

Robert Roy Shearer – Co-Pilot - MIA

After a difficult search, Jim Hendershot located Robert Shearer eldest daughter, Sandy. She provided the following information:

He was a substitute co-pilot on his sixth mission the day his plane and crew were lost. He was in the hospital awaiting surgery to remove his tonsils when he was released to fly this mission. Also, Sandy has a letter from Lloyd Peacock indicating the plane was named Miss G.I.

We have not been able to determine the reason that why Lt. R. Blanor, who trained with the crew in Louisiana, was replaced.



Lt. Robert Shearer – 1944

Submitted by Sandra F. (Shearer) Meredith January 2002

My father was born in April of 1921 in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, the only child of Roy A. Shearer (1901-1975) and Florence N. (Bish) Shearer (1902-1997). He was born in the farmhouse of his paternal grandparents and lived there, for the first 5 years of his life, with his parents, grandparents and five aunts and uncles. When it was time for him to enter school his parents moved into the small town of Kittanning. I know very little about my father and his life during his school years except that he loved hunting and fishing with his father and uncles and played the trombone in the Kittanning Boys Band. He was apparently rather good because some years later when I took flute lessons from the same instructor, he informed me that I had inherited none of my father's musical talent. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and attended services regularly with his mother.

After graduating from Kittanning High School in June of 1939 he went to work for the Joseph S. Finch Company at Schenley Distillers Corp. in Ford City, PA and in his spare time, helped out at his father's Gulf Service Station.

My parents were married on January 2, 1941. My mother, Betty Jane Flick, was from Pittsburgh and the granddaughter of the Shearers next-door neighbor. I was born, Sandra Florence, on May 13, 1942 and we lived in Ford City near my dad's place of employment.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps. in November 1942 and left for Cadet training in Miami FL the following February. From there he was transferred to Center College, Danville, KY for preflight training and earned classification for pilot training in Nashville, Tenn. He then reported to Army Air Forces Preflight School at Maxwell Field, Ala., spent 2 months in Camden, Ark. for primary pilot training and went to Walnut Ridge, Ark. for 2 months of basic flight training. In December of 1943 he was transferred to Blythville, Ark. for advanced flying school. He wrote to his mother that he was hoping for twin engine fighter training but would be contented if assigned to bomber training.



*Robert and Betty Jane Shearer
and Daughter Sandra – May 1942*

During my father's months of training my mother and I followed him from town to town, often living in only one room, just so we could be together on the weekends. I have no memory of my father, but am grateful for that time together because, in the letters he wrote home to his parents, he described the delight he took in being with me. My mother and I returned home to Kittanning when my dad left for Blythville, Ark. because she was expecting their second child. Carol Sue (Susie) was born on January 30, 1944.

On Feb. 8, 1944 my father was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant and received the silver wings of a pilot at Blythville Army Airfield in Arkansas. He returned home that month for his first and only leave.

2nd Lt. Robert R. Shearer reported for duty in England with the 422nd Bomber Squadron 305 Bomber Group. He died on July 21, 1944, at the age of 23, while flying his sixth mission.

My mother remarried in 1946 and with her 2nd husband, Paul D. (Bucky) Buchanan, had six more children. They lived in or around Kittanning, PA until 1962 when they moved to Tampa, Florida. Mother died in November of 1999 in a Nursing Home in Atlanta, GA after a ten-year illness.



Betty Jane Shearer Buchanan and Eight Children – Photo Taken in 1995

Row 1 - Betty Jane and Richard Buchanan

*Row 2 – Patricia McRae, Deborah Whisner, Paula D’Avanza, Susan Steinberg,
Sandra Meredith, Penny Schendler and Kimberly Bearden*

I married William G. Meredith in 1960 and we have three sons. Robert lives in Eastern Ohio and has two daughters, Tricia (a second year student at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington) and Mallory. Douglas lives in Western Pennsylvania and has two children, Marissa and Matthew. Timothy lives in Northern Florida and is not yet married. Bill and I moved from New Castle, PA to Virginia Beach in 1998.

Susan (Carol Sue) lives in Atlanta, GA with her husband, Dr. David Steinberg. She has one daughter, Jennifer, and two granddaughters, Caroline and Virginia.

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