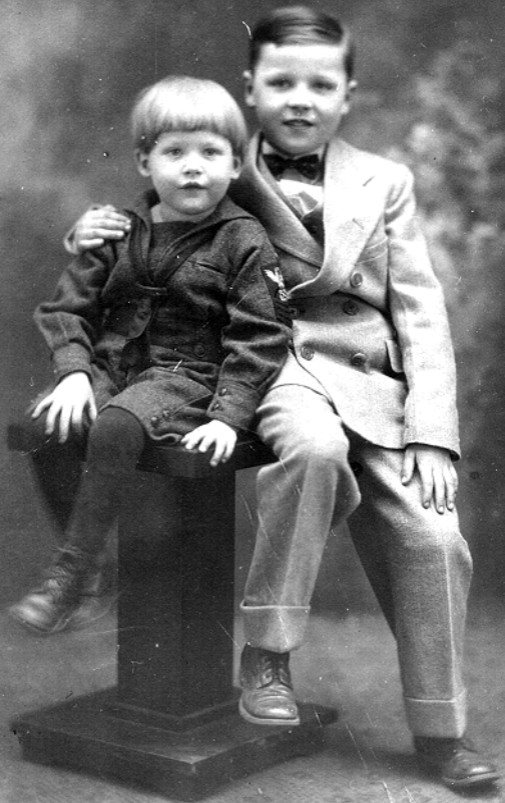


## Lawrence L. Witt Photos

1. Lawrence L. Witt c. 1923
2. Lawrence L. Witt c. 1926
3. Lawrence L. Witt (*left*) with his brother Walter D. Witt c.1926
4. Lawrence L. Witt (*left*) with his brother Walter D. Witt c. 1927
5. Lawrence L. Witt's Parents, Dale William Witt, Gladys Beebe Witt, and brother Walter D. Witt c. 1918
6. Lawrence L. Witt (age13) holding his baby sister Jeannette Collins c, 1936
7. Jeannette Collins, Lawrence L. Witt's half-sister c. 1940
8. Lawrence L. Witt and Lloyd Stoller, Dalhart, Texas, c. 1944
9. Lawrence L. Witt, James Davis, Willis D. Boatright, Dalhart, Texas, c. 1944
10. Lawrence L. Witt (*top row, on left*) with his aircrew, Dalhart, Texas, c. 1944
11. Lawrence L. Witt, 1945
12. Lawrence L. Witt with his first car
13. Lawrence Lee Witt and Lois Blanche Davis, wedding on January 26. 1946
14. Witt-Davis wedding party, January 26, 1946
15. Lawrence and Lois' first child, Laura Ann Witt, 1947
16. Lawrence and Lois' home at 21126 Karl, Detroit, Michigan
17. Lawrence and Lois' second child, Ellen Lee Witt 1956
18. Lawrence and Lois' third child, Ruth Ann Witt, 1962
19. Laura Ann Witt (*on left*), Ruth Ann Witt, Ellen Lee Witt, Summer 1963
20. Lawrence L. Witt in the Scientific Research Center, Ford Motor Company
21. Lawrence L. Witt with his pet dog, Farmington Hills, MI
22. Lawrence Lee Witt and Josephine Errante Griffing Wedding, October 13, 1997
23. Lawrence Witt with his grandchildren. (*from left*) Andrew William Edge holding Margaret Ann Weber, Devin Lora Listerman, Lawrence L. Witt, Kari Ellen Listerman holding Katherine Ruth Weber, Robert Edward Edge holding Norman Hahn Weber III (Davis), Wixom, Michigan, 2002
24. Lawrence Witt at his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday party, June 1, 2008
25. Lawrence Witt with his daughters at his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday party. (*from left*), Laura Edge, Ellen Bett-Witt, Ruth Weber
26. Lawrence with a wild bird. Kensington Metropark, Brighton, Michigan













