



## *8<sup>th</sup> Air Force 388<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group 562<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Squadron*

*Technical Sergeant John A. M. Schweikert - United States Army Air Corps.*

*John Arthur Schweikert was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 30<sup>th</sup> 1923. He lived there with his family until 1930 when they moved to Union City, New Jersey. In the early 1940's just before the war began, the Schweikert family moved once more to North Arlington, Bergen County, New Jersey. John was one of four brothers that served during WW-II. \*\**



*John in his flight suit - England 1944*

*John, 19 years old, ASN-32762089, entered the United States Army from Fort Dix, New Jersey, on February 10<sup>th</sup> 1943. Private John Schweikert was selected by the Army for the United States Army Air Corps. He took his basics at the "Basic Training Center Number 9" in Miami Beach, Florida. He was assigned to the 1142<sup>nd</sup> Technical School, Squadron Flight 533, Army Air Force Technical Training Corps. (Abbreviated for the U.S. mail as A.A.F.T.T.C.)*

*In early April 1943, after John completed his Army Air Corps basic training. He also earned his certificate as a qualified airplane mechanic from the Army Air Forces Technical School. John next found himself in Kingman, Arizona. Here he was assigned to the 2nd Student Training Squadron, Army Air Force F.G.S.*

*In a letter to his father, dated April 16<sup>th</sup> 1943 from Kingman, Arizona, John describes a high altitude test in a pressure chamber. They ascend to 8,000 feet with an objective to reach 20,000 feet and then parachute to earth. "Gee, my ears are feeling funny, we have to keep swallowing to keep them open. We are now at 20,000 feet and leveling off. Now that we've reached 20,000 feet, we will continue on to 25,000 feet, at this height it is now getting much harder to breathe ! It's alright now though, I guess that they are not going to parachute us down. Oh, Oh ! we are at 30,000 feet with 8,000 more to go, and I still don't feel so bad. We are now at 38,000 feet and I am burping and farting like anything. Well I did not get the "bends", but coming down, the pressure on my ears nearly drove me crazy. But I passed the test ! I thought that you might be interested in our reaction, at low pressure, before I went in, my pulse was 84, at 30,000 feet it was 94." Love, John*

*In April of 1944, after the entire crew finished their year of training. They left for England, flying in their B-17 "Flying Fortress". At wars' end John had logged 250 hours of combat flying over Germany, France and Italy. Technical Sergeant, John A. M. Schweikert flew 30 combat missions. On D-Day his flight crew flew 3 missions in a 36 hour period. He was awarded the Air Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star medal. During the war John served on B-17s as a right waist gunner, left waist gunner, and as an engineer.*

*At the end of World War II, John sailed home from the port of LeHavre, France on the U.S.S. General W. P. Richardson. The ship left on April the 14<sup>th</sup> 1945 arriving at Staten Island, New York, April 29<sup>th</sup> 1945. Unbeknownst to each other, brothers Francis, a para-trooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, and John, were traveling home on the same ship together.*



*Tech/Sgt. John A. M. Schweikert*

Tech/Sergeant John A. M. Schweikert - 30 Missions - B-17 Flying Fortress - WW-II

8th Air Force - 388th Bomb Group H - 562nd Bomb Squadron

Mission	Group	Date	Target	Mission Hours	John's Position	B - 17 Pilot
1	128	4-Jun-44	Wissant, France	4:30	Right Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
2	130	5-Jun-44	Cape Gris Nez, France	5:20	Right Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
3	131	6-Jun-44	Cherbourg, France	7:50	Right Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
4	133	6-Jun-44	Pont L'Eveque, France	6:30	Right Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
5	136	10-Jun-44	Berck-Sur-Mer, France	4:00	Right Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
6	137	11-Jun-44	Pontaubault, France	7:00	Right Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
7	138	12-Jun-44	Amiens, France	7:30	Right Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
8	142	19-Jun-44	Cognac, France	6:20	Right Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
9	157	7-Jul-44	Bohlen, France	8:30	Left Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
10	159	11-Jul-44	Munich, Germany	10:00	Left Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
11	161	13-Jul-44	Munich, Germany	9:00	Left Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
12	168	24-Jul-44	Saint Lo, France	7:00	Right Waist Gunner	John W. Colburn
13	191	3-Sep-44	Brest, France	6:40	Engineer	W. T. White
14	201	25-Sep-44	Ludwigshaven, Germany	8:00	Engineer	Brinegar
15	222	6-Nov-44	Ludwigshaven, Germany	8:30	Engineer	D. Ong
16	237	24-Dec-44	Darmstadt, Germany	5:55	Engineer	D. Ong
17	238	28-Dec-44	Koblenz, Germany	7:40	Engineer	D. Ong
18	240	31-Dec-44	Hamburg, Germany	7:05	Engineer	D. Ong
19	243	6-Jan-45	Ludwigshaven, Germany	7:00	Engineer	D. Ong
20	246	10-Jan-45	Cologne, Germany	6:15	Engineer	D. Ong
21	248	15-Jan-45	Augsburg, Germany	9:00	Engineer	D. Ong
22	250	21-Jan-45	Mannheim, Germany	7:40	Engineer	D. Ong
23	254	6-Feb-45	Chemnitz, Germany	10:00	Engineer	D. Ong
24	257	15-Feb-45	Cottbus, Germany	9:00	Engineer	D. Ong
25	260	20-Feb-45	Nurnburg, Germany	8:45	Engineer	D. Ong
26	263	23-Feb-45	Ansbach, Germany	8:15	Engineer	D. Ong
27	265	25-Feb-45	Munich, Germany	8:00	Engineer	D. Ong
28	267	27-Feb-45	Leipzig, Germany	8:30	Engineer	D. Ong
29	269	2-Mar-45	Dresden, Germany	9:35	Engineer	D. Ong
30	273	8-Mar-45	Langendreer, Germany	7:00	Engineer	D. Ong



