



The 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association, Inc.
The Long Rangers

July, 2015 Newsletter

Our Association grew out of the initial meeting of eight former World War II members who got together in the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie in Reno, Nevada, on September 11-12, 1972. Our goal and hope was for continued growth and expanded interest in the Nation's finest heroes.

The members attending the initial meeting were: Carl Whitesell, Dan Cauffiel, George Jaffe, Ed Jurkens, M.P. Nelson, Arthur Downs, and C. Scott.

Since then, our organization has grown and we have expanded to include the children of the 307th and their families and friends. Our mission is to insure that future generations never forget the sacrifices that these men made for them and for our country. Each year we hold a reunion in a different part of the country to celebrate and reminisce, catching up with old friends and making new ones.

WE ARE THE FAMILY! WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF HEROES



307th Bomb Group Association

We Honor our Fathers



At the 307th BGA, every day is Father's Day!

DAD....

Remembering you is easy, I do it every day. Missing you is the heartache that never goes away.



What Makes A Dad

*God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad*

Author Unknown

**Today I looked into the sky and it
was beautiful.
I then realised it's because you are
there.**

**You fly with the angels now but
part of you will always be with us**

WHAT IS A DAD?

A DAD IS SOMEONE WHO
WANTS TO CATCH YOU
BEFORE YOU FALL
BUT INSTEAD
PICKS YOU UP,
BRUSHES YOU OFF,
AND LETS YOU TRY AGAIN.

Our Historian's Final Flight Tribute



James Valentine "Jay" Walsh 1919—2015



Father of our past President, current Treasurer and dear friend, Jim Walsh

For those of you who might not know, Jim Walsh's Dad was a 307th BGA Ground Crew Refueler. Regardless of the squadron in which your father flew, I could all but promise you that James V. Walsh refueled your fathers aircraft. While our father's served overseas for extended periods of months, James V. Walsh served overseas for the entirety of the war, 1942-1945. The many bases to which he was deployed include:

Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Wadke, Admiralty Islands, Noemfoor, New Guinea, Morotai, Halmaheras

We read, Up the Slot. James V. Walsh lived, "up the slot." He had served over two years before the group earned its "Long Rangers" nickname. Early and throughout his service, he survived nightly bombings, a major flood which completely washed the camp away, ten typhoons, tropical diseases, and scores of B-24's exploding upon takeoffs and landings or being bombed by the Japanese on our airfields. There were over three hundred 307th BGA B-24's, over one thousand 307th BGA Combat Crew, and several hundred 307th BGA Ground Crew personnel, lost during his service to the 307th BG. He would have assisted with extricating the hundreds of KIA and thousands of wounded personnel from their battle damaged and burned-out bombers. He would have walked combat crew airmen overwhelmed with battle fatigue to the field hospital. On 44.10.03, like so many other times, he would have stood proud on our base at Noemfoor to see two dozen of our B-24's depart for their mission to the Japanese oil refinery at Balikpapan. He would have stood there in angst when only one of our B-24's returned to base.

God bless him and the 307th BGA Ground Crew personnel with whom he served. It has been my pleasure to know him.



See Jay's full tribute [HERE](#)

By Jim McCabe, Historian
307th Bomb Group Association



Final Flight Tributes

My father, Jacob Shoifet, member of the 307th BGA took his last flight on 6/4/15. He was an amazing guy who lived 95 years.

Thanks. Laura Yaffee



[Jacob Shoifet](#)

March 24, 1920 - June 4, 2015

Jacob Shoifet died peacefully on Thursday, June 4, 2015 in Houston, Texas at the age of 95. He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Shirley (Abrahamson) Shoifet, his son, Jay Shofet, his daughter, Laura Yaffee and husband, Wayne, and his grandchildren Shani, Nadav, Shosh and husband Yaron, and Gabi. He is pre-deceased by his parents, Rose and Benny Shoifet, his sister, Florence Shoifet, and his brother, Sidney Shoifet. He accomplished many acts of kindness and charity and truly exemplified the expression that actions speak louder than words.

See Jacob's full tribute [HERE](#):

My dad was on Morotai in June '45.

Are there any living members who were there then?

Geoff Fox phone (61) 402828654

"I have inspired the planting of an avenue of honor in Morotai and an art display which heavily features the thoughts of Douglas MacArthur.



This year 70 trees were planted to commemorate 1945: We planted dozens of trees at the end of January, the activities carried out to commemorate the Allied troops during World War II Australia in 1945."

