

S/Sgt Joseph James Longo (36818513)



In 1992, Joseph James Longo was awarded a medal - a medal that took 46 years to come to him. Joseph Longo finally received his Distinguished Flying Cross that he had achieved back in 1945. So who was Joseph and why did it take 46 years for him to be awarded such an award?

Joseph was born on the 22nd January 1924 in Wisconsin to John (b.1867) and Anna (b. 1885) Longo. He had three brothers, Nick (b. 1916), Frank (b. 1918) and John (b. 1920) and three sisters, Theresa (b. 1922), Angeline (b.1926), Elizabeth (b. 1928).

John and Anna were both born in Italy. John immigrated to the U.S in 1888 and he was naturalised in 1905. Anna immigrated to the U.S in 1914.

In the 1920 census the family, which included Nick, Frank and John, were living in Racine, Wisconsin. They owned their home and their father, John, was a labourer in an auto factory.

By the 1930 census the family were still living in Racine. Now Theresa, Angeline and Elizabeth and Joseph had joined the family. They still owned their house but their mother, Anna, had become a widow and was not working.

In the 1940 census John, Joseph, Angeline and Elizabeth were still living at home with Anna, who was still single. Theresa and her husband Delbert Herman were also living with Anna. Delbert had his own business as a radio repair man. Anna's son John was working in a retail store.

[PFC Nick C Longo was born 25th March 1916. He passed away 11th December 1974]

[Frank Longo was born 1st January 1918. On February 26th 1938, he married Delores LeMay and they had a son and two daughters. He served in the Navy and was then employed by Young Radiator Co for 37 years. He passed away 7th September 1974]

[John Longo was born 26th November 1920. He served in the Army. He married Lillian Peil (b.1918) on 20th January 1945. They had 4 children. He passed away 13th October 1978]

[Theresa Longo]

[Angeline Longo was born on January 1st 1926. She married Paul D Moore on November 14th 1944 and they had two sons Paul and Timothy and a daughter Patricia. She worked as a Teacher's Aide for St. Lucy Catholic Church. She passed away on January 8th 2005]

[Elizabeth Longo married Robert Saliscente on the 28th June 1947]

Joseph graduated from Park High school in 1942, after which he then worked for the Raline Tool and Machine Company. He was drafted on the 30th June 1942 and enlisted on the 14th May 1943 at Washington University. He passed his mental and physical examination for aviation training and went to Jefferson Barracks, Montana, for technical training. He graduated from training school in Lowry field, Colorado in January 1944 as an armourer-gunner.

He arrived at Seething on 31st July 1944 and was assigned to 712th Squadron. The names of the crew he came over with includes:-



2nd Lt. William Henry Wilhelmi – Pilot – (0705193) was born on the 10th December 1920 in Chapman, Nebraska to William Henry (b.1889) and Emma Louise Hohman (b.1890) Wilhelmi. He had two brothers Raymond W (b.1913) and Virgil H (b.1924) and two sisters Vera Mae (b.1929) and Viola Marie (b.1916).

In the 1930 census the family was living in Chapman, Merrick, Nebraska and their father William was working as a farmer on his farm.

In 1936 William's mother Emma passed away.

In 1940 William Sr. along with William, Virgil and Vera were living in Spokane, Washington with Justice L. K. Justice was William Sr. sister in law who was also a widow. William Sr was working as an auto mechanic and William Jr was working as a shipping clerk in a retail department store. Raymond was living in Bronx, New York City.

[Raymond William was born 24th May 1913. In 1950, Raymond graduated from Columbia Physicians and Surgeons College in New York City. He then worked on an internship at Colorado General Hospital in Denver. He met and married Geraldine Satrang (b.1921) on the 6th December 1952 in San Diego, California. Raymond then immigrated to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1955. He passed away on the 25th January 1977 in San Diego, California]

[Viola Marie was born 26th February 1916. She married Roy F Rohling (b.1915) on the 22nd April 1939 in Red Cloud, Webster, Nebraska. They had a son Ronald Frederick in 1939 and another son Curtis Raymond in 1949. She passed away on the 8th March 2004 in Grand Island, Hall, Nebraska]

[Virgil H was born 13th April 1924. He married Donna C Hruska (b.1924) 19th December 1942 in Spokane, Washington. Virgil enlisted on 15th February 1943 in Spokane, Washington. His occupation was noted as Semiskilled chauffeurs and drivers, bus, taxi, truck and tractor. He was given service number 39462236. He then remarried to Shirley D Walter on the 2nd October 1948. He passed away 2nd March 1978 in Washington]

[Vera Mae was born 22nd December 1929. She married Marvin Howard Leamons (b.1926) on the 14th September 1947 in Chapman, Merrick, Nebraska. She passed away 10th September 1958 in Chapman, Merrick, Nebraska.]



