



Cheers!!

307th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) ASSOCIATION

Newsletter 2004-3

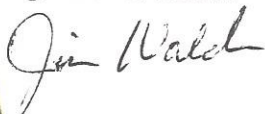
December 31, 2004

Notes from the President

I hope that everyone had a good time at the reunion in Nashville. I had a wonderful time putting it together for you. Now we look ahead to Seattle. I hope all of you will be able to attend. Greg Babinski has already started making the plans and I know it will be another great time. It will soon be time to renew our dues and as we do this we will be updating our roster and getting a new copy out to each of you. If you know of any member that has taken his last flight, please contact one of the officers so that we can keep the roster current.

As the Holidays approach, I want to extend to each of you and your families the warmest of wishes for a safe, happy, and peaceful Season.

Jim Walsh



Jim Walsh



November 17, 2004

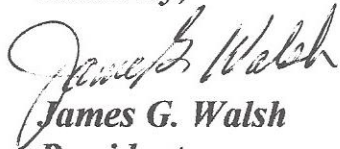
*Honorable Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President
Republic of Palau
PO Box 6051
Palau, PW 96940*

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association, "The Long Rangers", I want to thank you for your support of Dr. Pat Scannons' research of lost aircraft and personnel from the United States Air Force. His reports to our group at our reunions are informative and some bring closure to our members and their families that have lost a loved one and never knew what happened to them. We sincerely appreciate all of your support and the support of your country. Dr. Scannon is a true friend of our group and an honorary member. We look forward to hearing of his findings.

Again, thank you for your support and please pass our thanks on to the citizens of your country.

Sincerely,


James G. Walsh
President

307th Bombardment Group

FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

As usual, much of the Historian's report has to do with answering queries from members and others wanting to learn more of the wartime service of friends and relatives who were lost overseas or who returned home after the war but never talked about any details of their experiences. Sometimes we can give a satisfactory reply but often the details are very difficult or impossible to locate. We hope you readers can supply some of the missing information to the following searches. If you are able to respond to any of the following, **please send a copy of your response to Jim Kendall, 2350 Derby Road, Birmingham, MI 48009. Email: jmk307hist@aol.com**

Staff Sgt Paul Gearhart

Paul Gearhart, son of S/Sgt Paul "Red" Gearhart, asks if anyone in our Association knew his father during his WWII military service.



His father, who has since passed away, seldom spoke with his family about his wartime service. Other than his discharge paper, all of his records were destroyed by the tragic St. Louis records Center fire back in 1973. The form on the back of Gearhart's Honorable Discharge indicates that he joined the Army 3-Oct-40, left for overseas 17-Dec-40 and arrived in the Asiatic Pacific Theater on 24-Dec-40.

The Discharge also lists him as an armor gunner, MOS 612, with 1100 combat hours during 300 Heavy and Medium missions over enemy territory.

He is credited with having been awarded Air Crew Member Wings, the American Defense Medal with one Bronze Battle Star, the Good Conduct Medal and five Overseas Service Stripes.

There is no mention of combat units to which he had been assigned during his years of overseas service. Gearhart left the SWPA on 18-Oct-44, arriving USA 19-Oct-44.

We are not sure which units Gearhart belonged to during the months he was in the Pacific Theater although his son feels that some of that time had to have been spent with the 307th and someone could have known him and might remember him. If you can help, please contact his son:

Paul Gearhart
16730 Almaden Drive
Fontana, CA 92336
Phone: 909-429-6510
Email: jen-paul@sbcglobal.net

Does Anyone Recall Steve Savas?

A note from Wally Blankenship, asks: *"At the Nashville Reunion I asked you if you could determine what happened to Steve Savas after he grounded himself and ceased flying. Steve was a member of the Douglas Crew of the 370th. If anyone is still in contact with Steve please let me know for I would like to contact him."*

Wally's address is:

Wally Blankenship
1711 Summerlin Place
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812-284-6884
Email: Wallcel@att.net

B-24 "Annie Fay"

We have received an Email from Mr. Gene Yee from New York asking if we know who the B-24 "Annie Fay" was named for. Unfortunately, our files contain no information which would answer such requests. In fact we are seldom ever able to tie the serial number of any given aircraft with its nose art, if any.

Since your Historian cannot help Mr. Yee we ask for help from association members. Mr. Yee did not forward an address other than Email. Anyone who can tell him the details of the naming of "Annie Fay" may contact him at his Email address: gene@rosscommunications.net.