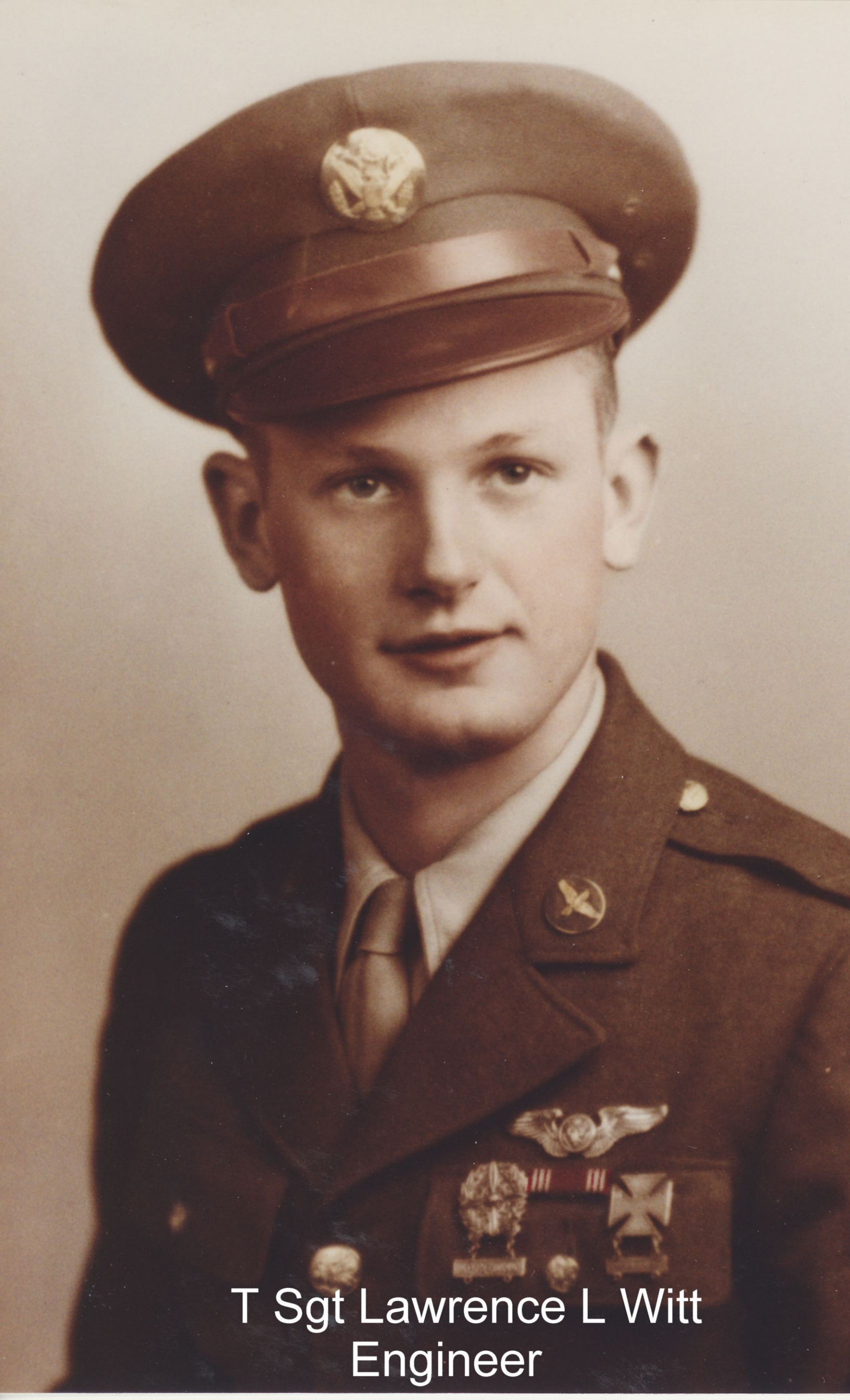










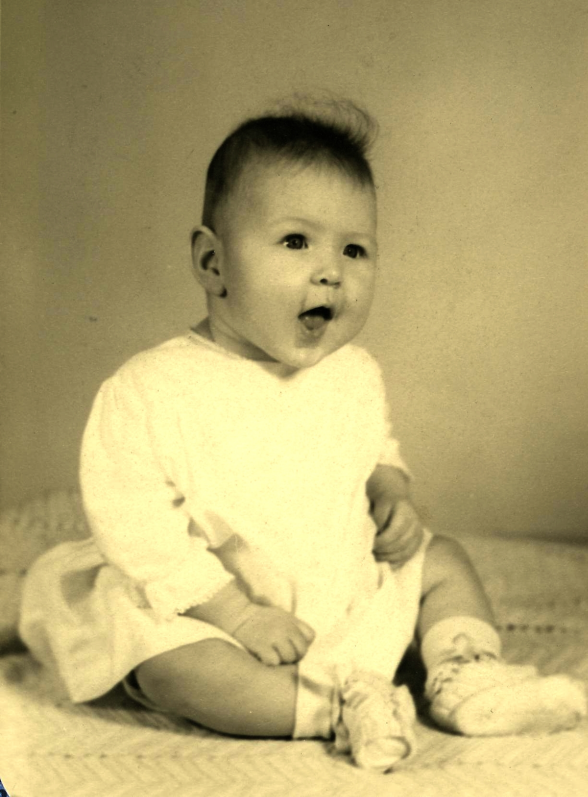


T Sgt Lawrence L Witt  
Engineer













MICHIGAN  
HZ-18-85  
53

















ASSURANCE CORPORATION  
ACCIDENT HEALTH BURGLARY  
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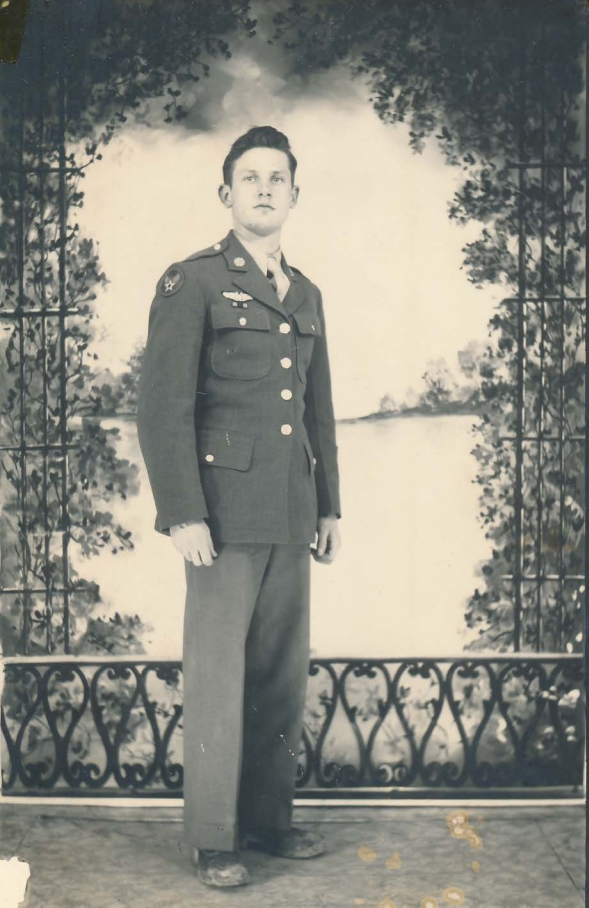
DETROIT RIVERFRONT • 190























*Our Baby*

073