During his service in the ETO, William was promoted to Captain and was awarded the Purple Heart, Air Medal with three clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross with one cluster.

In March 1945, William was injured during a mission and was sent back to the U.S. He reenlisted in June 1946 and was given the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He married Waynada Wallace (b.1926) "Rusty" on the 6th July 1945 at the First Presbyterian church in Fort Worth and left for reassignment at Santa Monica. William and Waynada had a son, William in 1947, who followed his father's lead and became a pilot in 1970. They also had a daughter, Virginia "Ginger".

During his career, William had many assignments and promotions. He was assigned to Panama City, Florida. Then, in 1951 he was promoted to Major and transferred to Valdosta, Ga in January 1952. In 1962 he was promoted to Lt. Colonel. In June 1967, William served at Eglin AFB Florida and commanded the Aerospace Defence Commands, 20th Surveillance Squadron. In January 1969, William assumed responsibility for the AN-FPS Phased Array SPACETRACK radar which was used to track space objects maintained by the North American Air

Defence Centre in Colorado. In August 1969, William was assigned as the new Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for operations at the Fourteenth Aerospace Force Headquarters in Colorado. In 1972, William was commander of the 14th Missile Warning Squadron at Mt. Laguna which was part of the 14th Aerospace Defence Command. In 1973 William helped to organise and command the new seacoast alert system as part of the North American Air Defence Command. It comprised eight radar sites blanketing the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coast and could detect any missiles launched or approaching within several hundred miles of the U.S coastline.



William passed away on the 24th March 2007 and Waynada passed away on the 12th October 2012 in Sherman Texas.

F/O John Elphege Lariviere – Co-Pilot – T-125458 – was born on the 7th August 1917 in Haverhill, Essex County, Massachusetts to Elphege I (b.1894) and Bertha J Bruyere (b.1894) Lariviere. He had two brothers, Paul A (b.1920) and Richard P (b.1924) and a sister Dorothy J (b. 1928).



John's father, Elphege was French Canadian and immigrated to the U.S in 1901. He married Bertha – who was born in Illinois - on 29th June 1915. It looks like Elphege and Bertha had a son in August 1916 who they called John and Elphege was working as a baker at the time. What happened to this John is not known but when John (opposite) was born in 1917, Elphege was working as a merchant.

In the 1920 census Elphege, Bertha and John were living with Bertha's family in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

According to the 1930 census, the family was comprised of John, Paul, Richard and Dorothy owned their own home in Haverhill and Elphege was working in an Auto Assembly plant.

In the 1940 census, Paul was not living at home but John, Richard and Dorothy were still living with their parents. Elphege was now working as a shipper in a wool mill and John was working in a retail fabric store.

[Paul Adrian was born on the 19th January 1920. He graduated from Haverhill High school in 1938 with a plumbing certificate. He loved bicycles and he and John ran a bike shop. Paul enlisted in 1940 and desiring to escape the cold New England winter, and enticed by the posters of warm weather and beautiful beaches, he requested to be stationed in Hawaii. He was a Pvt. Air Corp mechanic stationed at Pearl Harbor. He was on guard duty at Hickum Field when the Japanese attacked and according to family lore he possibly fired one of the first American shots of the war. He received a commendation for refitting aircraft with bomb releases that were based on a toilet flushing mechanism for the battle of Midway. After the war he was a plumber for 20 years and a teacher at the Hayward Trade School. He owned and operated several bicycle shops with his sons. He passed away on the 26th December 2006 in California.]

[Richard was born on 18th July 1924. He enlisted on the 29th March 1943 in Boston, Massachusetts and his occupation was noted as manufacturer of textiles. He was given the service number 31307056. He married Florence E Sadowski and had three daughters and four sons. He named two of his sons after his brothers John and Paul. He passed away on the 24th March 1988.]

[Dorothy Jane was born on the 17th July 1927 and married to become Dorothy Kamal living in Keene]

John enlisted on the 7th August 1942 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. His occupation was noted as manufacturer of textile and he was given the service number 31081545. Although he was single at the time of enlistment, evidence states that he had dependents. At this time confirmation of these dependants is still outstanding.