If you are not able to use Email please send your information to Jim Kendall at his "snail mail" address and he will forward it. If you do contact Mr. Yee please remember to send a copy to Jim.

Also, if you know the "rest of the story" on

any of the 307th nose art (including the aircraft number if possible) send the information to Jim.

WWII Shortest Bomber Mission

We of the 307th flew some of the longest heavy bomber missions of WWII that covered more than 2500 mile round trips. Have you ever wondered about the shortest Heavy Bomber Mission of WWII?

On January 2, 1945 the Douglas crew of the 370th squadron of the 307th bomb group took off from Morotai, climbed for altitude, dropped their bombs on enemy targets at Wasili Bay on Halmahera Island dove for home on Morotai and landed with a total flying time of 20 minutes. Wally Blankenship sent a photocopy of his official Form Five as proof.

Wally also reports that this shortest Heavy Bomber Mission of WWII has been recognized in the Congressional Record by Senator Lugar of Indiana.

370TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

NAME Blankenship, Wallace P., Jr.

RANK 5/Sgt

DUTY Asst Radio Operator

ASN 35696210

STRIKES 16

DATE DEPARTED FOR FOREIGN DUTY 21 Sept 44

ARRIVED SWPA 24 Sept 44

FLYING TIME OTHER THEATRES

TOTAL SWPA TIME 181:35

TOTAL COMBAT FLYING TIME 178:35 - 5:20

January

DATE	AP TYPE	LDG	DTY	NITE	INST.	STRIKE	COMBAT ZONE	OTHER	REMARKS
2	J	1	AR				20		Wasili Bay Douglas TB
3	L	1	AR			2:35			Djailis "
7	J	1	AR			12:35			Michigan "
10	J	1	AR			13:05			Grace Park "
13	L	2	AR			14:20			Batangas "
16	J	1	AR			12:40			Miri "
19	J	1	AR			10:35			La Carlota "
22	L	1	AR			10:00			Abaca "
23	J	1	W			4:15			Leite-719 Stengale
25	J	1	AR			12:15			Corregidor Douglas
28	J	1	AR			12:30			" "

Greg Babinski
2006 Reunion Committee: Seattle Washington
307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association
October 27, 2004

Dear 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association Members:

I attended only my second reunion of the 307th Bomb Group Association this past August in Nashville. My mother and brother also attended for their first time this year and we all had a very enjoyable time, meeting many new friends both young and old.

Let me say what a fantastic job Jim Walsh, the 307th Bomb Group Association Board Members, and many other volunteers did to put on the 2004 Reunion. Thank you all!

I am very excited and honored that the membership decided in Nashville to hold its 2006 Reunion here in Seattle, Washington. I intend to keep you all informed of the planning for the 2006 Reunion, so I'll be including a little letter like this from Seattle in each issue of the 307th Bomb Group Association Newsletter. I will also be working closely with the other board members, and I would be glad to hear from any other members who live in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, or elsewhere who might be willing and able to help me with the planning for 2006.

What can you expect when you come to Seattle for the Reunion in 2006? Seattle has a number of attractions that will be of particular interest to our membership. These include:

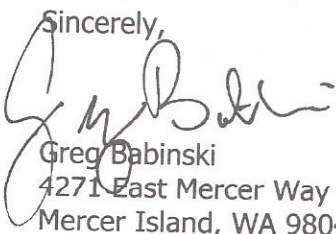
- The Museum of Flight at Boeing Field: We'll see aircraft from WWI to the Concorde, plus Air Force One and a new 'Personal Courage Wing' that focuses on the human element, like those who served with the 307th Bomb Group and won the war in the air from 1941 to 1945.
- The Boeing Company's Everett Factory Tour: We'll tour the world's largest building and see manufacture of the Boeing 747, 767, and 777. Boeing of course manufactured two of the three major bomber types flown by the 307th BG during and after WWII.
- McChord Air Force Base: Home of the USAF's 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, flying the giant C-17 Globemaster Transport. Our tour of the base will include a visit to their museum, lunch in the Officers' Club, and an address by the Base Public Information Office.

In my next letter I'll let you know more about many other Seattle family attractions, like the Space Needle, the Experience Music Project (Rock & Roll Museum), and the new Science Fiction Museum. We also have Pike Place Market and the Pioneer Square Historic District and Shopping Area, Mount Rainier National Park is nearby, and there are Cruises on Puget Sound or through the Chittenden Locks (busiest in the U.S.) to Lake Union (home of the house boat communities made famous by 'Sleepless in Seattle').

