Official 307th Newletter #3 Nov 11, 2019 3

1 message

The 307th Bombardment Group Post Exchange <PX@307bg.net> Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 7:32 PM
To: gatorjw@gmail.com

Like in

Welcome

to

The 307th Bombarment Group (HV) Reunion Association

4th Quarter 2019 Newsletter

The 307th Bomb Group was part of the 13th Air Force and consisted of the 370th, 371st, 372nd, and 424th Squadrons. The group was known as the "The Long Rangers" due to their long missions over long open stretches of the Pacific including missions to Truk, Yap, Palau, Philippines and Balikpapan, Borneo (the Ploesti raid of the Pacific war—the unescorted mission against vital oil refineries at Balikpapan, Borneo).

Hope you enjoy this newsletter .

Hello Everyone!!!

The year is once again almost to a close but not first without recognizing ALL veterans old and new.

From the 307th Bombardment Group Association Staff , we wish all veterans a sincere
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!

Reunion Update !!!!!!!!!

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WELCOME TO COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Update: All

Jim McCabe, Greta, and I are heading to Colorado Spring on November 14-16 to do a review of the 3 hotels that have sent in reply's to our RFP. Here is how this will work:

1. Greta and I are providing our personal points on South West Air for Jim's ticket to Colorado Springs.
2. Greta will fly for the cost of the tax on the airline ticket of $11.20.
3. Greta and I donated a credit that we had on South West Airlines of $80.00 so the total cost of my ticket is $17.80.
4. We are renting a car in Denver Colorado for approximately $280.00 for the weekend and we(the 307th that is)is paying for 1 night for Jim and 1 night for Greta and I in a hotel in Denver on the day before we leave for home Saturday. The cost for each of those rooms is $151.00 for each room so about $300.00 for that.

Total for the trip will be close to $600.00 total for all 3 of us.

Below is what we are doing in Colorado Springs

307th Bombardment Group Site Inspection

Participants
Jim and Greta Walsh, Reunion Planner –
307th Bombardment Group E: gatorjw@gmail.com
P: 615-268-9110
Jim McCabe - 307th Bombardment Group
Itinerary
Thursday, November 14, 2019

4:00PM Hotel Elegante Conference & Event Center - Michele Williams
Phone: 719-302-9870 Mobile: 719-306-2095 Email:
mwilliams@mcmelegante.com
2886 S Circle Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

http://www.HotelElegante.com
719-576-5900
Site tour and dinner with Ms. Michele Williams
Overnight accommodations at Hotel Elegante

Friday, November 15, 2019

10:00AM Colorado Springs Marriott - Ray Martinez
Phone: 719-268-4223

Email: rmartinez@marriottcoloradosprings.com
5580 Tech Center Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

http://www.Marriott.com/hotels/travel/cosmc-colorado-springs-marriott
719-260-1800

Meet with Mr. Ray Martinez for a site tour

11:30AM Great Wolf Lodge - Dyanna Sacco

Phone: 719-284-5098 Email: dsacco@greatwolf.com
9494 Federal Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80921
https://www.Greatwolf.com/colorado-springs 844-553-9653
Meet with Ms. Dyanna Sacco for a tour and lunch
4:00PM Colorado Springs Marriott
5580 Tech Center Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919
719-260-1800

Overnight accommodations at the Colorado Springs Marriott
Confirmation numbers for reservations:

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Depart at your leisure

4:00PM Colorado Springs Marriott -

5580 Tech Center Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919
http://www.Marriott.com/hotels/travel/cosmc-colorado-springs-marriott/
719-260-1800
Overnight accommodations at the Colorado Springs Marriott

Saturday, November 16, 2019
Depart at your leisure

From the Organizations President

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for coming to the reunion in Dayton this year. We had a wonderful time and I think you will all agree we were treated really well by the city. The Metro Transit Authority provided FREE transportation for all of our events, The Dragons Baseball team welcomed our veterans with open arms and I think they even got an Hot Dog and drink. We even had a visit from Bob Hope. Overall it was a very nice reunion. With a 91 year old band director and a 17 piece band, the floor was burning up.

