

Lois and Elwood Klase

The Early Years and World War Two



New Orleans - August 1942

My parents:

Your grand parents, great-grand parents. Aunt Lois and Uncle Elwood

Lois Sophia Roth – 1917- 2000

Eldest of 4 children:

Lois Jean, Foster, Joyce

Elwood Harrison Klase - 1917-1987

Youngest of 5 children:

Gertrude, Thelma, Margret, Lucretia, Elwood

(Birth order has a profound effect on our personalities!)

(I was their first-born “Baby-Boom” child in 1947)

Al Klase

4 Aug 2026

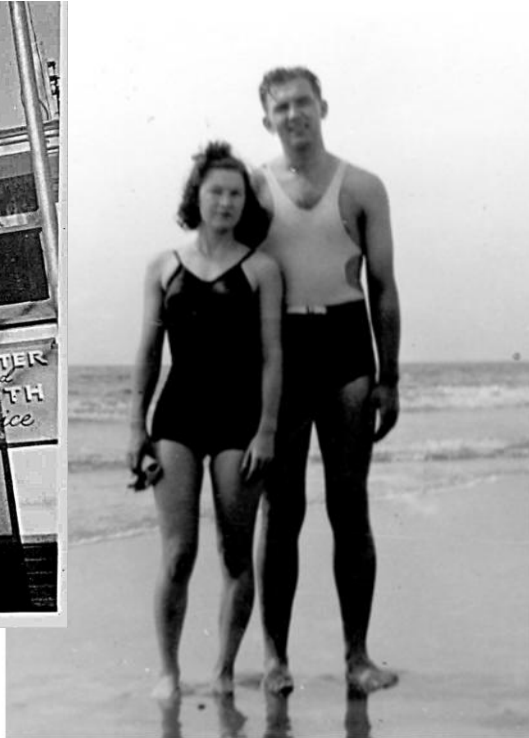
Lois and Elwood

- Lois and Elwood met sometime in 1938-39
 - Dad was probably working at Hazleton Diner, 225 W. Broad St. and living at the Hazleton YMCA 210 W. Broad..
 - I think Mom worked at Woolworths (lunch counter?) down the street from the YMCA.
- Dad's draft Registration 16 Oct 1940

SERIAL NUMBER 2190		1. NAME (Print) ELWOOD HARRISON KLASÉ		ORDER NUMBER 1480
2. ADDRESS (Print) 210 W. BROAD HAZLETON LUZERNE PA.				
3. TELEPHONE 9136	4. AGE IN YEARS 23	5. PLACE OF BIRTH MESCOPECK	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S. of AMERICA	
DATE OF BIRTH HAZLETON 7 8 1917 PA.				
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS McWilliam Klase				
8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON FATHER				
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON Museanberg Schuylkill Penna				
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Elmer Leonard				
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 225 W. Broad Hazleton Luzerne Pa.				
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.				
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1		Elwood Klase (Registrant's signature)		

REGISTRAR'S REPORT				
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT				
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White	left 2 in	207	Sallow	r
	EYES	HAIR	Light	
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy	
	Gray	Red	Dark	
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled	
	Brown	Black	Light brown	
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown	
		Bald	Black	
Filipino				
Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification.....				
I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:				
Registrar for Eva A. Martin (Precinct) (Ward) 7th Hazleton Pa Date of Registration Oct 16, 1940				
LOCAL DRAFT BOARD SELECTIVE SERVICE Co. No. 1, Hazleton, Pa. M. J. Evansha, Chairman John W. Evansha, Secretary				

Lois and Elwood 1939



Atlantic City August



**Elwood Klase – Lois Roth Wedding
28 August 1942**



**Back yard
Roth Home
93 S, Pine St.
Hazleton**



Honeymooning in Gettysburg



Lois and Elwood

- **Dad drafted 27 May 1942**
- **Basic Training (where?)**
 - **The Army subjected everyone to aptitude tests, They took a look at his scores and sent him to train as an aircraft mechanic.**
 - **I think he was also offered Officer Candidate School but declined.**
 - **(Likewise, Uncle Kenneth Balliet, a farm boy, was made an aircraft mechanic in the Marine Corps.)**