But won't it be raining in Seattle you ask? Well, August and September are Seattle's little secret. Days are mostly sunny (yes sunny – bring your sunscreen and sun glasses!), with pleasant temperatures from the mid 70's to high 60's with low humidity.

Many of you may be aware that the 307th Bombardment Group had its World War II origins here in Washington State, at a little town called Ephrata out in the desert on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. As you and your family plan to attend the 2006 reunion, remember that the 307th will be coming home to its origins here in Washington. I guarantee that Seattle and Washington State will make you feel at home in 2006!

Sincerely,



Greg Babinski
4271 East Mercer Way
Mercer Island, WA 98040
Email: gbabinski@comcast.net

307th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) REUNION HEADQUARTERS
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

21 August, 2004

MINUTES

On Saturday, August 21, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. members of the 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association convened in the Tennessee Room D of the Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee for the 15th Annual Meeting of the Membership.

Meeting called to order by C.E. Jordan, President Presiding.

C.E. Jordan welcomed the 307th members to Nashville noting that this was the second time Nashville had been a site for the reunion.

First Order of Business - Introduction of Board Members

C.E. Jordan	- President
James Walsh	- Vice-President
Jim Kendall	- Historian
Jack Palmer	- Parliamentarian
Cena Marsh	- Secretary/Treasurer

Second Order of Business - Approval of the 2002 Annual Meeting Minutes

C.E. Jordan, President requested a motion from the Membership to accept the 2002 Annual Minutes as printed in the 307th Reunion Book, Number 14.

Motion by Ralph Daniel, 371st to accept the 2002 Annual Meeting Minutes as printed in the 2002 Reunion Book.

Seconded - Bill Helms, 424th

Motion carried

Third Order of Business - Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand January 1, 2002	\$11,628.76
Money Market Funds	<u>6,500.00</u>
Total	\$18,128.76
Reunion Expenses 2002	\$24,038.94
Memorial donation	2,500.00
Dr. Pat Scannon donation	2,000.00
2000 Reunion Book (includes postage)	10,151.90
2002 Reunion Book (includes postage)	9,840.12
Newsletters	3,344.96
Postage/shipping	1,638.32
Operating Supplies (envelopes, printing, & printing of envelopes, xeros copies, etc.)	7,710.50

Third Order of Business - Treasurer's Report continued

Reprint of "The Long Rangers"	\$ 2,523.44
Reprint of "Up The Slot"	1,344.00
T-Shirts	597.00
Hats	1,250.00
Jackets (B-24 & B-29)	3,992.50
Refunds on 2002 Reunion cancellations	2,233.50
Jim Kendall (Historian funds)	1,000.00
C.E. Jordan (Presidential funds)	400.00
Gifts/flowers	305.00
J. Walsh (2004 Reunion funds)	1,000.00
Total Expenditures	<u>\$75,870.18</u>

Deposits from Jan. 2002 to date (Membership dues, purchase of hats, jackets, books, etc., monies received from members attending SLC reunion.)	\$77,409.13
Balance on hand 31 July, 2004	13,167.71
Money market fund	6,571.06
Total	<u>\$19,738.77</u>

307th BG Historian's Financial Report

08/31/02-07/31/04

Includes photo and production costs for Reuion book 14
(excluding printing and mailing)

Beginning Balance	\$ 530.03
Deposits:	
307th check	\$1,000.00
Total Deposits	\$1,000.00
Total cash available	\$1,530.03
Expenses:	
Bank fees & Maintenance	\$ 144.00
Photos/Film/Developing	119.70
Photocopies	16.16
Telephone	145.13
Postage	167.17
Office Supplies/Software	107.88
Books/Videos	54.88
Corporate Record	
Annual Filing	30.00
Petty Cash (copies, postage, etc.)	130.00
Total Expenses	\$ 945.36
Cash Balance on Hand	
Checking Account Balance	583.96
Petty cash	.71
Total Cash Available (7/31/04)	\$ 584.67

Financial Reports - continued

The Treasurer's Financial Report and the Historian's Financial Report will appear in the 2004 Reunion Book.