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT...

Lawrence J. Witt  
(ENGINEER)

James J. Dumas  
(RADIO OPERATOR)

William D. Boatright  
Staller  
(BALL TURRET & TOP  
TURRET GUNNERS)

R. W. Tucker  
(PILOT)

Robert A. Greenwood  
(CO-PILOT)

Sam Detweiler  
Jr.  
(NAVIGATOR)

Walter Skewsky  
(BOMBARDIER)

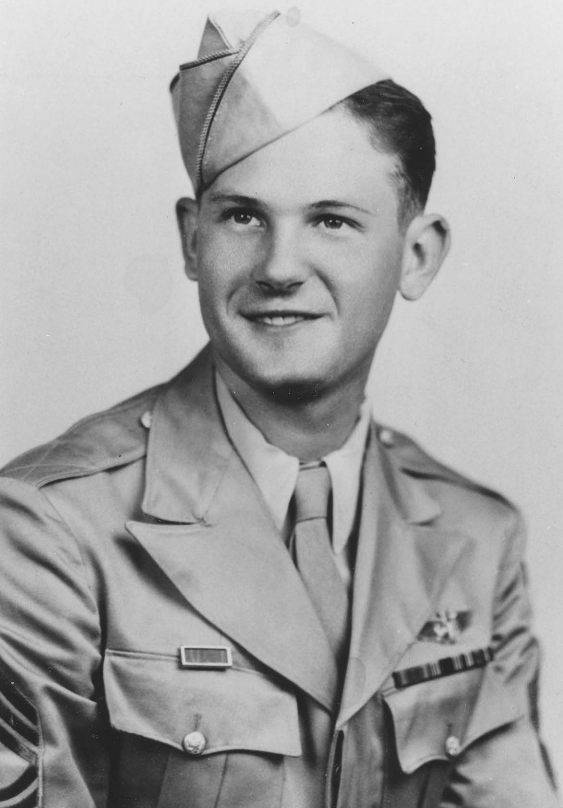
J. P. Hunter  
(TAIL GUNNER)