John married Helen A Donovan (b. 1921) on the 6th May 1944 in Tucson, Pima, Arizona.

During his service, John was promoted to Flight Officer, then Lieutenant and given service number 0886809. He was awarded the Air Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters and the Purple Heart.

John was killed in action on the 4th April 1945 and his body was never recovered. He is memorialised on the Walls of the Missing at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten.

After John's death, Helen married John's brother Paul in 1945 and they travelled across the country before settling in California. They had eight children; seven sons and one daughter. Helen passed away in September 1994 in Colorado.

2nd Lt. Billy J Baker – Bombardier – 0723267 – At this time confirmation of identity is outstanding.

2nd Lt. John W Bice – Navigator - 0722136 – At the time of writing confirmation of identity is outstanding.

Cpl. John Gustav Vahle Jr – Radio Operator - 17071832 was born 3rd May 1922 in Saint Louis, Missouri to John Gustav (b.1877) and Effie Luella Hicks (b.1879) Vahle. He had two sisters, Fredericka L (b.1910) and Virginia Gustava (b.1918).

In the 1930 census John's father was working as a manager in a milling transport company.

In the 1940 census John and Virginia were still living with their parents in St. Louis, Missouri. John Sr. was still working as a manager on the floor mill.

[Fredericka was born on the 1st August 1910. She married Stanley Frederick Stecher (b.1906) who was a clerk on the railways. They had a son, John in 1939. She passed away on the 14th February 2001]

[Virginia Gustava was born 30th January 1918. She married John Gordon Vogel on the 2nd March 1942 in Clayton, St. Louis, Missouri. She passed away on the 25th October 1990]

John attended the Washington University at St Louis and the University of Missouri.

He enlisted on the 27th April 1942 in St Louis Missouri. His occupation was noted as Clerks, general office.

During his service, John was promoted to Tech Sergeant. He was awarded the Air Medal with four leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross and had done 210 combat hours.

He married Margaret Louise Frische (b.1922) on the 20th May 1945 and in July 1945 he was stationed at Scott Field, Illinois to study new types of communications equipment and procedures.

He was discharged on the 28th September 1945 and he and Margaret decided to live in Tucson.

In 1946 John's mother Effie passed away closely followed by his father in 1947.

John and Margaret had a son on the 24th July 1947 named Bobby. By 1950 they were living in California and on the 21st July 1951 they had a daughter.

John passed away on the 16th January 2008.



Cpl. Lewis Theodore Kidston – (31236198) was born on the 9th August 1920, in Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts, to William (b1887) and Emily Hume (b1886) Kidston. He had three sisters, Emma Jean (b1911) and Katherine Frances (b1912), Jessie Margaret (b1914) and a brother William Arthur (b1918).

Both his parents were born in Canada and immigrated to the U.S; William in 1901 and Emily in 1895. They married on the 10th August 1910 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

By the 1930's the family was still living in Somerville. William was a manufacturing pharmacist and Emma and Katherine were now working. Emma was working in the mailing department of a Business School and Katherine was working as a typist in a paper factory.

[Emma Jean was born on the 20th May 1911. She married David Blair on the 12th October 1932 in Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts. They had two daughters Margaret (b.1934), and Barbara (b.1937) and a son Alexander (b1936). She passed away on the 7th August 1962]

[Katherine Frances was born on the 19th July 1912. She married Roderick Lewis Grace (b.1908). She passed away on the 7th March 1985 in Danvers, Essex, Massachusetts]

[Jessie Margaret was born on the 4th December 1914. She married George Russell Gilis in 1950 in Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts. She passed away on the 28th August 1995]

[William Arthur was born on the 25th June 1918. He married Virginia Louise Goode (b.1919) on the 16th July 1938. On the 16th September 1940 William enlisted at Chicago, Illinois. By the time of enlistment William and Virginia were divorced. On the 17th April 1942 William married Mercedes Loretta Bove. He passed away on the 26th August 1956]

In the 1940 census Lewis was working and living as a butler for Leonard Wheeler and his wife Agda in Norfolk, Massachusetts. Leonard was the owner of a leather factory and his wife was his secretary. Other staff lived with the Wheeler family included Olaf Borgason, who was the chauffeur, and Lydia Gronvall, who was the cook.