Cena Marsh - Secretary/Treasurer
James Kendall - Historian

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report - Walley Blankenship, 370th
Seconded - James V. Walsh, 371st
Motion carried

Fourth Order of Business - 2005-2006 Proposed Budget

Reunion Book	\$ 9,000.00
Reunion	2,000.00
Newsletters	2,500.00
Postage	2,000.00
President	200.00
Vice-President	200.00
Historian	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	2,000.00
Total Proposed Budget	<hr/> \$19,900.00

Motion to accept Proposed Budget - Bob Bonham, 424th
Seconded - John Wright, 424th
Motion carried

Fifth Order of Business - By-Law Change

James Walsh presented a request to change "ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS", Section 1, to include wives, children and spouses of children to become voting members of the Association once they have paid their membership dues.

Motion to accept change - Tuck Gudger, 371st
Seconded - James Walsh, 371st
Motion carried

An 85% vote was required to make this change to Section.

Sixth Order of Business - Site Selection

C.E. Jordan was unable to locate any 307th member willing to act as a site chairman for the year 2006 reunion. Fortunately, John Reeves was willing to chair a reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Greg Babinsky offered to chair a reunion in Seattle, Washington.

John Reeve's presentation included a visit to the Michigan Military Preservation Society and Oral History Museum. Round-Table discussions and seminars are held there. Other areas to visit included the Air Zoo Aviation Museum in Kalamazoo or the Botanical Gardens.

Sixth Order of Business - Site Selection continued

Greg Babinsky presented Seattle, Washington as the site for the 2006 Reunion. Prices for hotels are reasonable, and August weather is usually nice. Sites to visit are: Museum of flight, McCord AF Base, the Space Needle, Puget Sound, and Mt. Ranier are some. Boeing also gives tours we could take advantage of.

Two other sites listed were Colorado Springs and Spokane, WA. No chairman at either places to handle the logistics of a reunion.

James Walsh requested votes from the floor on Seattle, and Grand Rapids.

Seattle, Washington will hold the 307th 2006 Reunion. The reunion Host will be Greg Babinsky.

Seventh Order of Business - Election of Officers

In the absence of a Nominating Committee, nominations were requested from the floor for the positions of President and Vice-President of the 307th Bombardment Group Association.

John Reeves nominated James Walsh for President
Seconded - Tom Ayala

L. Matheson nominated Harry Coggins for President
Seconded - R. Robinson

Nominations closed

James Walsh was elected President

Bill Manley nominated Harry Coggins for Vice President
Seconded - John Reeves

James V. Walsh nominated Greg Babinski for Vice President
Seconded - Tudy Reeves

Nominations closed

Harry Coggins was elected Vice-President

For the first time since the organization of the 307th Bombardment Group nominations were requested from the floor for the position of the Secretary/Treasurer. This position has been an appointed position from the beginning of the Association.

James Walsh requested nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary/Treasurer

Bob Bonham nominated Cena Marsh for Secretary/Treasurer
Seconded - Bill Brown

Seventh Order of Business - Election of Officers continued

Dom Calarco nominated Cathy Daniel for Secretary/Treasurer
Seconded - Tom Ayala

Discussion: Cena Marsh added that she could no longer handle the position of both Secretary/Treasurer and that in the best interest of the Association she declined the nomination of Secretary. Cena also felt the position of Treasurer should be separate from the Secretary.

Ralph Daniel asked if Cena felt she could handle the Treasurer position. The answer was yes.

Nominations were again requested from the Membership for Secretary.

Dom Calarco nominated Cathy Daniel for Secretary/Treasurer
Seconded - Tom Ayala

Cathy Daniel was elected Secretary by acclamation

Ralph Daniel, 371st nominated Cena Marsh as Treasurer
Seconded - John Reeves

Cena Marsh was elected Treasurer by acclamation

Historian

James Walsh moved that James Kendall continue as 307th Historian.
Seconded - Bill Brown
Motion carried

Parliamentarian - Jack Palmer will continue as 307th Parliamentarian

Eighth Order of Business - New Business

It was recommended that the 307th should consider raising the membership dues. With the loss of members it is becoming a bit harder to continue with the newsletter, reunion book, etc.

Motion by Dom Calarco to increase Membership dues to \$30.00 yearly
Seconded - John Vanderpoel
Motion Carried

No further business.

Motion by Jake Shoifet to adjourn
Seconded - Dom Calarco

15th Annual Meeting of the Membership adjourned

MEMBERSHIP DUES

With the New Year comes the time for the 307th Member to pay his Annual Membership dues. As printed in the "MINUTES" of the Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN, the dues have been raised to \$30.00 per year. With the loss of old members, printing & mailing costs, etc. the membership voted to increase the dues to \$30.00 per year.

