

My Great-Grandfather: Orlyn D. Chunat: WWII Veteran

I am going to share with you about some of the history of my great grandpa and WWII.

WWII started in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. The US entered the war in 12-7-1941, the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The war ended in 1945 with the surrender of Germany and Japan. The allied nations in WWII include: Australia, Canada, Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, the United States, and New Zealand defeated the axis countries of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Orlyn D. Chunat (my great-grandpa), grew up in Wauzeka, Wisconsin. He was enlisted for the war in October of 1942. Orlyn was a co-pilot for the B-17G bomber and 2nd Lt. He flew 21 complete missions during WWII. He was part of the 303rd Bombardment Group (heavy), 358th Bomb Squadron - known as the Hell's Angels that consisted of four flying squadrons based in Molesworth, England.

He was about to bomb a refinery in Mersberg, Germany when his aircraft got hit (all four engines eventually damaged). They bailed out of their burning ship at approximately 8000 feet in the air. When about to bail, my great-grandpa got hit in the upper left thigh from a bullet. Crewmembers saw goose feathers from the seat in the wound.

He landed on ground and didn't have the time or strength to bury his parachute (although some crewmembers did have enough time and strength to bury their parachutes). Local farmers were right there ready to kill survivors, but my great-grandpa was grateful that he was captured by enemy forces instead of being killed by the farmers. My great-grandpa turned 20 years old in the hospital as a POW (Prisoner of War). He was a POW for five months.



Searching for my great-grandpa's name at the WWII Memorial

I went to the WWII memorial with my mom because we wanted to remember the war and that my great-grandpa was in it. The WWII memorial has a huge reflecting pool with fountains and big plaques with the countries and states that were in WWII on our side. Then there was a plaque that had 4,000 stars on it (each on representing 100 soldiers that died at war). It was dedicated on May 29, 2004 in honor of the WWII veterans. My great-grandpa was there for the dedication.



Me standing by the entrance of the WWII memorial.



Me standing by the Wisconsin plaque because my great-grandpa is from Wisconsin.



Me standing by the reflecting pool at the WWII Memorial.



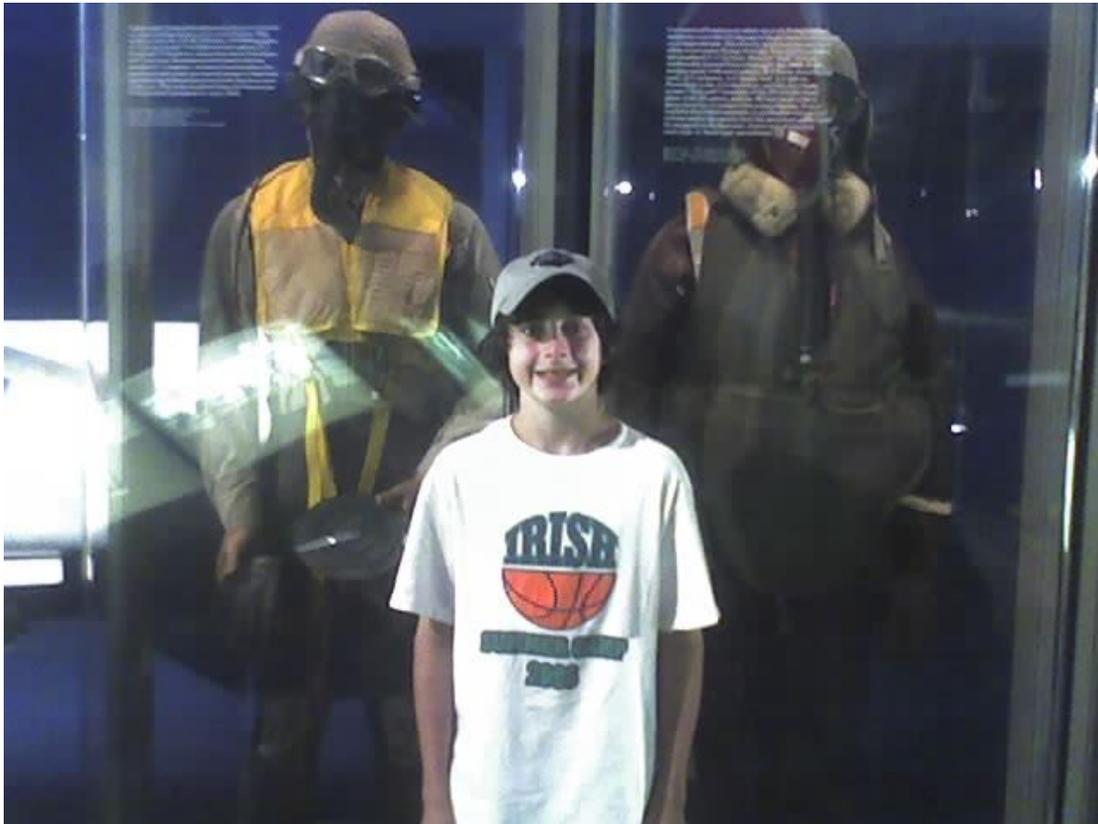
Me standing next to a mural of a bomber plane.