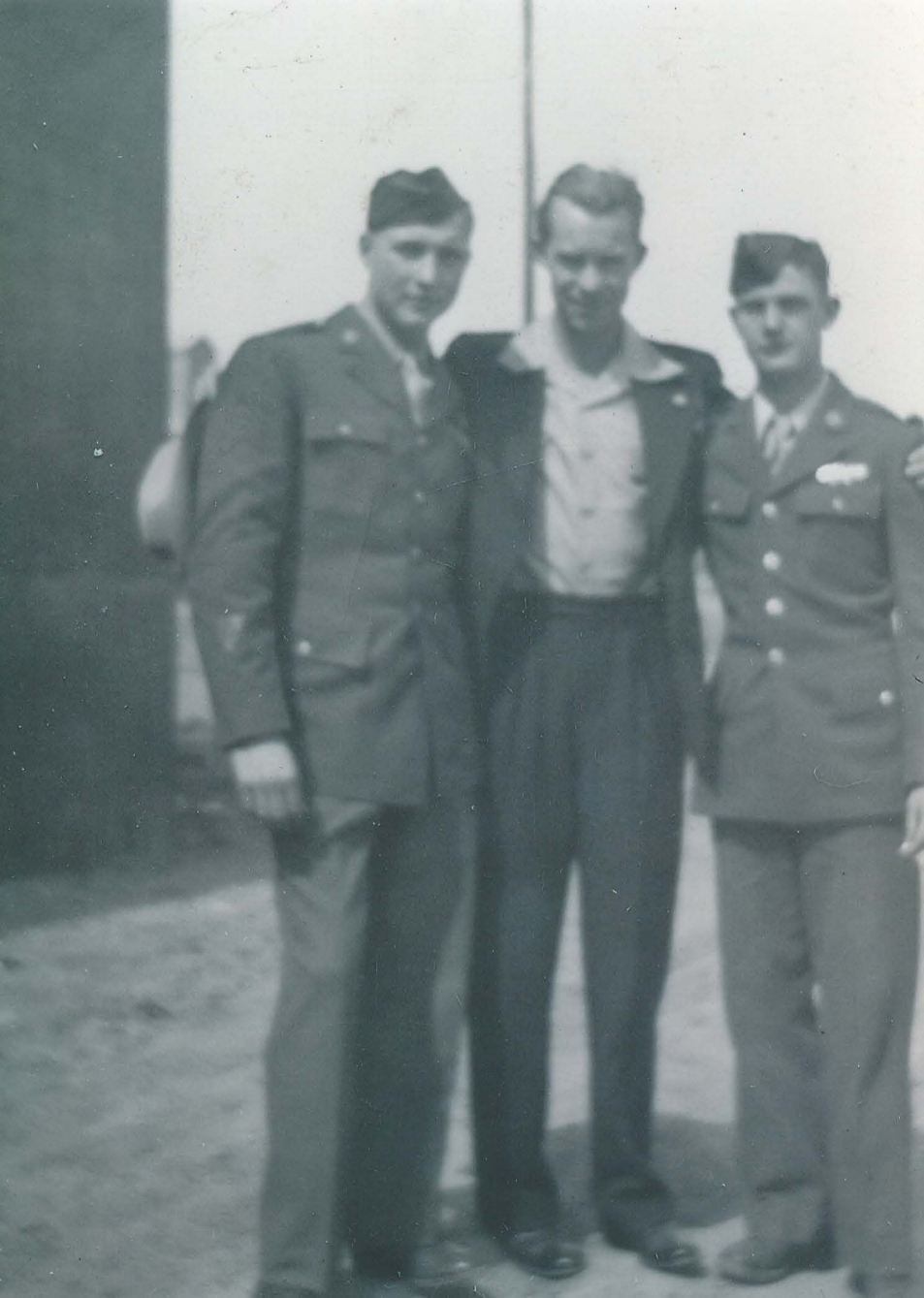


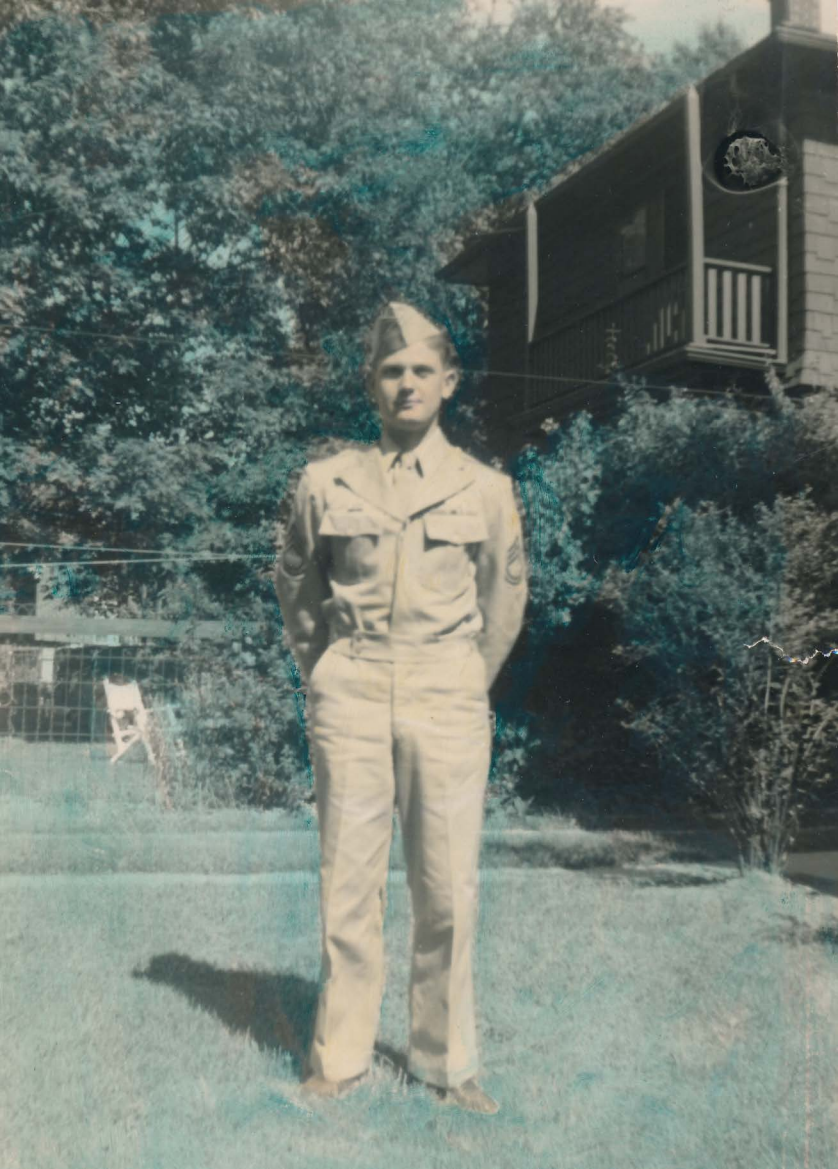




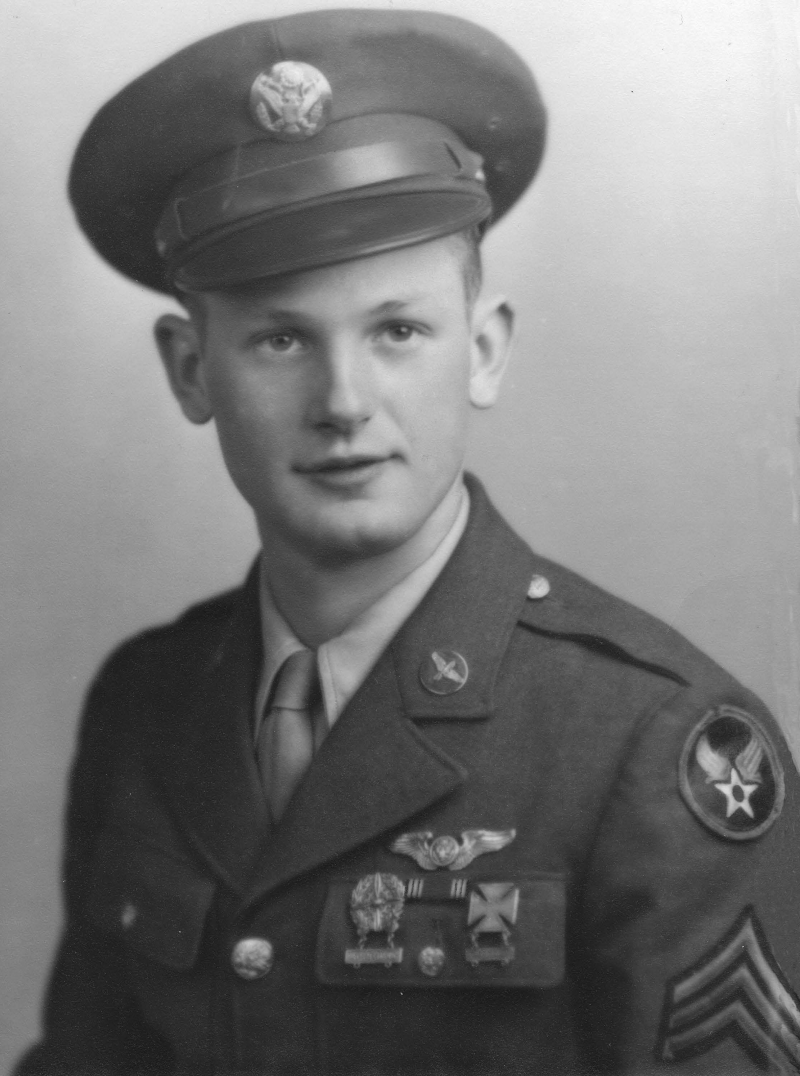














## 50-YEAR WAIT



NEWS PHOTOS • LINDA WAN

Warren Ross of Ann Arbor accepts congratulations from Air Force Capt. Tim Wieck after a Tuesday ceremony in which Ross received a Purple Heart 50 years after he was wounded in World War II. In the background are Ross's son Gary Ross and grandson David Ross.

# Man finally awarded World War II medal

By WILLIAM B. TREML  
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

When Warren L. Ross, an Ann Arbor native, lay bleeding and dazed in the debris of the B-24 bomber that had crash-landed in northern France on March 2, 1944, the last thing he was thinking about was a Purple Heart medal.

And in the 14 months he spent in German prisoner-of-war camps and in cattle cars, trucks and on foot getting to them, medals were the last thing on his mind.

But on Tuesday, after a 50-year wait, Ross, onetime technical sergeant and radio operator, received the Purple Heart for combat wounds. His entitlement to the medal was overlooked by Air Corps administrators when he was discharged at the end of World War II.

Ross was presented the Purple Heart at a special University of Michigan ROTC honors ceremony on the front lawn of North Hall.

At the same time, an Ann Arbor couple, Ernest and Mildred Clark Woodman, both retired

Hall of Fame in recognition of their long association with the university's military training program.

