

The CD contains some 700 pages of data covering much of my WWII experiences. I started out to catalogue just my own WWII days, but then I realized that many of the guys on the crew had no photos, no diaries – nothing to leave to their families telling of what they went thru during our combat tour. I then broadened the picture to cover my crew, then the squadron and finally activities of the whole Bomb Group.

Over two years ago I got down from the attic that big, red, Kirby Vacuum Cleaner box. It was full to overflowing – and time and the heat of the attic had yellowed the paper and it almost disintegrated with each piece of paper picked up. Trying to salvage the real “stuff” that told the story was exhausting – I almost gave up after many months. When I decided that I couldn’t retrieve the “meat” of the experience, I told Bumble that I would just quit – but she said YOU CAN’T QUIT! She started to help me and we both worked and worked on it. The result was catalogued in four 4 inch thick loose leaf binders. Narratives, pix, clippings, etc.

About that time the Library of Congress asked the Daughters of the Revolution if they would take on the task of interviewing as many WWII vets as possible – they interviewed me, absorbed as much of my “stuff” as they could for their records. You realize that the WWII vets are dying off at a rate of some 1,300 per day.. They got my info in sufficient time – I’m still here and my war records are in the Library of Congress, as well as on this CD.

Renae and her husband, Mike (a computer guru), took the 4 volumes of data we had assembled, put it on this disc. Everyone in our family has a copy of it – the families of the crew each have one. The 454th Bomb Group historian told me this was the most complete record of the activity of the 15th Air Force combat that he had ever seen.

Incidentally, of the ten on our crew, there are only 4 left – I am the only one of the four in good health. That’s what RICH is!

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2025 by Wynne Donaho Ballard
Vice-Chair