

Washington Mills, NY 13479

Aug. 17,2006

Dear Sharon:

Enclosed is a copy of my "LIFE IN THE ARMY AIR CORPS".

I wrote primarily so that my Children and Grandchildren would have some idea about W.W.II and also to show how we trained before going into combat and how we operated in the Pacific Theater.

Also is a copy of our Tail-Gunners version of the Crash on 7/15/44. Unfortunate Jack passed away in April 2006 so I am unable to ask him about the mission. I never heard from some of our crew after the war but did keep in contact with some of them. One lives in Biloxi MS but not in very good health.

I am going to keep this short as I want to mail it today and in hopes it will reach you before you go to the reunion in Seattle. I am also going to send a copy to Pat. I am not sure that you know there is a lot of unhappy members of the 307th, I one of them, for the powers to be forcing Cena Marsh out of long time position as Secretary-Treasurer of the Assoc. I am anxious to see what the result will be.

Enjoy your trip to the reunion

Lewie

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July 12,2003

Sharon Edwards
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Dear Sharon:

In the October 2002 issue of the 307th Bomb Grp. newsletter, I read where you were looking for information about the mission of the 307th Bomb Grp. to Yap Island on 7/15/44 on which your Father was one of the crew members on one of the planes that crashed.

I was in the 372nd Bomb Sqdn. from Oct. 1943 to August 1944.

I was on Capt. Links crew, which later became Lt. Lalabertes crew(he was originally our CO-Pilot and became Pilot when Capt. Link stopped flying).

I was the nose-gunner on the crew, and was on the mission to Yap Island on 7/15/44. It was our 50th and last mission.

The mission was twelve hours long, and was one of our toughest missions.

I remember the two planes colliding and crashing into the sea, but did not know exactly what had happened. Sam Britts book, which I am sure you have or have read, describes different versions as to what happened.

Our tail-gunner on our crew, who lives only 15 miles from my home, and I were both interviewed about our experiences during the war by the author of a book that was recently published.

We have remained in touch with each other every since the war, and not until I read it in the book had he ever told me his version of what happened that day.

I have made a copy of his version and have enclosed it with this letter.

I hope that this will give you some information about the mission.

Sincerely



Lewis Smith