Ernest Woodman served more than 26 years in the Army, including four years as head of the ROTC training unit. Mildred Woodman was a second lieutenant nurse anesthetist at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese sneak attack occurred on Dec. 7, 1941. For three weeks she worked and lived in the army hospital at Schofield Barracks caring for wounded. Later she served as chief of army nurses.

Ross is receiving his Purple Heart because Mark Lindke, a Washtenaw County Veterans Services officer, refused to take an official no for an answer from military records keepers. Lindke, who first met Ross at the Veterans Administration Medical Center on Fuller Road, set out months ago on a determined hunt for proof after military officials said there was uncertainty that Ross' injuries met the Purple Heart standards.



Ann Arborites Ernest and Mildred Clark Woodman, both retired U.S. Army colonels, were inducted into the ROTC Hall of

# MEDAL: Ann Arborite gets Purple Heart after 50 years

Lindke's search turned up written statements from Frank G. McDonald, a retired lieutenant colonel who was first pilot on Ross' B-24 and from Edward F. Shevlin, the bombardier on the plane. McDonald told of his crew's night mission on March 2, 1944, to deliver munitions to members of the French underground near Cambrai and St. Quentin in northern France.

"At 200-300 feet we got through the first three flak concentrations but when we reached the rail marshaling yards at Doullen the sky lit up like it was day with anti-aircraft and small-arms fire," McDonald wrote. "No. 2 and 3 engines were set afire and our plane had a reputation for blowing up when a fire developed near the center section.

"We were too low to bail out, so I crash-landed in a field after clipping tree tops. The flight engineer was killed and the rest of the crew were hurt and burned, including Sgt. Ross who was buried beneath 50 caliber machine guns and debris broken off in the crash."

Edward Shevlin, the crew's bombardier, sent Lindke a statement noting that McDonald's crash landing of the heavily damaged B-24 in the dark of night in enemy-held territory was "truly miraculous." Shevlin told of being taken prisoner the day after the crash and of eventually being placed in a German truck where Ross was lying.

"I could see his facial area, covered with dried blood and what appeared to be bruises," Shevlin wrote about Ross. "He had a nasty cut on his nose and other body cuts. It was evident that he had bled considerably and had not yet received medical attention."

Those statements, Ross' own graphic description of the basic medical treatment he received from the Germans for his wounds and his detailed account of the many transfers by truck and foot he and other American prisoners endured, satisfied Air Force record keepers that the Ann Arbor native deserved but never received the Purple Heart medal.



**Ross, Warren L.**  
**Ann Arbor, MI**

Beloved local Ypsilanti Elementary teacher touched the hearts of many children for 25 years. Warren L. Ross lived 80 years in Ann Arbor. An alumnus of the University of Michigan, he loved "Go Blue." His current home had to be within walking distance of the Stadium. A World War II Prisoner of War Veteran, he was a past Commander of the Disabled American Veterans. He received a belated Purple Heart in a special presentation last October on the University campus. He belonged to several service related organizations. Besides loving to read current events -- anything related to political science -- Ross was a real Jazz entrepreneur. Bix should have been his middle name. Everyone knew of him as the expert on Dixieland music. His wife, a local banjo player, is known as Sister Kate. After a long illness with Parkinson's and kidney disease, he passed away on August 4, 1996. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen A. Ross; children, Gary R. Ross and Bonnie Ross; and a grandson, David Ross. A memorial service will be on Sunday, August 18, at 3 p.m. officiated by Alex Miller, who sang with Ross in the choir 70 years earlier, at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Arrangements made by THE MUEHLIG CHAPEL.

