



Horace's B-24 Air Crew
Horace on Lower Left



Horace Paul Eisenhard
Staff Sergeant U.S. Army Air Force
8 December 1942 – 21 October 1945



2nd Infantry 5th Air Force



B-24 Liberator



Geraldine Horace
Eric – 1972



Horace was born at home on 17 April 1922 on Quarry Road in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, to **George Washington Daniel Eisenhard** (27 Dec 1902 – 17 Jun 1954) and **Susan M. Danko** (6 June 1901 – 8 May 1985). After attending grade school in Alburdis, Pennsylvania, from 1928 to 1937, Horace worked for his father hauling, bagging and delivering coal from their home on Quarry Road. In 1939, Horace went to work for Lehigh Slag Company in Alburdis as a Truck driver until 1940, and then for Traylor Engineering Company in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as an Assembler and Welder until he entered the Army. Horace was drafted into the Army as a Private on 8 December 1942. After he was inducted at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, he was ordered to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, for basic training and was then assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division. After a 15-day furlough in June 1943, during which his daughter **Gloria Jean** was born, Horace reported in at Fort Custer, Michigan, for a short while before being transferred to Baco Raton, Florida, where he drove refueling trucks for C-47, B-24, and B-17 aircraft. He then was reassigned to Scott Field in Illinois, where he attended Radio Operator School. On 14 September 1944, he was transferred to Harlington, Texas, for five weeks



for Aerial Gunnery School, and then to March Field near Riverside, California, for Crew Training on the B-24 "Liberator" Heavy Bomber as a Turret Gunner until February 1945. His next assignment was at Hamilton Field near San Francisco, California, where he was assigned to an Air Crew and ordered to deliver his airplane to the Far East Air Forces (later re-designated 5th Air Forces) Combat and Training Center on Berokoe Drome, Biak, a small island near the northern coast of Papua, Indonesia. From there Horace flew B-24 bombing missions as a Lower Ball Gunner in the 531st Squadron, 380th Bomber Group ("The Flying Circus"), bombing oil fields on Borneo, and later from Mindoro in the Philippines to bomb targets on Formosa. The 380th distinguished itself by flying 10 - 12 hour missions — the longest bombing missions of the war. Horace served in the Pacific Theater from 18 April 1945 until 9 October 1945, when he returned to the States for separation at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, on 21 October 1945. He was discharged there as a Staff Sergeant and was awarded the Air Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal (w/5 bronze stars), and the Philippine Liberation Medal. Horace then returned to Trexlertown, Pennsylvania, and resumed working for Traylor engineering until 1947, when he went to work for Nothstein Excavating & Trucking Company in Trexlertown as an Equipment Operator until he retired in 1986. Horace married **Geraldine May Nothstein** (born 21 May 1923) on 13 December 1942 in St. Paul's Union Church in Trexlertown. They lived with Geraldine's parents until 1947, and then moved to Brookside Road in Wescosville. In 1967, they moved to Breinigsville, Pennsylvania, and in 2003 relocated to Bushkill Township, Pennsylvania. In addition to their daughter, Horace and Geraldine had a son, **Eric Paul**. Horace became a life member of VFW 8282 in Breinigsville; Wescosville Fire Company; and Rural Sportsmen's Association in Trexlertown. He also became a member of Masonic Lodge 326 in 1968.