On the 16th February 1942, Lewis was drafted. At the time he was living back in Somerville and he was employed by Crandall Illvy Dock Engineers. He enlisted on the 25th November 1942 in Boston, Massachusetts. His occupation was noted as a semiskilled construction.

After the war, Lewis married Gertrude Durrigan and had a daughter, Karen in 1952



On the 24th November 1952 Lewis and a friend were driving his car late at night when they crashed into a bus. Tragically, Lewis lost his life. He was just 32 years old. His daughter Karen was just 6 weeks old.

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Sgt. Maxwell Webster Mckenzie – (39192491) was born on the 3rd June 1922, in Monvor, Washington to William John Gordon (b1886) and Florence Maude Demming (b1890) McKenzie. Maxwell had three sisters Florence Marian (b1910), Thelma (b1911), and Lucille Mary (b1912) and three brothers William Deming (b1909), Guy (b1915), and Elton Ronald (b1917).

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Maxwell's father, William, was born in Canada and immigrated to the U.S in 1904 where he met Florence and married her on the 14th April 1908 in Tacoma, Pierce, Washington.

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In 1910, William and Florence were living in Seattle Ward 12, Washington and they had William Jr. The family then moved to Canada where the rest of Maxwell's siblings were born. Finally, in 1919 the whole family then immigrated back to the U.S. In 1920 the family were living in Snohomish, Washington and William John was working as a labourer in a planning mill. They welcomed Maxwell in 1922.

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By 1930 the family was living in Milton, Snohomish, Washington and William was working as labourer in a saw mill.

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By 1940 the family was still living in Milton but only Maxwell was still living at home and his father William was working as a labourer on a farm.

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[William Deming was born 15th July 1909 in Edmonds, Snohomish, Washington. He married Dorothy Elizabeth Smith (b.1908) on the 31st May 1930. He passed away on the 6th March 1997 in Olympia, Thurston, Washington]

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[Florence Marian was born 1st October 1910 in Ontario, Canada. She married Theodore Herbert Dilman (b.1902) on the 6th August 1931 in Kings, Washington. They had a daughter, Valerie Ione in 1940. The marriage to Herbert didn't last and she remarried to Charles Allen Stewart (b.1910). She passed away on the 22nd November 1972]

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[Mary Lucille was born on the 24th June 1912 in Ontario, Canada. She married Edward Erving Durr on the 18th December 1931 in Pierce, Washington and they had a daughter, Faye Anita in 1932. She passed away on the 11th February 1946 in Everett, Washington]

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[Guy was born n 1915. He married Mabel Mckenzie (b.1916). In 1940 they were living in King, Washington and Guy was working as a planner man for a lumber mill and Mabel was an office worker in a retail coffee shop]

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[Elton R was born in 1917 in Canada. He married Mary Evelyn Hanlon (b.1921) on the 15th October 1938. In 1940 they were living in King, Washington and had a son Rodney. Elton was working as a labourer. He passed away on the 22nd September 1983]

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Maxwell was drafted on the 30th June 1942. His employer was noted as Boeing Aircraft. He enlisted on the 17th October 1942 in Tacoma, Washington. His occupation was noted as Semi skilled in building of aircraft. He was discharged on the 17th September 1945.

In 1946 Maxwell married Dorothy Ann Cook (b1915). They had a son Michael but the marriage didn't last. Maxwell remarried Megan Lloyd (b1928) on the 18th April 1953. Maxwell passed away on the 24th May 2000.



Cpl Jack Junior O'Donnell – 15333914 was born on the 28th October 1922 in Indiana to and Hisey.

He enlisted on the 26th April 1943 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was married to Mickey E at the time.

In November 1944 Jack was injured during a mission and was hospitalised. He recovered and returned to duty. By the end of the war he had been promoted to Staff Sergeant.

Jack and Mickey had a son Jack Robert and a daughter Patricia Ann.



On the 26th April 1946, Jack re-enlisted in Indianapolis, Indiana. Jack served in the Air Force for 23 years and after his discharge he lived in Novato and England before moving to Petaluma, California.

He passed away on the 25th June 1981 in Sonoma County, California.

Cpl. Julius Sakovics - 13153800 was born on the 23rd November 1924 in Pennsylvania to Sigmund (b.1879) and Mary (b.1889) Sakovics. He had five brothers Joseph (b.1911), Stephen (b.1912), Charles (b.1915), Alexander (b.1917) and William (b.1927) and a sister Irene (b.1930)



Both Sigmund and Mary were born in Hungary. They married and immigrated to the U.S in 1912. Their sons Joseph and Stephen were also born in Hungary and followed their parents to the U.S in 1923.