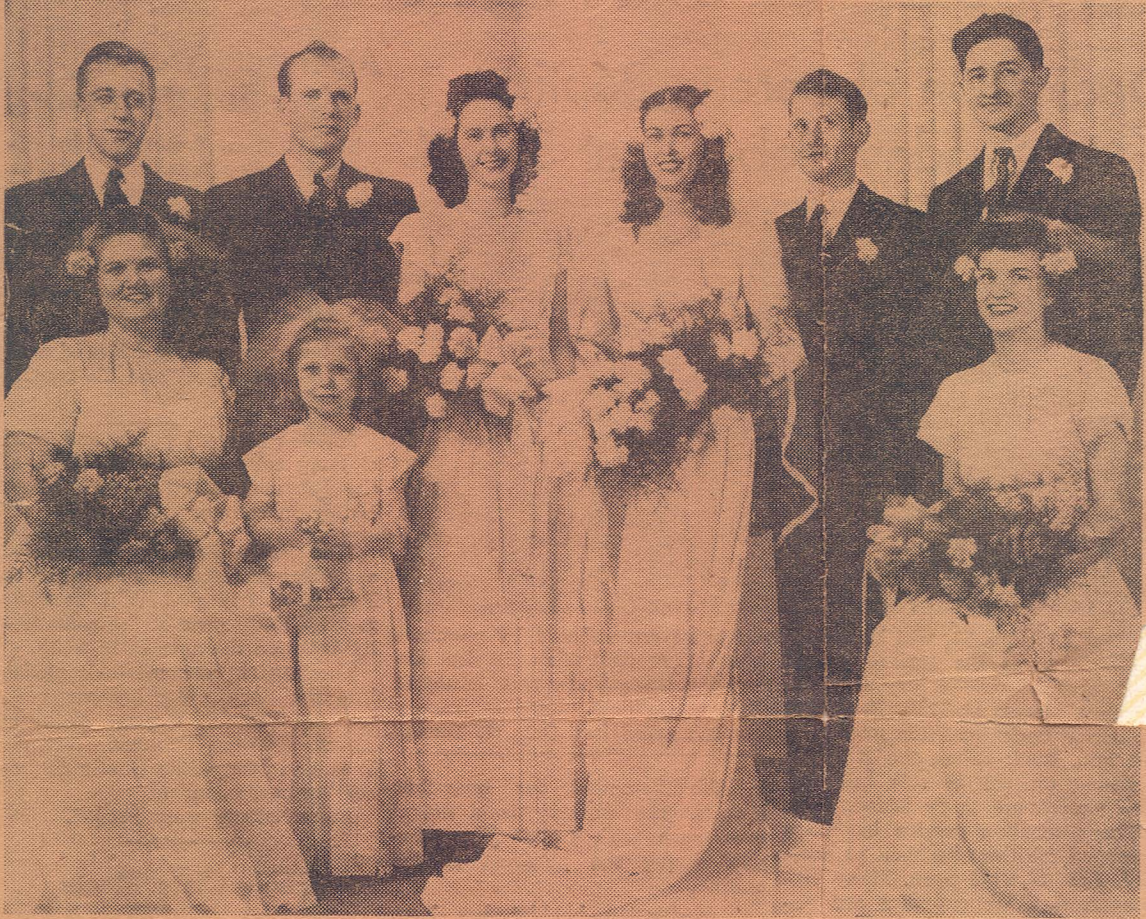








# Gather for Picture Following Baptist Ceremony



Posing for the all-important wedding picture following the ceremony Jan. 26 in Redford Baptist church are the principals in the Witt-Davis wedding party. Maid of honor, two bridesmaids and a flower

girl made this one of the loveliest weddings of the winter season. The bride was formerly Loise Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Davis, of Berg road.

—San Remo Photo

## *Candlelight Glows at Baptist Church For Witt-Davis Wedding on Sat.*

At a candlelight service at Redford Baptist church, Saturday evening, Jan. 26, the Rev. Robert Shabaz united in marriage Lois Blanche Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Davis, Berg road, and Lawrence Lee Witt, of Imlay City. Lawrence was recently discharged from the USAAF after having spent 11 months as a prisoner of war in Germany.

The ceremony took place before an altar made beautiful with white mums, carnations and snapdragons, and green palms.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a white satin gown, fashioned with a sweetheart neckline, and a full skirt extending into a train. Her fingertip veil of illusion veiling, edged with white lace, was secured at each side with white carnations. She carried a large bouquet of white carnations.

Her sister, Joyce, was maid of honor. Her long white silk jersey dress was made with fitted bodice and full gathered skirt. Complementing this was a pink net headpiece, held with yellow carnations, and pink net mitts. Her bouquet was of pink and yellow carnations.

