass Avenue
Woodland Hills CA 91364

T/Sgt Nelson Allan Knowlton

A note from Garfield Crawford (424th):

"Recently a B-24B landed at Paine Field, near Everett, Washington's Boeing Field and, of course, I had to go take a look. It was a very disappointing trip in that the plane was pretty well stripped-down, no guns, bombs, etc. Just a plane.

However, while I was there a couple of men noticed my 307th Bomb Group cap and struck up a conversation. One of them, Craig R. Hatch, a Boeing flight engineer, asked about a particular mission in which his uncle had participated. The family knew only that the uncle, T/Sgt Nelson Allan Knowlton, was on a crew that bombed Balikpapan, Borneo on October 3, 1944, and that his entire squadron had been shot down over the target that day. He is searching for more information. Thanks for anything you can do for Craig."

Our research shows that Knowlton was on the Kendall crew of the 370th which was shot down over the target during the 10/3/44 Balikpapan mission. That his entire squadron had been shot down was exaggerated somewhat but not by much. Twenty four 307th B-24's were scheduled that day on the second of our initial series of five strikes on Balikpapan. Mechanical problems forced four planes to turn back. Of the twenty planes that bombed the target seven were shot down; one each from the 424th (Rider) and 371st (Kates), two from the 372nd (Rouzie and Baldwin/Connell), and three from the 370th (Gage, Wright and Kendall). The story of the entire 370th being shot down was pretty close to the truth. Three of the five squadron planes that went over the target were downed. Two crash landed at emergency strips. The only 370th plane to return from the mission to its base at Noemfoor had been forced by mechanical trouble to turn back before reaching the target.

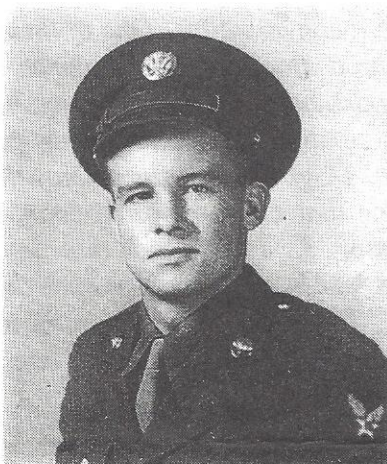
If you knew Allan Knowlton or the Kendall

crew of which he was a member, Mr. Hatch would appreciate any information you could give him."

Mr. Craig Hatch
15521 SR9 SE, Apt. A
Snohomish, WA 98296
360-668-8535
craighatch@hotmail.com

be explained; the Bomb Group error as a mistake in transcribing, and the "last seen on 1-28-46" comment probably alludes to the official "date of death", established following the prescribed wait after going MIA. But in addition, I can find no mention of Burk's loss in the records on hand. If you can help please contact Lisa Sander.

Cpl. James Leslie Burk



"My name is Lisa Sander and I am trying to find out any information I can on my great-uncle, James Leslie Burk. I believe he was a corporal in the 370th squadron of the 497th Bomb Group. He was last seen on January 28, 1946, (according to military records I have found) and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Medal. I've been told that someone flying with him said he veered off into the clouds and they never saw him again. I would greatly appreciate any information

Sgt. George Hadjopoulos

Here is an interesting story from Andy Paspalas. *"In the several phone conversations I have had with my Uncle Bill Kehayias, he mentioned how there was a fellow Greek-American in the 307th BG that he was friends with. Not only were they both Greek-Americans and the same age but they were also both from New York City and knew many of the same people back home. They were both aerial gunners. Bill Kehayias' friend was George Hadjopoulos, who was in the 370th Bomb Squadron and unfortunately, his plane was missing on the January 8, 1945 mission. I am very active in my local Greek Orthodox Church and was visiting old friends of my family, Mr. and Mrs. Vange George, who are in their late 60's. When I mentioned to them that I am working on writing a book on the young men of my father's generation that went off to WWII from the same Greek Church community in NYC, Mrs. George said that she lost her only brother during the war. When she said her brother's name was George Hadionoulos I was shocked and sur-*

tion regarding George Hadjopoulos and the 1/8/45 mission, I would be very much interested in anything you have. Thanks, Andy Paspalas". Andy Paspalas has been put in contact with 307th Association member, Forest Phibbs, son of Sgt. Forest Phibbs mentioned above, who has done much research on the loss of his father and the others on Lt. Lucey's crew, which included George Hadjopoulos. Write or call at the address below if you have any personal remembrances of George and/or his crew that he could take to the family. They would greatly appreciate it.

Andrew Paspalas
83 12th Street, Creskill, NJ 07626
201-569-7985
andrew.paspalas03@ca.com

Lt. Col. Edwin S. Green

"My father and I are searching for information on my grandfather, Lt. Col. Edwin Smith Green. What we know of him is very limited. I know he was a pilot in the 307th flying B-24's. He served from September 25, 1937 until his death on February 19, 1944. I know he died 5 miles west of Bouganville, British Solomon Islands, and he was "an observer on a new weapon" at the time of death. My father has some letters my grandfather sent to my grandmother that are postmarked Major E. S. Green: HQ 307th Bomb Gp, then later Lt. Col E. S. Green, HQ 13th Bomb Com. My father was born while my grandfather was in the South Pacific, so he has no recollection of him. I visited Palau last year, including Peleliu, which is where my other grandfather, who was in the 81st Wildcat Division, fought during the war. Any information you might have about my grandfather, Edwin Smith Green, or life in the 307th would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Edwin." My address is:

Mr. Edwin Green
Deloitte & Touche
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4500
Seattle, WA 98104

Green was a member of the 19th Bomb Group in the Philippines at the beginning of WWII. The 19th made a fighting retreat to Australia and after his return to the U. S, Green was assigned to the 301st Bomb Group and later became one of seven 301st officers who formed the cadre for the newly forming 307th Bomb Group. He was the only officer in the early 307th with combat experience. He remained with the 307th until moving up to Bomber Command. We believe he was killed testing, probably against the enemy, a new 75mm canon equipped B-25 while with Bomber Command.