Now to Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we stand united in respect for you, our veterans.

This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on Nov. 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars.

We celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Let us remember

Freedom Is NOT Free

With my love to all our veterans

Usa Military Memorial Day
Members of the US Air Force practice a rifle salute prior to Memorial Day ceremonies at the Los Angeles National Cemetery.

Historians Corner

The 307th Bombardment Group (H) Association extends our greeting to all our veterans and their loved ones today, Veterans Day 2019. Since 1926, Americans have celebrated our living and deceased veterans from all armed forces branches. On October 8, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, by proclamation, expanded Armistice Day to include all our veterans:

"...let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting and

enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

Read the full Text Here

https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/veterans-day-proclamation/

2020 307th Bombardment Group (H) Association Reunion-Colorado Springs

Our hotel and dates for this coming summer's reunion will be decided upon in one week! Two activities include visits to the U. S. Air Force Academy and Peterson Air Force Base, home of U. S. Space Command Headquarters and North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The Commandant of Cadets at the USAFA is Brigadier General Michele C. Edmondson. "She commands the 4,300-member Cadet Wing and more than 200 Air Force and civilian personnel. She guides military, leadership and character development, Basic Cadet Training and Expeditionary Skills Training for the Air Force Cadet Wing, in addition to providing facilities and logistical support. Brig. Gen. Edmondson entered the Air Force in 1993 as a graduate of the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Florida. She has served in a variety of space operations, acquisition and staff assignments associated with space based missile warning, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and communication systems at the unit, national, Air Staff and Joint Staff levels. Brig. Gen. Edmondson has commanded a space operations squadron, a space and missile training group, Air Force Basic Military Training and a technical training wing. Prior to her current assignment, she served as the director of Space Policy, National Security Council, Executive Office of the President.
Full Bio: https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/1779689/brigadier-general-michele-c-edmondson/

More on Peterson AFB : https://www.peterson.af.mil/

Jim McCabe, Historian
307th BG Assoc.
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james-mccabe@comcast.net

Final Flight

William Leonard Grisaitis
October 30, 1916 – March 24, 2018

307th Bombardment Group
370th Bomb Squadron
Radio Operator/Waste Gunner/Pilot

William Leonard Grisaitis, of Casselberry was born in Cleveland Ohio on 30 Oct 1916 but left when he was four years old and grew up in Wilkes Barre, Pa.

He graduated from Laurel Run HS and worked a few years in Scranton as a weaver for Nanny Silk Co. He Joined the 109th Field Artillery at 25 and transferred into the Army Air Corps to fly on B24s in the South Pacific during WW II. Abut a year later, while on his first combat mission over Wake Island, his bomber was hit by antiaircraft fire and was almost shot down on Christmas Day. Only 8 of the 38 planes in his combat group made it home after the war but he always remembered his lost comrades and felt very lucky to have survived WWII. He published his diary and their story in a booklet “The First Hundred Years: A Hero’s Journey”.

Bob Stevens'

"There I was..."

THEY WERE CALLED "NIPPER," "PIDDLER," "LIGHTNING," "BARNEY," and, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, "SAD SACK". THESE ARE THE NAMES GIVEN TO MASCOTS BY AIRMEN IN VIRTUALLY EVERY UNIT SINCE THE FIRST AERO SQ. WAS FORMED IN 1913. MASCOT POPULATION REACHED ITS ZENITH DURING WWII.

THE MAJORITY OF CANINES ADOPTED BY FLYING UNITS HAD THEIR OWN GEAR-

(IT HAPPENED TO A LOT OF TROOPS, PAL)

342ND FTR SQ REUNION
FT. WORTH 2-5 OCT 1986

MOST EM'S DOGS HATED OFFICERS.

"NIPPER" OF THE 20th FTR GP.