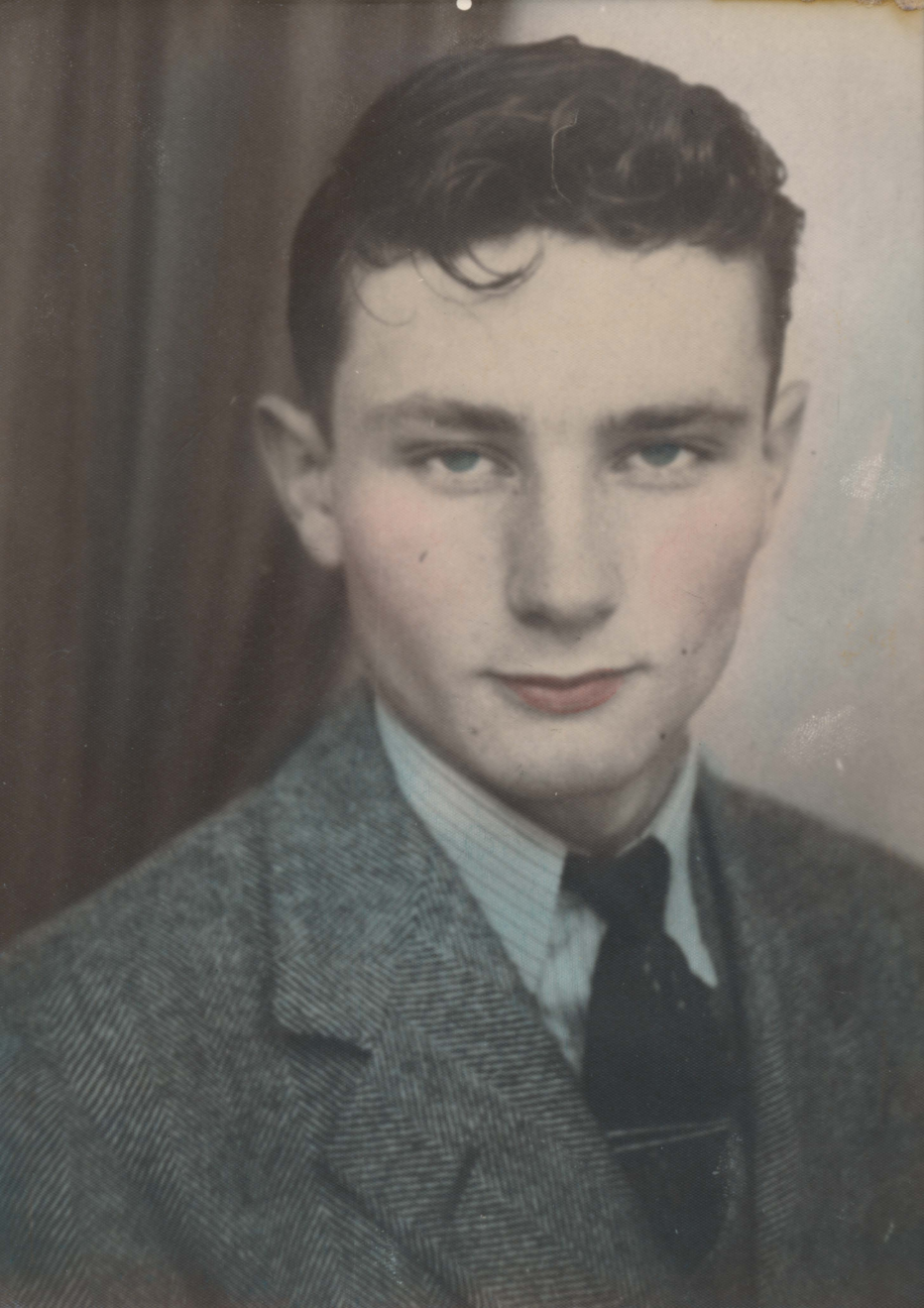
The two bridesmaids, Barbara Davis and Reba Hyde, were cousins of the bride. They wore long white marquisette dresses with blue net carnations, and blue net mitts. Their bouquets were of pink carnations and snapdragons.

The little flower girl, Shirley Anne Hyde, was also a cousin of the bride. She walked up the aisle scattering rose petals from a basket tied with a big blue bow. She wore a white marquisette dress with a tiny blue headpiece, and blue net mitts.

Jean Davis and Vicky Croitori sang "O Promise Me" and "I Love You Truly".

~~Lawrence~~ asked his brother Ernest to be his best man. The ushers were Bowan Gover and Bill Stout.

After the ceremony a reception for 150 guests was held in the church dining room.







## Original Crew Photo

Harold Tucker's crew  
Dalhart, Texas, 1944

### Bottom row (*from left*)

|            |                        |                                |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pilot      | Harold H. Tucker       | Macon County, Tennessee        |
| Copilot    | Robert A. Greenwood    | Syracuse, New York             |
| Navigator  | Samuel R. Detwiler Jr. | Los Angeles County, California |
| Bombardier | Walter Slemensky       | Kenosha, Wisconsin             |

### Top row (*from left*)

|                      |                     |                       |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Engineer/ Gunner     | Lawrence L. Witt    | Detroit, Michigan     |
| Asst Engineer/Gunner | Philip Stecher      | Not Known             |
| Tail Gunner          | Jennings Greuter    | Defiance County, Ohio |
| Ball Turret Gunner   | Willis D. Boatright | Monroe, Louisiana     |
| Gunner               | Lloyd D. Stoller    | Paulding, Ohio        |

*Note: Philip Stecher was removed from this crew immediately after arrival in England. He was replaced with Lavern Maisak.*



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CITATION



OF HONOR

UNITED STATES

ARMY AIR FORCES

# Staff Sergeant Jennings C. Greuter

WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY

May 13, 1945

HE LIVED TO BEAR HIS COUNTRY'S ARMS. HE DIED TO SAVE ITS HONOR. HE WAS A SOLDIER . . . AND HE KNEW A SOLDIER'S DUTY. HIS SACRIFICE WILL HELP TO KEEP AGLOW THE FLAMING TORCH THAT LIGHTS OUR LIVES . . . THAT MILLIONS YET UNBORN MAY KNOW THE PRICELESS JOY OF LIBERTY. AND WE WHO PAY HIM HOMAGE, AND REVERE HIS MEMORY, IN SOLEMN PRIDE REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO A COMPLETE FULFILLMENT OF THE TASK FOR WHICH HE SO GALLANTLY HAS PLACED HIS LIFE UPON THE ALTAR OF MAN'S FREEDOM.

H. H. ARNOLD  
*General of the Army*  
*Commanding General, Army Air Forces*