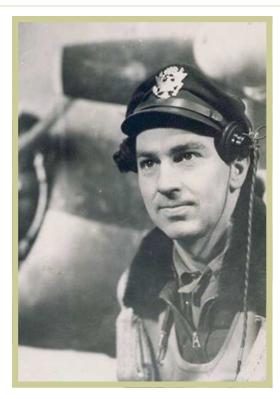
Ralph Bush

US Air Force Illinois Air National Guard



Ralph Bush WW II US Air Force Illinois Air National Guard

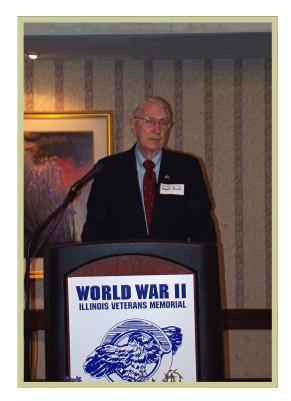
I enlisted in the Army Air Corps on March 14, 1941 at Middletown, Pennsylvania and was commissioned 2nd Lt on October 31, 1941 at Albany, Georgia. At the Advanced Flying School in Stockton, California, I became an instructor of future pilots. At the Army Air Field at Smyrna, Tennessee, I received training as a B-24 pilot and was sent overseas with the 8th Air Force, 34th Bomb Group in April, 1944.

The 34th Bomb Group was stationed at Mendelsham, England, Station 156 from which my crew and I flew 20 missions in a B-24. We were over Utah Beach on D-Day. We also flew 10 missions over France and Germany in a B-17 bomber. We made it back many times with damage to our plane and injured crewmen. On major bombing missions heading toward Germany, I could see as many as 1200

bombers streaming through the skies as far as you could see. It was a sight I'll never forget.

I was discharged on September 6, 1945 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, but decided to make the Air Force my career. I joined the Illinois Air National Guard and later became Commander of the 183rd Fighter Group at Springfield, Illinois. I had served a total of 37 years in the military on my retirement. My wife Ruth and I have lived in Springfield for many years.

Ralph Bush Springfield, IL



Ralph Bush