By 1930 the family owned a farm and was living in Bethlehem, Northampton, Pennsylvania. Joseph and Stephen both worked at the steel works as Sigmund worked as a farmer with Charles as a labourer on the farm.

In the 1940 census all the children except Joseph were still living with the family on the farm and Stephen, Charles and Alexander were working in steel works.

[Joseph Edward attended Lehigh University. He married Josephine Marie Urschitz on the 22nd August 1936. They became a big part of the community by working with the credit union, organising the Bethlehem area Catholic Youth Organisation, founding a local Girl Scouts troop and working with various volunteer groups. He passed away in 1977]

[Stephen J was born on the 23rd December 1911 in Kerment, Hungary. He married Mary R Bedics (b.1918). He was a turn foreman in the treatment department of the Bethlehem Steel Corp for 49 years before retiring in 1979. He passed away on the 17th December 1992.]

[Alexander J was born on the 2nd January 1917. He married Theresa Helen Bergieitner (b.1915) and had a son Steven Alexander (b.1942). He passed away on July 1944]

[William was born on the 4th August 1926. He served with the US Navy during the war and married Irene Vreccics (b.1928). He passed away on the 3rd December 1992]

Julius enlisted on the 8th December 1942 at Allentown Pennsylvania and during his service he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. He was discharged on the 11th September 1945 at Indiantown Gap.



In June 1946 Julius received his diploma from Bethlehem High School. In 1948 he went to Lehigh University and studied mining engineering before graduating in 1952.

He married Theresa Morello in 1949 and had four children Cynthia, twins Michelle and David and Ronnie.



On the 25th January 1955 Julius sadly lost his life in a fire at the Gulf Oil Company in Denver, Colorado. It was a new building and had only been occupied for two weeks before the fire started. Julius was employed as a geophysicist with the company for three years at the Pittsburgh and Texas plants before the awful event. His eldest child Cynthia was only 4 years old at the time of the event.

Joseph Longo completed 30 missions on the 4th April 1945 and below are some of the missions he took part in.

On 24 March 1945, at 09:30, the 448th took-off to take part in Operation Varsity. Twenty-six aircraft were to drop “re-supply” bundles on drop zones located near Wesel, Germany. To ensure the accuracy of the drops, the bombers were to drop from low level at 300 feet. To oversee the drop and coordinates, Army engineers were scheduled to fly with each crew.

Capt. Wilhelmi was flying in the lead aircraft (MISS MUFF) with Group Commander Col. Westover. As the formation crossed the Rhine River they realised that they were near the American sector just south of their designated course. As the supplies were for the British forces, the formation made a 270-degree turn and found the British forces. They released 228 bundles of supplies.

As the formation turned, a hail of gunfire met them. Capt. Wilhelmi was wounded in the leg, and a waist gunner was wounded in the shoulder. The aircraft’s landing gear was also damaged. The crew flew the aircraft back to England but because of the damaged landing gear, Capt. Wilhelmi and his co-pilot crash-landed their aircraft at RAF Manston in Kent. All crew members survived and most returned back to Seething. However Capt. Wilhelmi convalesced in Britain for a few weeks at Coombe House before returning to the United States.

Other possible missions Joseph undertook include, 25th August 1944, 26th August, 12th September 1944, 27th September 1944, 7th January 1945, 14th January 1945, 31st January 1945, 1st March 1945, 5th March 1945, 9th March 1945, 4th April 1945

Joseph was awarded Oak Leaf Clusters on the 7th November 1944, 24th January 1945, 27th March 1945 and 24th April 1945. He received a Purple Heart on 21st March 1945.

The mission that won Joseph the Distinguished Flying Cross was to Germany on the 4th April 1945. That day a waist gunner on the plane was wounded. Joseph was forced to run from gun to gun and tend to the injured gunner. *"The guy wanted a cigarette, but because the fuel fumes were so heavy, I wasn't about to let him light up. I took away his lighter and I would have knocked him out if I had to. Finally, I let him chew on a cigarette"*

The crewman recovered from an arm wound and Joseph was later credited with 2½ "kills" of attacking German jets. This was Joseph's 30th mission and he had completed his tour of duty.

