

509TH COMPOSITE GROUP



Robert Krauss

366 East Wagner Road • Buchanan, Michigan 49107
Telephone: 269-695-7156 • E-mail: rwkrauss@hotmail.com

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To The Veterans, Family and Friends of the 509th Composite Group

We hope this newsletter finds you enjoying both good health and a pleasant summer. If you ordered a roster, you will find it enclosed. For those of you planning on attending this years' reunion, we wish you a safe trip. If you need to cancel your reservations with the hotel, please be sure to obtain a cancellation number from the hotel. To obtain a full refund, you will need to contact us before September 5 or call the hotel and leave a message for us. If we don't receive notification in time, all charges will need to be paid.

At this time, there have been no changes to the Reunion Schedule. Copies of the schedule will be available at the hotel when you register with us. If you have your name badge holder from previous reunions, please bring it. If you are registered at the hotel and not with us yet, please let us know so we can prepare your name tags.

Sad News – William Barney 393rd Bomb Squadron, Radar Operator on Fred Bock's Crew C-13 died July 20, 2016. He flew on B29, V-89 "The Great Artiste" on the August 9, 1945 Atomic Mission to Nagasaki. The plane was the Scientific Instrument plane for this mission. Bill assisted two members of Project Alberta, Lawrence Johnston and Walter Goodman in dropping by parachute and monitoring the three sets of instruments (blast gauges). Bill was the last surviving crew member to have participated in one of the three strike planes and the last to have seen the Nagasaki Mushroom Cloud from the air. In 1984, Bill was interviewed by Studs Terkel for his book "The Good War" an oral history of World War II. **William R Martin Sr** – Recently I have been assisting Wendover Airfield, 216th Base Unit and 509th Historian Scott Muselin with his research on the training of 393rd Flight Crew Radar Operators. Many of you who have attended reunions in past years will remember Bill and Betty Jo Martin. Although not reported to us by their family, Bill died April 16, 2010 and Betty Jo June 14, 2012. Bill did not talk about his time in the 393rd, but our research showed Bill joined the 393rd shortly before the flight crews went to Cuba for training. Bill flew to Cuba on January 12, 1945 as a passenger with McKnight's Crew B-8 and again with Crew B-8 to Tinian on June 6, 1945. He entered the 393rd as a Staff Sergeant with a Military Occupation Status (MOS) of 688 Radar Sea Search and was possibly involved in training the other radar operators. A review of operations orders for July 1945 show Bill flew at least eight training and bombing missions to Rota and Marcus Islands mostly with Ralph Taylor's Crew A-1 and one with Marquardt's Crew B-10.

The enclosed hand drawn sketch by Dutch Van Kirk was provided to us by Jim Kealy.

Respectfully,

Bob & Amelia

Mushroom Cloud
Estimated 60,000 ft Above
The target of Aioi Bridge in
Hiroshima

First Atom Bomb
Explodes over Hiroshima

Enola Gay
Altitude 30,000 ft
Speed - 258 knots
Heading About 43°

Approximately
12 miles.

Bomb Explodes
about 1800 feet
above ground zero

Dutch Van Bark
Navigator - Enola Gay
Hiroshima - 6 Aug. 1945

SMALL ^{THIS} WORLD

MARIANAS

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10 AUGUST 1945

RUSSIANS STORM ACROSS MANCHURIAN BORDER NO WORD OF NAGASAKI, SECOND ATOMIC VICTIM

HINT MORE THAN ONE BOMB MAY HAVE STRUCK SEAPORT

GUAM (ANS):--The world's most destructive force, the atomic bomb, was used for a second time against Japan, striking the important Kyushu island city of Nagasaki with observed good results.

More than one bomb may have been dropped and might have been of a different size than the first which destroyed 60 per cent of Hiroshima.

A carefully worded communique said only that the second use of the atomic had occurred. There was no other word of Nagasaki from American or enemy sources.

The bomb was dropped about nine hours after Red Army troops attacked in eastern Manchuria. Nagasaki, seaport and railroad terminal, has an estimated 255,000 population in 12-square miles and is a far more important military target than Hiroshima.

BLASTED JAPS FOR MONTH IN CHINA, WITH ADVANCE NEWS OF RUSSIAN MOVES

CHUNGKING:--Chief American commander in China, Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, revealed today that American and Chinese forces are giving strong support to the Russian advances by pounding relentlessly the Jap withdrawal corridor to China.

Gen. Wedemeyer declared that American air forces have been blasting the route, through which the Japanese were attempting to redeploy to the north, for the past month with advance knowledge of Russia's entry into the war.

He also said that Chinese paratroops are now in action hampering Japanese movements between Kweilin and Hengyang, inflicting heavy damage on the enemy.

