



495th Bomber Squadron



B-26 Bomber

**Walter Grim Greenawalt**  
**Master Sergeant U.S. Army Air Corps**  
**2 March 1942 – 16 November 1945**

Walter was born on 18 September 1911 in Pleasant Corner, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. His family later moved to Monterey and then to Kutztown Route 1 in Berks County, Pennsylvania, where they worked on local farms. Walter attended grades 1-6 at Hottenstein School, grades 7-8 at Mill Creek School, and graduated from Kutztown High School in 1929. In 1933, he went to work for Carl R. Bieber in Kutztown, delivering iron castings produced at the Kutztown Foundry to machine shops in Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York by tractor-trailer. On 23 May 1941, Walter went to work as a Mechanic and Assembler at Mack Trucks in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He was drafted into the Army Air Corps as a Private on 2 March 1942 in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, and was sent to the Air School at Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi, for one month basic training and 19 weeks training as an Airplane Mechanic. He was then assigned to Lakeland, Florida, for duty as an Airplane Mechanic. While at Lakeland, Walter rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant and became an Airplane Technician and Crew Chief for twin-engine Martin B-26 Marauder Bombers. He left for overseas on 20 January 1944, arriving on 20 February 1944 in Stansted, England, where he was assigned to the 495th Bomber Squadron, 344th Bomber Group, as a Crew Chief Mechanic. Initially, the B-26 aircraft he serviced flew strategic bombing missions from Stansted prior to, during, and after the landings at Normandy. As the war on the Continent progressed, they relocated to and flew bombing missions out of Cormeilles-en-Vexin, France, from September 1944 to April 1945, and Florennes/Juziane, Belgium, from April to the end of the war in Europe in May 1945. The Squadron remained in Europe on occupation duty, first in Belgium until September 1945, and then in Germany at an airfield near Schlessheim. Walter returned to the States on 11 November 1945, and was discharged as a Master Sergeant four days later at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. In addition to his campaign medals and World War II Victory Medal, Walter was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He returned to work for Mack Trucks until retiring on 30 September 1976. Walter married **Alma Wilhelmina Rauch** (24 May 1916 – 13 May 1953) on June 15, 1946, at Zion Lehigh Union Church in Lower Macungie Township. They settled in Weilersville in Lower Macungie Township. In 1960, Walter married **Arlene Mandilla Marcks** (29 September 1913 – 21 April 2002) on 5 March 1960 in Jordan United Church of Christ in Walberts, Pennsylvania. He and Arlene lived in Chapmans, Pennsylvania, until 1963, when they built a house on Schantz Road in Upper Macungie Township. He became a member of Western Lehigh Lions and Lehigh Masonic Lodge #326 for about 48 years. He also became a long-time member of Lehigh Consistory, Rajah Temple, in Reading, Pennsylvania; the Kutztown, Fogelsville and Wescosville Fire Companies; and Zion's Union Church in Maxatawny, Pennsylvania. Walter's parents were **Morris Franklin Greenawalt** (29 June 1882 – 7 February 1962) and **Martha Amelia Grim** (13 July 1882 – 9 July 1969). Walter's three brothers, **Robert Morris**, **William Joseph**, and **Richard Jacob**, also served in the Army during World War II.