Geoff Fox is an Australian whose father had visited the island of Morotai to expel the Japanese army on the island in 1945. His father was Warwick "Rick" Fox. According to him, a number of WWII veterans who are still living back in Australia visited the island in 2013. After returning home, they took the initiative to plant the seeds of a tree in memory of Australian soldiers. They then sent the seeds to be planted by local residents and realized their goal on January 26, 2015.

According to Geoff, the planting date coincides with 'Australian Day' which is a national holiday of Australia. In addition, tree planting is an Australian tradition to honor the memory of military personnel who have served in wartime. "This is to commemorate the history," Geoff said some time ago.

The process of tree planting was assisted by a number of public figures. Among these are Irham and Muhlis. There was also a village chief Totodoku, Kamsul, and a number of local government officials and the local military.



Jim McCabe

The Story Listener!

The Secret Battle of Palmdale

The little known battle that nearly destroyed an American city

It was August 16th, 1956, the typical clear blue California sky shone brightly.

At Point Mugu Naval air station, ground crews prepped an F6F-5K Wildcat drone for its last flight ever. The Hellcat was painted high-visibility red and was rigged to be guided by remote control. The plane was to fly out over the vast Pacific into a training scenario where the Navy would blast it out of the sky for target practice. But the Hellcat had other ideas.

Shortly after 11:30 A.M. the Hellcat drone took off from the Navy base heading west over the ocean. Soon thereafter it started a lazy turn to the south and began heading straight towards the teeming metropolis of Los Angeles. The remote controllers at the Navy base tried frantically to turn the escaped plane back out to the ocean to no avail. Having lost contact it proceeded to head straight into the heart of one of the most populated areas in the country.



When all backup systems failed, the Navy finally gave up and called for assistance. As the Navy had no fighter aircraft standing by, they swallowed their pride and made a call to Oxnard Air Force Base. Five miles north of the Navy base were two F-89D Scorpion interceptor jets ready to scramble. Being that this was in the thick of the cold war era, the planes were armed and fueled and ready to go. The Scorpions were armed with two rocket pods containing 52 Mighty Mouse rockets. These rockets were designed to be fired into approaching Russian bomber formations and thus had no guidance systems. However, today, this was an altogether different threat. 1st Lt. Hans Einstein and his radar op 1st Lt. C. D. Murray sprinted across the tarmac and climbed into their waiting silver steed. 1st Lt. Richard Hurliman and 1st Lt. Walter Hale jumped into the second plane and joined the pursuit.



MORE >>>



Jim McCabe

The Story Listener!

The Secret Battle of Palmdale

The little known battle that nearly destroyed an American city



The Air Force planes raced southward at full speed to intercept the small wandering blip on their radar. At 30,000 feet just north of Los Angeles the sprinting jets intercepted the portly drone. It was on a southwest course that took it directly over Los Angeles, then it turned slowly circling over the city of Santa Paula.

The pilots were waiting for it to wander away from populated areas so they could blast it from the sky.

Soon the red Hellcat drifted over a rural area known as Antelope Valley. The pilots tried to fire their rockets with a turning fire-fire control method, but a malfunction in the system prevented the rockets from igniting. The drone then turned southeast and began heading back for the center of Los Angeles. Under pressure, the pilots decided it was now or never. They abandoned the automatic fire modes on the rockets and decided to launch them manually. One snag was that the gun sights had recently been removed from the planes! The theory was that they shouldn't ever have to use them because the automated firing system would target the rockets, but it had failed.

The pilots decided to fly by the seat of their pants and began their first rocket run. They set their intervalometers to "ripple fire," which would strafe the plane with three rocket salvos. The first plane lined up and let loose... and missed completely. The second plane's rockets undershot the fleeing drone.



MORE >>>





Jim McCabe

The Story Listener!

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The little known battle that nearly destroyed an American city

The rockets blasted past the mindless drone, overshooting their target. They then descended into the mountains near the town of Castaic and exploded in the forest below. They started a raging forest fire that would destroy 150 acres in an area known as Bouquet Canyon.

The second salvo of rockets also missed the drone, blasting into the town of Newhall. These rockets started fires in an oil field. They ignited a number of oil sumps and began a fire that burned more than 100 acres of brush. These fires blazed out of control and almost reached the Bermite Powder company's explosives plant!

The drone continued to drift northward toward the town of Palmdale. Frustrated, the pilots tried another rocket run. The first salvo went wide again, and of the second salvo, a few Mighty Mouse rockets bounced harmlessly off of the slow moving drone's belly.