VAST PINNERS REPORTED AGAINST JAPAN'S CRACK KWANTUNG ARMY

SAN FRANCISCO (ANS):--Red Army troops slashed across the western and eastern frontiers of Japan's stolen Manchuria late yesterday shortly after the Russian declaration of war became effective and sharp fighting is in progress in all invaded areas, Tokyo Radio announced.

A Domei dispatch said the Russians had battered across the eastern frontier of Manchuria at several points along a 300-mile line extending southward from Hutou to Hunchun near Korea.

Millions Massed

The Japanese communique said the Russians struck across both the eastern and western frontiers, beginning shortly after midnight, which suggested a vast pincers movement against the crack Kwantung army, pride of the Japanese forces believed massed in Manchuria.

The Soviets, says the AP Press, are believed to have a million men deployed along the border, site of previous clashes between Soviet and Nipponese troops.

Rain Of Swift Blows

WASHINGTON (ANS):--The roof fell in on Japan today in quick succession:

1. Russia declared war and promptly sent her armies rolling across the Siberian-Manchurian border. Radio Tokyo reported Russian planes have raided Korea and northern Manchuria.

2. 1,200 Allied carrier planes raked railways on northern Honshu.

3. Superforts made their second atomic bomb attack on a Japanese city.

4. Tokyo reported Allied warships shelled the steel city of Kamishi on northern Honshu.

SUPERFORTS BLAST JAPAN
FOUR TIMES IN 24 HOURS

GUAM (ANS):—Nearly 100 Superforts, hitting the Japanese home islands for the fourth time in 24 hours, sent incendiaries crashing into the "death list" city of Kukiyama shortly before midnight Wednesday (Japanese time).

The new blow in the round-the-clock offensive by the 20th Air Force followed two late afternoon demolition strikes at Nakajima Musashino-Tama aircraft plant in Tokyo and a smashing daylight raid with more than a thousand tons of explosives at the steel center of Yawata, the "Pittsburgh" of Japan.

RUSSIA'S WAR ON JAPAN PAYS OFF
IN ADVANCE PRINTING OF LEAFLETS

MANILA (ANS):—The first mission of the Far Eastern Air Force in support of the Soviet was carried out when millions of leaflets were showered on the Japanese population a few hours after war was declared.

The leaflets, printed in advance, and designed to explode a psychological bomb with the announcement of Russia's entry, was admitted by psychological warfare headquarters as a gamble that the Soviet Union would come into the war.

ARMY DENIES PROLONGED
EFFECT OF ATOMIC BOMBS

WASHINGTON (ANS):—The War Department denied published reports that areas devastated by atomic bombs continue for years to react with death dealing radio activity.

In a statement, the department quoted Doctor J. R. Oppenheimer, head of this phase of atomic research, saying "there is every reason to believe there was no appreciable radio activity on the ground at Hiroshima and what little there was decayed very rapidly."

An International News Service report had quoted Doctor Harold Jacobson, of Columbia University, one of those who participated in atomic research work, as saying the bombed area in Japan might cause death for persons entering the area for a period of 70 years.

ALLIES TO WITHDRAW FROM IRAN;
DECISION REACHED AT POTSDAM

TEHERAN:—The Iranian Foreign Ministry declared yesterday that one of the decisions reached at Potsdam was that British and Russian forces should be withdrawn from Teheran at once.

The Foreign Ministry said it was informed of the decision by the British Embassy and added it expected the withdrawal from Teheran to start soon as a preliminary to departure of all Allied troops from Iran. American troops have been leaving since July 31st.

NAVY SILENT ON GERMAN-MANNED
WARSHIPS IN BOSTON HARBOR

BOSTON:—Flying the Swastika under the Stars and Stripes, two destroyers—the first German surface warships to come to this country since the start of the war—were anchored in Boston harbor yesterday.

The vessels were manned by volunteer German crews under American supervision and came by way of the Azores where they refueled.

The Navy Wednesday declined to reveal further information of the ships' sailing port, or why they were brought to this country.

JAP-HELD ISLAND OFF FOOCHOW
CAPTURED BY CHINESE TROOPS

CHUNGKING (ANS):—Chinese troops have captured a Japanese-held island off China's east coast, west of Formosa, and have launched a drive in the Chinese rice-bowl region designed to split the Jap transcontinental corridor to Hong Kong, the High Command reported.

The High Command said Chinese troops reoccupied Kukiang island at the mouth of the Min river, northeast of the liberated east coast port of Foochow.

KING PETER BREAKS WITH TITO

LONDON:—Youthful King Peter of Yugoslavia repudiated the government of Premier Marshal Tito Thursday night and accused him of dictating to the people of Yugoslavia.