IF MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT, THERE WAS A '17 OUTFIT THAT HAD A SMALL DONKEY AS ITS MASCOT-

(IT WENT O'SEAS WITH 'EM!)

GREATEST MASCOT STORY: THE C47 THAT BELLIED DEEP IN EAST GERMANY AFTER THE CREW HAD BAILED OUT LEAVING JUST THE MASCOT ABOARD*

* See AIR FORCE DEC 1985 p 98

World War II in Retrospect

From front page headlines of the Stars and Stripes

The Month of April

April 15, 1943
- Knox Tells Press of Jap Threat to Alaska
- 8th Army drive threatens Rommel's flank
- Summer Vacations For War Workers
- Rome Underground Reports Anti-Fascist Revolt Brewing

April 24, 1943
- Tokyo Raid Fliers Slain, U.S. Reveals
- 63 Nazi Planes Downed by U.S. at Bremen
- Allies Advance— Rommel Contests every yard
- AEF Observes 2nd Easter in Britain Tomorrow

April 1, 1944
- Navy Strikes 500 Miles from Philippines
- Twin Peril To Odessa Developing
- Nuremberg hit hard by RAF; 94 Planes Lost

April 18, 1942
- President Roosevelt begins 10th year
- U.S. Winning in the Battle of Production
- "Sat. Eve. Post"and Colliers raise prices from 5 to 10 cents
- General Marshall inspects U.S. troops in British Isles

April 25, 1942

Tokyo Raid Upsets Japs

Pay Boost from $21 a month to $42 for Pvts. near

Next 3 weeks may seal Burma's fate

U.S. Rations Gas in 17 East Coast States

April 9, 1943

Yanks, British 8th Army Meet in Tunisia

Allies Swing North After Rommel

White House Cancels its egg rolling

Women MDs Now in Army

Nazis believed to be quitting southern Greece

April 11, 1944

Soviets Capture Odessa, Greatest Black Sea Port

Yanks, Nazis Pause for Easter Services

France, Belgium Heavily Attacked

Liberators of 7th AAF Softening up Truk Atoll

April 21, 1944

Allied Bombers Batter Railroad Yards in France

Naval Forces hit Sumatra Shipping

Partisans attack in Western Serbia

U.S. Bread Rationing called "inevitable"

April 28, 1944

Govt Seizes Montgomery Ward Mail Order Stores

Nazis Wait Invasion as Air Blitz Mounts

Lack of War Spirit Ires Undersec. Patterson

Japs Flee into Jungles as Yanks Expand New Guinea Beachheads

April 2, 1945
Yanks invade Ryukyus
10 Nazi Divisions Trapped
B-29s hit Tokyo by 20th AF
Soviets Capture Sopron, 33 miles E. of Vienna

QUOTES OF NOTE:

A man's real possession is his memory. In nothing else is he rich, in nothing else is he poor.

-- Alexander Smith

After you have sought over the wide world, you learn that happiness is to be found only in your own home.

-- Voltaire

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. And what I ought to do, by God's grace I will do.

-- Anonymous

There are two days in the week about which and upon which I never worry. Two carefree days, kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is "Yesterday: and the other is "Tomorrow."

-- Robert Jones Burdette

The man who cannot forgive any mortal thing is life is a green hand at living.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

The 307th Bombardment Reunion Group is trying to raise money to help us do a Re-print of the book

THE LONG RANGERS a DIARY OF THE 307th.

This is a book that has helped countless families and the 307th to find, repatriate, and reunite these families with the loss of their loved ones from WWII. The book, written by now deceased member Samuel Britt outlines many of the missions and stories of what the pilots and crew, ground crew, and offices of the 307th through their mission. This is a historical recount of many great battles in the South Pacific. Please help us get enough money to do this reprint of this outstanding book. We are seeking $7000.00 in total.
Please donate and help us do this re-printing as we only have 25 books left. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Click Here to Make a Donation

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