Suddenly in the quiet bucolic town of Palmdale, all hell broke loose. Mighty Mouse rockets fell from the sky like fiery hail. An explosion outside Edna Carlson's house caused shrapnel to smash her front window, blast through a wall, and wreck her pantry. Mrs Lilly Willingham heard a deafening explosion and nearly missed being maimed by a hot piece of metal that lodged in the wall inches from her face in her own living room. A rocket exploded in the middle of the street directly in front of the car young Larry Kemp was driving. The explosion blew out his tires, and made Swiss cheese of the front of his vehicle.

After a few minutes the mayhem subsided and the bewildered residents of Palmdale searched the skies. Was this a coordinated Russian attack? A nefarious Sunday surprise? Luckily, no one was injured in the battle and 13 dud rockets were recovered by air force ordinance disposal teams. But it took 500 of the region's firefighters two days to put out the brush fires that raged.



Jim McCabe

The Story Listener!

The Secret Battle of Palmdale

The little known battle that nearly destroyed an American city

The pilots of the interceptor jets were running on fumes so they abandoned the mission and returned to their base defeated. The drone itself headed east and ran out of fuel. It descended in a spiral glide into an unpopulated area eight miles east of Palmdale. In it's final moments, it sliced through some power lines and cartwheeled into the dirt, disintegrating in the crash.

So this was the story of one of the only aerial battles to be fought in the skies over the continental United States. The story of how one oblivious, mindless drone evaded the concerted attacks of the state of the art weaponry of it's day. A day that will live in infamy for the rest of recorded history and will always be known as the Battle of Palmdale.



Grandson of Enola Gay pilot takes command of B-2 Stealth Bomb Wing

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. (AP)

A grandson and namesake of the man who piloted the B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, during World War II took over leadership Friday of the United States' aging fleet of nuclear-capable B-2 stealth bombers.

Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets IV took command of the 509th Bomb Wing during a ceremony at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, replacing Brig. Gen. Glen VanHerck, who has led the wing since February 2014.



Tibbets' grandfather, Paul W. Tibbets Jr., was assigned to a predecessor of the 509th Bomb Wing when he piloted the Enola Gay in the world's first atomic bomb mission on Aug. 6, 1945. The bomb destroyed much of Hiroshima and killed tens of thousands of its citizens. Paul W. Tibbets Jr. died in 2007.

The government in Japan has said that thousands of people have been categorized as still sick from the Hiroshima bombing's radiation.



Three days after Hiroshima another U.S. B-29 dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing about 70,000 people. Japan surrendered six days later, ending the war.

Tibbets told about 500 people attending the ceremony in a hangar at the base that his grandfather would be "touched by your appreciation for his service and the service of those that he was with back in that time."

Col. Paul W. Tibbets, 31, stands beside the B-29 super fortress Enola Gay in 1945 in an unknown location.

ANNOUNCING

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The PX

A Note from Lisa Kreder

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Hi, it's Lisa.

If you haven't browsed the PX lately, you have missed quite a bit. The PX team has been working hard to bring you exciting new items, and I just know you'll like the new look.

There are so many new categories and some really cool items to choose from. Check out the New Embroidery section, with hundreds of apparel items at discounted prices, embroidered with your favorite 307th insignia and patches.

Stop by soon!

[Click Here NOW](#)

Lisa Kreder

PX Manager



Next Level 3600

Premium Fitted Short-Sleeve Crew
100% Ring Spun Cotton

A signature style from Next Level, this super-soft fitted crew is instantly loved by all who wear it.

- 100% combed cotton jersey
- 4.3-oz.
- 32 singles for extreme softness
- 1x1 baby rib-knit set-in collar
- Tear away label

Available Sizes

- XS
- S
- M
- L
- XL
- 2XL



Next Level 3400L

The Perfect V-Neck Tee (Junior /Ladies fit)
100% Ring Spun Cotton

This 100% combed cotton jersey tee in the Vintage Sheer Jersey collection is made hot-and oh-so-soft-by the fashionistas at Next Level.

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or

shipped after the reunion.

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items. [Click Here!](#)

Army Air Force Challenge Coin



Back



Front

A Very Special Invitation

The 307th Bombardment Group Association has regretfully acknowledged that our veteran membership has been slowly dwindling over the past few years. The remaining veterans of our group are cherished and to this day receive all the honor and gratitude due to them, as well as all of their fallen brothers. And yet, we continue to grow; adding new features and services for our members, as opportunities come available.

If you are receiving our monthly newsletter and you are not a member of our association, it is because of the personal pride we have in our fathers, grandfathers and all the servicemen and women who have so valiantly shared their lives for our country in all levels of military service.

Today, we are a "Family," and it is with great pride that we invite you to join our membership and join us in honoring those in your family who have served in the United States Armed Forces, whether they are veterans or currently serve in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps., Air Force or Coast Guard.