Technical Sergeant John A. Schweikert became a member of the Lucky Bastard Club on March 8, 1945. He eventually flew 30 missions.





New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal recipient John Schweikert is congratulated by his wife Virginia and their grandchildren, and Maj. Gen. Paul J. Glazar, who presented the award.

## Schweikert wins Service Medal

**NORTH ARLINGTON** — The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal was presented to John Schweikert of North Arlington by Maj. Gen. Paul J. Glazar, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, in a ceremony held at the Woodbridge Armory Nov. 18.

The distinguished Service Medal is the state's top military award. In order to be eligible to receive it, a veteran must be a

current resident of New Jersey who resided in the state at the time they entered into military service, served during wartime, was honorably discharged and awarded the Air Medal, Purple Heart or Bronze Star. New Jersey has 335,000 veterans but fewer than 1500 Distinguished Service Medals have been awarded because of the combat service requirements for eligi-

bility.

Technical Sgt. Schweikert served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, flying 30 missions with the 8th Air Force out of a base in England, as an engineer top-turret gunner on a B-17 bomber — a "flying fortress." He later served in the US Air Force Reserve from 1948-52, and was honorably discharged.

*In April of 1999 John was honored by his North Arlington, New Jersey community.*

*John spent five years in the United States Air Force Reserves serving from 1948 through 1952.*

*He served several terms as commander of his local New Jersey "Veterans of Foreign Wars" post.*

*John A. M. Schweikert passed away on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2001, at his home in North Arlington, Bergen County, New Jersey.*

### Schweikert Trains At Miami Beach



John Schweikert

Private John A. Schweikert, of 68 Birchwood drive, North Arlington, has been selected for advanced training with the Air Forces and has been transferred from the Miami Beach, Fla. base to Arizona for courses in an aerial gunners school.

### Staff Sgt. Schweikert Is Cited Again

Staff Sgt. John A. M. Schweikert, 21, waist gunner, formerly of Union City, who has been awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal, previously won, is now stationed at an Eighth Air Force bomber station, England.



Sgt. Schweikert, while on duty in Italy, served as an altar boy at a mass celebrated in Rome by Archbishop Spellman, when the latter made a recent visit to that place.

John A. Schweikert He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Schweikert, of 68 Birchwood drive, North Arlington.

He was a member of St. Anthony's Church, Union City, and attended Emerson High School. His Oak Leaf Cluster award is for "meritorious achievement in bombing attacks on Nazi war industries and military targets." He received the Air Medal last June.

PROMOTED



T/Sgt. John A. Schweikert

## John A. Schweikert Earns Promotion In Air War

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Schweikert, of 68 Birchwood drive, North Arlington, formerly of Union City, have received word of the promotion of their son John A. Schweikert serving with the 8th Air Force in England, to the rank of technical sergeant.

Three other sons in the service are Pfc. F. X. in France with an Airborne division; Staff Sgt. Harry, also in France and Marine Sgt. V. G., in the Pacific.

Sgt. Schweikert had won the Air Medal and several Oak Leaf Clusters since his entrance into the air war over Europe.

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He was a member of St. Anthony's Church, Union City, and attended Emerson High School. His Oak Leaf Cluster award was for "meritorious achievement in bombing attacks on Nazi war industries and military targets." He received the Air Medal last June.



**\*\* John's brothers who served during WW-II.**

Harry A. Schweikert (1919-1981) served with 410th Infantry Regiment, and the 3rd Infantry Division as a 1st Lieutenant.

Vincent J. Schweikert (1921-1998) served as a Marine in the Pacific Theatre for 29 months with the Marine Fleet Force.

Francis X. Schweikert (1925-1978) served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, G Company.



Sgt. Vincent Schweikert  
Special Weapons Group  
4th Defense Bn. - USMC

Cpl. Francis X. Schweikert  
82nd Airborne Div.  
505th PIR - Co. G

T/Sgt. John Schweikert  
388th Bomb Group  
Army Air Corps

1945

Vincent - Francis - John - 1945