

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Carl Victory Michael Reece

Current home town: Hamilton, Ohio

Age:67

My name is Victory.

My name is Carl Victory Michael Reece. I am 67 years of age now. I was born on August 15, 1945. It was V-J Day (Victory over Japan) and the end of the Second World War. I remember my Dad saying the “War to end all Wars.” I was born to Carl and Gladys Reece. I cannot say enough about them and the love they had for my brothers and me.

My dad was a technical sergeant in the Army Air Corp, and was overseas when I was born. He received a telegram that all was well and he was a new Father. He wanted me to be named Michael, but back here as the story goes, Mom and Grandma added Carl to my name. Then there was a nurse who said “why you don’t name him ‘Victory’ because of the end of the war?” Well, that got added on too.

Of course I heard stories about the war. I know Dad went to Tennessee for boot camp and Mom stayed back here with her Mother. Then when he started moving around, Mom would take the train to his base. I think he was stationed in Nebraska, Washington and California. My Father was in technical training for electrician on the B-29 Super Fortress.

One of the stories I remember is married couples could stay off base. I think it was in Nebraska where they lived in the basement of this house with other soldiers and their wives. A family rented out their house and the basement was separated by curtains. Love was strong in my parents and respect for others was there in that basement.

After my Dad was shipped out overseas, Mom came back to live with her Mother. He was shipped out from Fairmont Army Air Field in Nebraska. I remember him going to several small islands like Tinian, Guam and Saipan. His letters to Mom were sometimes formatted to read “I am being shipped out but I can’t tell you where but everything is okay.” We never heard the bad stories about loneliness, separation, physical trials and danger, but they were there in his letters. He was swimming off one of the islands somewhere and he got caught up in the coral reef and tore his back. He got coral poisoning and had to be hospitalized. I remember Dad talking about the caves around the shore in the islands. The enemy would hide in the caves and pose a danger to the soldiers.

My Mother had four brothers that served also. My Uncle Ken was in the Coast Guard as a radio operator. He had a wooden leg, but he could shimmy up the side of the ship as well as anybody. My Uncle Junior was in the Navy. My Uncle Jerry was in the Navy also and Uncle Jack served in the Army.

When I was born they sent me a spent shell from a ship and marked it with my birth information punched into the metal. I also received a bayonet and bullet belt and I still treasure all of these. Mom and Dad bought me Disney war bonds for my first Christmas. There are other stories but I know that all

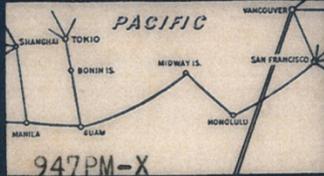
these men wanted after the war was to come home and raise their families. I always wondered why I was named 'Victory' and was it destined to happen for some reason. I always tried to hide the name but with age I am proud to have this part of me and proud of our country, that this country was built in belief of God and Victory in Christ and this makes us strong.

There is a quote from one of Dad's Army books, "Your Victory," that reads: "Your Victory came because you fought and worked for it unceasingly against terrible odds. Now you must preserve that victory so that your nation may benefit by what you have done."



My parents: Carl and Gladys Reece

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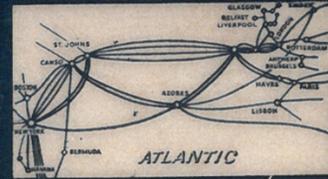


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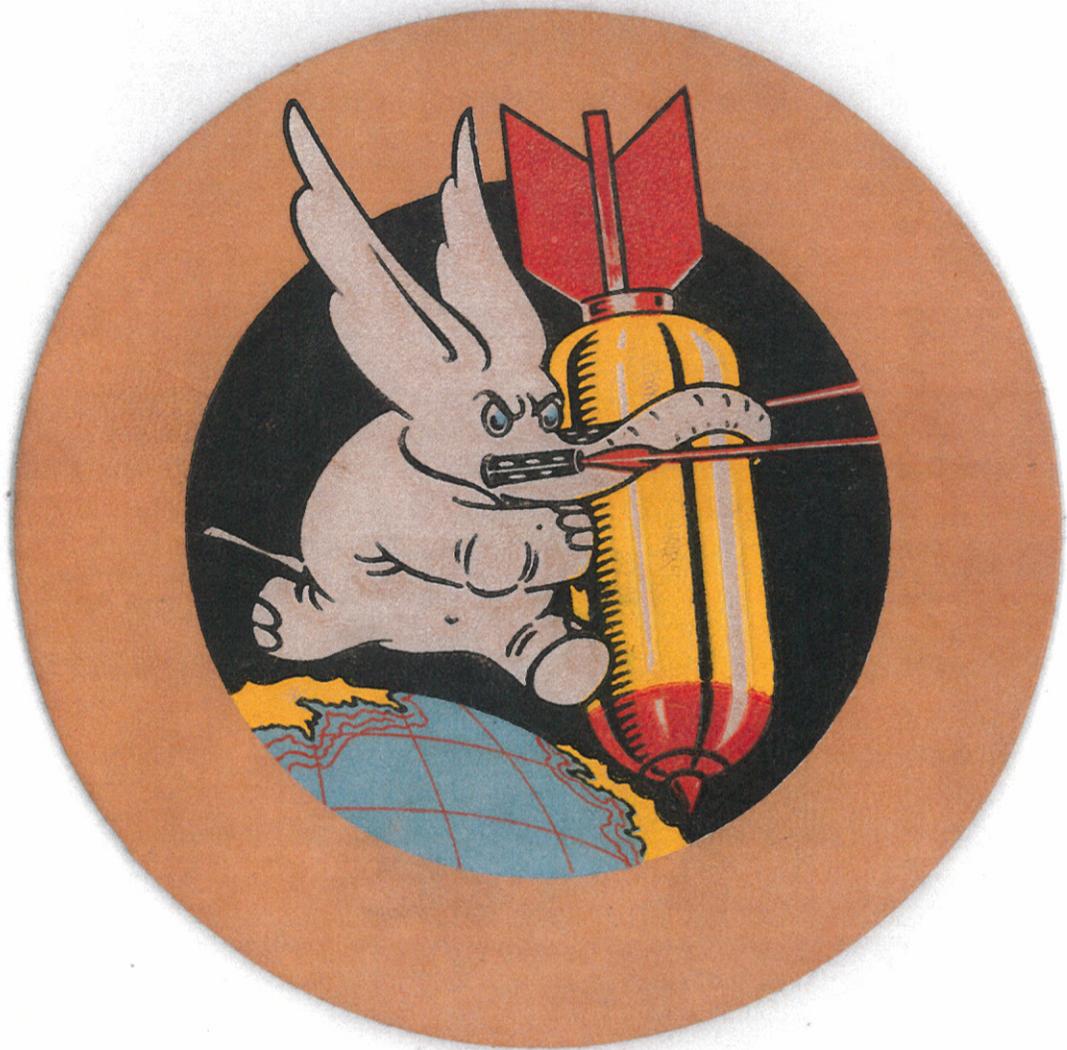
EFM CARL O REECE 35473153

AUG 18 1945

AM WEA G'AM

SON BORN ALL WELL AND SAFE BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RETURN.

MRS CARL REECE





398th Bomb
Squadron,
504th Bomb
Group,
B17, B29, PTO

With Christmas Greetings

and

Best Wishes for the New Year