We welcome you and look forward to meeting you at our next reunion. Click below and join us. We are the children of heroes. We are the family!

 2015 Couples Membership (Save \$10) \$60.00 \$50.00	 2015 Family Membership (Save \$55) \$150.00 \$95.00	 2015 Membership \$30.00 \$30.00
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A graphic of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes, is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the white background.

NOTICE

Special Business Meeting in New Orleans

Time and location will be posted on the Agenda Board in the Hospitality Room.

Tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning (members only).

A few items of importance will be on the meeting agenda and your vote counts, so plan on attending.

Among other issues, discussions will include:

- Ratification of 2015-2016 dues structure
- The treasurers report
- Our corporate status 501 c3 for 2016
- Report on 307th BW reunion
- 2016 proposed reunion destinations

Dayton, Ohio

Lincoln, Nebraska

San Diego, CA

Member input welcome

Dear members, family and friends of the 307th BGA Association,

The Fourth of July was our traditional summer reminder of the courage and vision of the Founding Fathers who, in Thomas Jefferson's words, were willing to "pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor" in the struggle for independence from colonial rule.



On a year-round basis, the 307th Bombardment Group Association provides a social bond based on remembering and celebrating the courage of a more recent generation. I was particularly moved by the reflections on Fathers' Day and the moving tribute to Jay Walsh, appearing on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. Those sentiments eloquently capture what our Association is about, and the spirit we hope to continue.

Also contained in this month's newsletter is a wealth of information on our upcoming September reunion in New Orleans. I would like to emphasize one administrative message: if you haven't yet registered with **both** the Association and the Drury Hotel for the reunion, please do so as soon as possible. We wouldn't want anyone to miss out on either their meal at the banquet, or a place to sleep at night.

In closing, I would like to once again recognize some of the members who volunteer their time to make possible our Association's ongoing activities. This month I invite you to join me in special thanks to Lisa Kreder, managing our revamped and upgraded PX (check out the website link soon!); vice president Christine Hoover, who makes a significant contribution to almost all of our committees; and communications specialist Cathy Krieger, whose unstinting editorial efforts ensure that our published material – or at least the drafts she gets to see – will bear some reasonable resemblance to accepted English usage.

Looking forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

John

John Poggi

President, 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association



and The Newsletter / Video Archive

This News Bears Repeating.



Yes indeed! The 307th BGA has a Facebook Page, and everyone is welcome to stop by, upload some photos, post a few stories and start communicating with fellow members, family members and guests.

Click [HERE](#) to open Facebook!

Or, just search [[The Long Rangers - WWII Heroes of the Pacific](#)] on Facebook.

Oh! And don't forget to **"LIKE"** the page!

OK! When's the last time you stopped by the [Newsletter Archive?](#)

You now have a calendar list of past newsletters along with the addition of Videos, taken and submitted by members and guests from past 307th Reunions.

A lot of work went in to building these pages (actually, it was more fun than work) and there is a lot to see.

You don't have to miss out on anything! [Stop by soon.](#)



Checklist for New Orleans:

1. Are you planning on driving in?

Awesome! Please send a brief email to let us know your route and plans.

Send to: member.services@307thbg.net

Also, if you are planning on driving through Delaware on I-90, just North of the Maryland border, and you need an overnight pit stop, contact Roxanne Gadaingan at the Red Roof Inn. 302-368-8521, 1119 S. College Ave - Newark, DE 19713. Mention the 307th BG.



2. Flying in? Be sure to arrange your transfer to the Drury Hotel.

Here's an update on Transfers and Shuttles. Click on these links:

[Option One](#)

[Option Two](#)

3. Need another hotel room? Inviting a few friends or family?

The deadline for our discounted room rate ends on July 15, 2015

A limited number of rooms are still being held for you. Call The

Drury: 504-529-7800 and mention the 307th Bomb Group Reunion.

If you run into any issues, contact Jim Walsh and he will step in

and do his best to ease the process. Jim Walsh: 615-268-9110 Cell.

4. An exciting addition to the Saturday agenda.

The National WWII Museum will be holding a "News Media" event

at 11:00am, at the US Freedom Pavilion (the Boeing Center)

featuring interviews with the veteran members of the

307th BG, sponsored by the Public Education Department of the

museum. The general public is invited and there is no charge for attending.

5. Please double check your arrangements.

Have you registered for the reunion AND reserved your room at the Drury Hotel. We have noticed some hotel rooms reserved for members whom have not registered for the reunion. Be sure you are reserved for all activities and functions.