



Photo: War in the Pacific National Historical Park National Archive and Historic Photo Collection

Photographic evidence of B-29 nose art will be used to interpret a vital part of the history of the United States in the Pacific during World War II.

## Generous donors provide photographic record of World War II in the Pacific

In June, William H. Long, a WWII veteran, contacted the web designer of the American Memorial Park's website and informed him that he had several photographs from his experiences during his service in the Pacific during WWII. The web designer on Saipan then forwarded William Long's message to the War in the Pacific's Museum Curator, Tammy Duchesne. About the same time that Long had emailed the web designer, Duchesne had applied for a grant to develop a WWII website for WAPA. After receiving the forwarded email, Duchesne was very interested to see the photos and thought that these photos might be great assets for the proposed website.

Over the course of a couple weeks, Duchesne and Long emailed each other and Long provided scanned images of some of the photos from his scrapbook. Long's scrapbook included many photos of nose art and civilian life on Saipan. The scanned photographs that were emailed to Duchesne were beautiful and very interesting.

After some deliberation, Long generously decided to donate his scrapbook and its almost 100 photos to War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam. Long's donation will enable people from all over the world to see what the Pacific looked like dur-



Photo courtesy of William Long

William and Joan Long have contributed to the important historical artifact collection at War in the Pacific National Historical Park. Mr. Long hasn't changed all that much in the 60 years since the war, as can be seen in the lower left-hand photo on page 25.

ing WWII in 1944.

In addition to generously deciding to donate the scrapbook and all its contents, Long was also kind enough to agree to be interviewed. The audio tape containing his oral history will be placed in WAPA's oral history collection which will allow future researchers and historians the opportunity to hear the first-hand accounts and memories of someone who was integral in the Liberation of Guam.

William Long and his beautiful wife Joan

met Duchesne in New Orleans where Long described the photos and detailed his experiences while serving in the Pacific during the war. The meeting between Bill and Tammy was long awaited and the memories that were created will last even longer. Photographic resources and first hand accounts of WWII will be preserved forever, as will the meaningful friendship that evolved from this meeting.

Long's irreplaceable photographs from 1944 will be carefully protected in the museum collection while selected images from Long's scrapbook will be included on the Park's upcoming website. In addition to using web-media to share these images with the public, War in the Pacific NHP, American Memorial Park, and the Arizona Museum Memorial Association are exploring the possibilities of using aircraft art images from the Long photo collection to develop a traveling trunk exhibit which can be easily assembled, displayed, transported, and sent among different venues and exhibit halls in Guam, Saipan, Micronesia, Hawaii, the US Mainland, and other interested geographies.

While War in the Pacific NHP remains without a museum and American Memorial Park waits for its museum to be constructed, this traveling trunk exhibit will provide people with the opportunity to view and to appreciate the museum collection photographs. The corresponding text will interpret the history behind the aircraft art or "nose art" phenomenon. In addition to these images gracing a traveling exhibit and interpreting a portion of WWII, aviation, and Pacific history, these images will also be used on mugs and merchandise items in both the park's bookstores. These images, which used to grace B-29 bombers, can now accentuate various merchandise items so that veterans and park visitors can remember or reflect on an art-form that was popular on the runways and airfields of bases throughout the Pacific and European theater during the Second World War.

Thanks to Bill Long's scrapbook donation, a traveling exhibit will educate people at different venues and sites while merchandise objects will allow veterans, historians, park visitors, and nostalgia-seekers the ability to take a part of WWII history home with them to remind them of the history they learned at War in the Pacific, American Memorial Park, or at one of the venues that hosted the traveling exhibit. This cooperative venture shows how while museum collections are kept under tight lock and key, creative and innovative ideas and strategies can be used to make collection items available and accessible to teach history in non-traditional methods and eye-catching venues.

*Other recent donations to  
War in Pacific NHP:*

Glenn Sherrill of Moab, Utah, a National Park Service ranger at Canyonlands National Park donated 35 photos and three oral history tapes. These photos belonged to Glenn's father Mack Sherrill who served in the 28th photo reconnaissance squadron and these images detail Mack Sherrill's time on Saipan. Glen also donated three oral history tapes which were recorded in 1996 and detail his father's personal experiences while serving in the Pacific Theater of WWII; Mack served in various locations throughout the Pacific including Kwajalein and Saipan.

Bob Blair of Allison Park, PA, donated two aerial photos from 1944 which show the current location of War in the Pacific National Historical Park and an additional 43 images from the island of Guam taken during the year following the liberation of the island. Among the photos are images of servicemen, artillery, fortifications, the destruction left by the war, B-29s on Guam, the Marine camp, and the villages and scenery of Guam. Blair served on Guam for 18 months and was part of the 134th NCB (trucking) unit. Blair also donated a map of Guam from 1945.



*Photographs  
from the  
William H. Long  
Collection*



Photos from the Glenn Sherrill Collection.