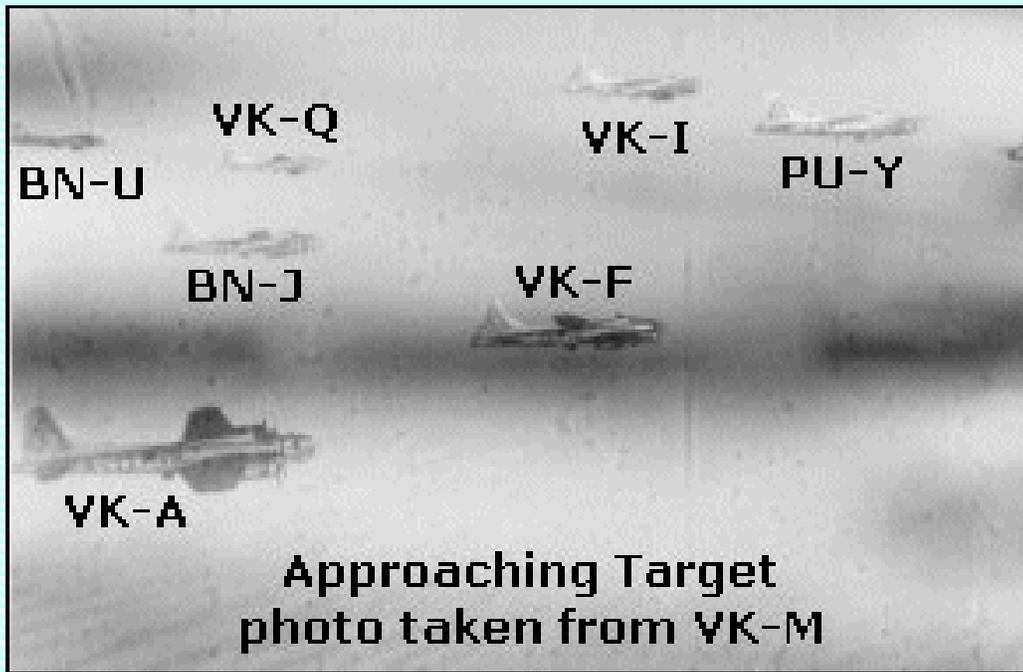
Another picture of me standing next to the mural of a bomber jet.



Me sitting by some replicas of bombs that were used in the war.



Me standing next to the suits they wore in the summer (left), and the suits they wore in the winter (right).



My great-grandpa was in the airplane in the VK-Q position



My great-grandpa ,Orlyn D. Chunat, back row, second from left

LEROY E. GLASS CREW - 358th BS
(crew assigned 358BS: 21 Aug 1944 - photo: 24 August 1944)

(Back L-R) 1Lt Leroy E. Glass (P)(WIA/POW), 2Lt Orlyn D. Chunat (CP)(WIA/POW),
 2Lt Anthony J. Boland (B), 2Lt Joseph C. Haider (N)(POW)

(Front L-R) Cpl Fred E. Ehret (WG), S/Sgt Richard W. Eide (E)(POW),
 S/Sgt James M. Brady (R)(POW), Sgt Grady H. Hodges (WG),
 Sgt Vernon L. Trumbull (BT)(POW), Sgt Mark N. Davis (TG) POW



B-17G 43-37590 NEVA THE SILVER LADY (358BS) VK-Q
My great-grandpa's plane: Neva, The Silver Lady



Nose Art for Neva, The Silver Lady



Tail Art for Neva, The Silver Lady

It was very fun visiting DC for the second time because of all of the sights and information that I hadn't seen or learned before. I got a B-17G bomber plane that I am going to give to my great-grandpa because that is what he flew.

DC was very interesting, and I have learned a lot...
But I still have yet to learn a lot more.

Grayson Freking
May 13, 2007