TO THE MEN OF THE 307th

2004 - The end of another year. Thirty-four years have passed since Carl Whitesell started his search for his 307th crew and the beginning of the 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association began. By 1974 I was typing letters for Carl to individuals he had located, reading their letters, and reviewing the pictures they sent. One of the best sets of photos sent to us were from General Pat Rickard in a square, small book. Many of those photos were used in the first four reunion books that Carl and I did.

The first Official Reunion was held in Salt Lake City, July 2-4, 1976. Walt and I were invited to attend. The group made me an "Honorary Member". From that little group that met in 1976 we did our first reunion book. Of the 26 men that came to Salt Lake George Nelson, Ed Jurkens, Jim McCloskey, William Selzer, Dan Macdonald, and Garland Barrett are the only ones left.

For the last 30 years I have typed, had printed, folded, stuffed the envelopes and mailed the newsletters to the membership. I might add that for a great many of these years Jim Kendall has been a major supporter of the articles in the newsletters. Without his help plus the stories you men have sent in we would not have a newsletter, I would also like to add that were it not for Jim and Dottie there would not be the 10 wonderful reunion books that they have done.

At the Nashville Reunion in August 2004 there were changes made to the Board of the 307th Bomb Group Association. I will no longer handle the typing, printing, mailing, etc. of the newsletter. At this time I am the Treasurer, but that too could very well change in the future. To save postage in shipping the PX material to another source, I will continue to fill any requests for books, jackets, hats, patches, etc. As the years roll by second generation members will pick up the banner of the 307th Bomb Group Association.

Since this may be the last newsletter I prepare I do want to thank all the members who supported Walt and I all these many years. It was our pleasure to work with you. So many wonderful people that I'm proud to call friends. I intend to keep up my membership and hope to see many of you in Seattle. Many thanks.

Cena

* * * * *

*We flew together, comrades in arms
From cities, towns, ranches and farms.*

*Too young for the task we were asked to perform
We did our best to weather the storm.*

*Too young to be placed in harm's way.
Too young to know the price we would pay*

*Too young to know that it just wasn't true
It won't happen to me, it might happen to you*

*Too young to die in the sky and on ground
Some in blue waters, not to be found.*

*Too young to leave mothers and fathers
Brothers, sisters, wives, sons and daughters.*

*Too young to lose comrades in arms
Young men from cities, towns, ranches and farms.*

*Too young to know that in future years
Old friends will remember, some through their tears.*

Memorial Donations

On August 27, 2004 our friend Dick Hage took his last flight. In his memory his family and friends donated to the 307th \$875.00. We wish to thank Barbara and her family for this donation and extend our sincerest sympathies to you all.

Thank you Note

Dear Cathy,

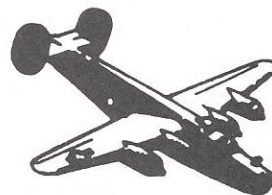
I received the notes from the reunion and the beautiful card. Thank You so very much. I was so touched, crying and all. I will save the lovely notes forever. I plan to make a nice scrapbook about my journey with cancer. I heard from so many that the reunion was another smashing hit. And congratulations at becoming the secretary. You and your Dad do a fantastic job running the organization. Dad and I plan to be in Seattle. I can't wait to see everyone.

Could you send me some info about the reunion, possibly the minutes, so I can get a "Children of the 307th" newsletter out soon?

I have to stay in the house for the next 6 months as I don't have an immune system yet, so a newsletter will be a great thing to do.

Thank You so much, Mary Ann

Taps



The days slip by and we receive notice of "Old Friends" who have taken the last flight. To the families of these men we extend our sincere sympathy.

Cobb, Edwin	12-13-04
Curle, Fred W.	10-21-04
Decker, Ferdinand	09-24-04
Gottleber, Henry	10-20-04
McCune, Andrew	11-10-04
King, Robert	07-20-04

List of Officers

President: Jim Walsh email Jim.walsh@medifax.com phone: 615-268-9110

Vice President: Harry Coggins LFHarry@bellsouth.net 864-232-8836

Secretary: Cathy Daniel branscack@msn.com 804-399-5563

Treasurer: Cena Marsh B17rlroad@aol.com 208-852-2260

Historian: Jim Kendall jmk307hist@aol.com 248-649-2388

Parliamentarian: Jack Palmer JMPN6FEA@JUNO.com 562-430-2818

Reunion Chairman: Greg Babinski gbabinski@comcast.net 206-263-3753

Past President: C. E. Jordan 804-590-2494