Joseph's crew had a funny little ritual when a member completed his final mission *"You'd bend over and get kicked in the butt by the other crew members"*. However when it was Joseph's turn for the ceremonial boot on the 4th April 1945, nobody celebrated as the crew's original co-pilot John LaRiviere, died in a downed plane that day.

On the 4th April 1945, the 448th undertook a mission to Wessendorf, Germany. Joseph's original co-pilot, 1st Lt. John E LeRiviere, had been assigned to the 714th Bomb Squadron and was co-piloting in Aircraft 44-50838, (RED BOW) with Lt. Robert Mains as the pilot (MACR 13730).

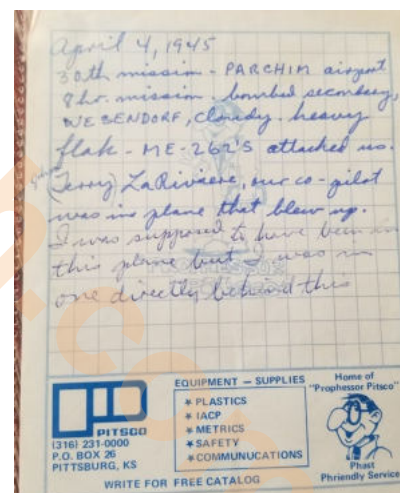


During the mission, RED BOW was attacked by a German Messerschmitt Me 262 jet fighter and broke into multiple pieces before crashing over the town of Ludwigslust. One crew member was able to bail out of the bomber, which was carrying a full bomb load when it was shot down, and he reported hearing a large explosion as he descended in a parachute. He was captured by the Germans, who told him the rest of the crew died in the crash and showed him the dog tags and wallets of all but one of his fellow crew members.

We were sent a copy of a note that Joseph wrote in regards to this mission. He stated that he was supposed to be in RED BOW for the mission but ended up in the aircraft behind RED BOW. The aircraft behind RED BOW was BROWNIE and it was piloted by 2nd Lt. Richard Page. We are yet to confirm if Joseph was indeed assigned to BROWNIE or another aircraft.

In 2007, a U.S. investigative team travelled to Ludwigslust and found aircraft artifacts correlating to this B-24M. In 2014 and 2015, U.S. government teams returned to the crash site and re-excavated the area and recovered human remains. Two of RED BOW'S crew members have been identified from among the recovered remains.

First Lieutenant John E. LaRiviere, remains have not been found.



(Ramsey)

In June 1945 Joseph was back at AAF Redistribution Station at Santa Ana, California. He was released from service in October 1945 at Spokane Washington.

He began his studies in mechanical engineering at Marquette University. Joseph then studied industrial arts at Stout institute, Menomonie, Wisconsin and was involved in the Arts and Crafts Club, he was secretary-treasurer of the Riffle Club, and involved in the life saving and driver training programs.



Miss Phyllis Jean Brockert

Joseph met Phyllis Jean Brockert (b.1926) who worked as a supervisor at the Wisconsin Telephone Co. and they married on 12th June 1948 at Immanuel Lutheran church.

In June 1949 Joseph gained his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Arts from the University of Wisconsin. He accepted a position as a teacher of industrial arts, including machine shop and auto mechanics at the Marinette Vocational School.

On the 25th October 1950, Joseph and Phyllis had a son, Terry Doyce. They then had a daughter, Sue in September 1953, and another son, Jim followed shortly afterwards. Terry followed Joseph's footsteps and eventually retired as a Captain in USAR.

In 1953 Joseph obtained his Master's degree and in March 1955 he became the director of the South Milwaukee Vocational School.

In 1970 Joseph retired as a Lt. Colonel from the USAF/WANG.

In 1983 Joseph, having 28 years of experience was laid off from Milwaukee Tech as part of a reorganisation structure.

Because the war ended a short time after Joseph's 30th mission to Germany, Joseph never received his medals. That is until Joseph and his son Terry visited the National Personnel Records Centre in St Louis in the early 1990's.

While searching his records, Joseph discovered that he was due the Distinguished Flying Cross, the European Theatre of Operations Medal, the Purple Heart and the Air Medal. He completed the necessary paperwork and in 1992 Joseph received his medals.

Joseph said "*All this stuff happened before I was 21 years old. I couldn't even vote or legally take a drink.*" But after 46 years, Joseph finally received the recognition he deserved for his great service to help make the world free as we know it.

Phyllis passed away in 1998 and Joseph passed away on 5th August 2007 in Milwaukee.