

Eyewitness to Evil

The Reverend George Chassey

22 September 1921--George Chassey was born in Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

1938--He graduated from Bridgewater High School, MA.

Chassey attended 1 year at Bridgewater State College, then enlisted.



George Chassey (approximately 21 years old).

29 December 1941--He enlisted in the air force (after attack at Pearl Harbor); first trained at Fort Devens, MA.

1942--Chassey attended basic training in Missouri.

1942--He was assigned as original crew chief of 353rd Fighter Squadron of the 354 Fighter group. Their aircraft was the P51 Mustang.



November--June, 1943--Chassey was stationed at Hamilton Field outside of San Francisco and at the air base in Santa Rosa, CA.

13 January 1943--He married Mary Hildreth in the chapel on Hamilton Field.

1943--Tonopah, Nevada was where the 354th Fighter Group spent 6 weeks on the bombing and gunnery range.

June--October, 1943--Chassey was stationed at air base in Portland, Oregon.

October, 1943--He traveled by troop train to Camp Kilmer, NJ for deployment overseas to England, France, and Germany.

1 December 1943--The Groups's first mission was from an airfield near Colchester, England. It was a fighter sweep across what would become the invasion coast. The primary mission from England was to protect the B-17s and B-24s as they penetrated the Third Reich to pound Hitler's Germany in preparation for the invasion that was to come, on 6 June 1944.



"A" flight crew chiefs, with George near the center, standing.



Normandy, 1944, landing strip.

14 June 1944--George Chassey landed on Omaha Beach (Normandy) with twenty other officers and enlisted men to make an airbase operational.

15 June 1944--The Fighter Group flew the first fighter missions from French soil from an air field one mile inland from Omaha Beach. From there the squadron moved across France on a great number of missions, giving air support to Gen. Patton's Third Army.

March, 1945--The decision was made to move the base from France to Ober Olm in Germany. It was felt to be a better position to give General Patton's Third Army continued tactical support. It happened that the Ohrdruf Concentration Camp was located close to this position.