Gen. Robert F. Burnham

Gentlemen: I am Tom Burnham, son of WWII Commanding Officer of the 307th Robert F. Burnham who passed on 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 there. 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 it is to tell your story. I will weave the history around it but I really want to bring out the character through the trials of war time. We owe you all this country but less and less folks seem to remember that.

The book is meant to be more of the human side of the 307th set against an authentic background. The thing maybe missing in current generations is a sense of courage and purpose and sacrifice and being understanding of things other than self interest. The 307th generation had all of these things and hence I thought I might try and draw them out set in the context of the war. Therefore, talking to folks would be the only way to do this. I am

also interested in gathering information on my father, Robert F. Burnham along the way.

Thank you.

Tom Burnham
4140 Miller Road
Ann Arbor MI 48103
734-994-4978
tnburnham@aol.com

Tom has spent considerable time searching the Air Force Historical Agency files at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama, seeking background information on 307th Bomb Group contributions to the war effort. At this point he is very interested in gathering personal vignettes from 307th members which highlight the thoughts, feelings and emotions of men in the group, whatever their job, during the long days and nights of the Pacific War, memories other than aerial combat. The story will revolve around the first daylight bombing of Truk but the memories sought are general in nature and could be used in the narrative even though they may have occurred before or after this mission. Tom is looking for general memories and feelings of the situations in which you found yourselves. Think about it and let Tom Burnham know your thoughts and deepest feelings

T/Sgt Lloyd Coburn

Joseph Coburn asks our help in finding information on the loss of his uncle, T/Sgt Lloyd Coburn who was on the Byrd crew which bombed Truk on 4-6-44. Unable to turn off their running lights, they were thoroughly rid-
dled by night fighters. Five crew members bailed out over Green Island and the plane landed safely. Coburn apparently was never found. If you know of Lloyd Coburn please let Joe Coburn know what you know.

Joseph Coburn
140 Lee Park Ave, Apt. 508
Hanover Township, PA 18706
570-825-6599

T/Sgt Richard F. Isitt

A note from Al Jose: A young man named Jim Isitt, who happens to be a Lt. Col. found my phone number on the Internet and contacted me by phone. It seems that his father, T/Sgt Richard F. Isitt, was in the 13th AAF, 307th Bomb Group, 424th Squadron, during the same period I was there, 1944. He was seeking information on his Dad's overseas service. Unfortunately I did not know of him, but here is the crux of my story: His father, as radio operator, and I presume gunner, received FIVE Distinguished Flying Crosses. I could not believe this and told him I had never heard of such an award. It was not long before I received an old newspaper clipping from him which spelled out his achievement. I am not talking Air Medals; he received several of those also. Are you aware of T/Sgt Isitt's exploits? If so, I would like to know about it.

We can place Richard Isitt on the Jones crew of the 424th. Can anyone give St. Col. Isitt any information on his father's WWII service? And what about his multiple DFC's? If you do know anything, it will be greatly appreciated if you would please contact Jim Isitt at the following address:

James Isitt
12657 NE 109th St
Kirkland WA 98033
425-827-5024
jisitt@jps.net

Robert E. Rowland

Garfield Crawford (424th), who wrote us of Craig Hatch's search for his uncle, Nelson Alan Knowlton, mentioned that he has tried for years without success to locate his wartime co-pilot, Robert E. Rowland. If anyone has any information on Rowland please send it to:

Garfield R. Crawford
6203 177th Place SW
Lynnwood, WA 98037
425-743-5465

The 307th Bomb Group recently received this Certificate of Appreciation from the Parliament of Australia. Our sincere and humble thanks have been sent through Danna Vale to Parliament for this great honor.



DANNA VALE, MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUGHES



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

30 March 2001

Attn Mr James Kendall
2350 Derby
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

Dear Mr Kendall

I am pleased to provide the enclosed "Certificate of Appreciation" in recognition of your unit's service to Australia during World War II.

The Certificate of Appreciation is a tangible means of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who served in the armed forces and on the home front.

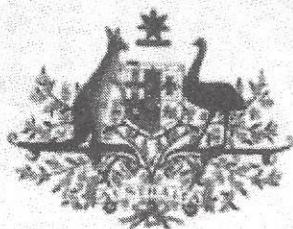
I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal congratulations and gratitude to you for your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Danna Vale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

DANNA VALE MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUGHES

wjmvotc/132



*A grateful nation
expresses its thanks to
Members of the 307th Bomb Group
for contributing to
Australia's effort in
World War II*



John Howard
Prime Minister
Hon John Howard MP

Diana Velez
Federal Member

Bruce Scott
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Hon Bruce Scott MP