The Draft

- **More than 16 million Americans, out of a population on 134 million, mostly men, served in the military during WWII.**
- **Some between the ages of 18 and 37 were conscripted while many other volunteered.**
- **So, the War affected everyone.**
- **The ones I remember:**
- **Mom's family,**
 - **Uncle Junior (Foster R.) Roth – Army Field Artillery**
 - **Uncle Kenny Balliet – Marime Corps**
 - **Uncle Donald Waldron – Army Signal Corps**
 - **Mom's cousin Harrison Kishbaugh – Killed at the Battle of the Bulge.**
- **Dad's Family:**
 - **Elwood Klase – Army Air Force**
 - **Uncle Troy Lindemuth – Army – Lost a leg.**
 - **I'm not sure about Uncle Albert Gross and Uncle Jim Hauze. They may have been too old.**

Lois and Elwood – New Orleans

- September 1942
 - A.A.F. T.T.C. (Army Air Force Technical Training Center) Class 1, 615 City Park Ave., New Orleans, LA
 - Mom followed Dad to New Orleans.
 - She roomed with the Martin family (Mae Martin) The Martins visited us in Lititz around 1960.
 - She was generally able to find employment at military base laundries (seamstress?) as a result of having worked at Henry Laundry in Hazleton. **(Great-grandfather Roth was married to Ruth Henry. Was there a family connection to Henry Laundry?)**

Dad's dog tag



“B” Blood Type

“P” Protestant

- Mom had type “O” blood and suggest their children might have “BO.” (Body Odor)

Lois and Elwood - Nashville

- **November 1942**
 - **Army Airforce Training Detachment, Vultee Aircraft Inc., Nashville, TN**
 - **Mom was also in Nashville.**
- **Seems Dad was home on leave Spring 1943. (See pix)**

March - April 1943

**On leave after training
in Nashville.**



Jim Hauze, Elwood, and Troy Lindenmuth



**I don't know whose car or what
happened. Maybe deer damage.**



Lucretia Lindenmuth
Shirly and Gert Hauze

Dad's sisters and niece.

Lois and Elwood – More Training

- 458th Bomb Group (B-24 aircraft)
 - The 458th Bombardment Group (Heavy) was activated on July 28, 1943, at **Gowen Field, Idaho.(Boise)**. It was comprised of four squadrons – the **752nd**, 753rd, 754th, and 755th.
 - I'm pretty sure Mom was in Boise.
 - In September the group moved to Wendover Field, Utah (**150 mile west of Salt Lake**) where most of the combat crews were assigned for training.
 - Mom was in Salt Lake.
 - In late October 1943, the group moved to **Tonopah, Nevada** for Combat Crew training which began on December 1, 1943.
 - Mom asked Dad if she could join him at Tonopah. He told her no, this place is so unpleasant that the Chaplain went over the hill (deserted).
 - She told the story of overhearing the same comment between two GI's on a bus later on.

Dad to England

- In early January 1944, having been assigned to the 8th USAAF, the group moved overseas to the European Theater of Operations (ETO). The aircrews picked up brand new B-24 Liberators and flew them individually via the Southern Ferry Route to England. **The ground echelon traveled via ship out of New York.** The first aircrews started arriving at the end of the month at their new base, Horsham St Faith in Norwich, a permanent RAF airfield built in 1939. It was hereafter known as AAF 123.
 - Dad was given a 24-hour liberty in NYC, and Mom went to visit him. Before they parted, Dad handed her a roll of bills, several hundred dollars. She felt guilty taking it as she knew he was making about \$50 month. Later she learn that he had played poker on the troop train all the way in from Nevada and had a lot more in his pocket.
- 752nd Squadron, 458th Bombardment Group, 8th USAAF at Horsham St. Faith, England

Another of Mom's Stories



The standard WWII officers dress uniform was an olive-drab “Eisenhower” jacket and beige trousers, known as “Greens and Pinks.”

Mom was working away in a base laundry and overheard the following from the counter:

I’m sorry sir. I can’t give you your pink pants unless you have your yellow slip.

Dad's B-24 "Final Approach"

**752nd Squadron, 458th Bombardment Group,
8th USAAF at Horsham St. Faith, Norwich, England**

- Dad was assigned as assistant ground-crew chief for "Final Approach."
- I got the impression that he was not close to the air-crew because he knew they might not come home from the next mission.
- They flew 100+ missions but were lost a month before VE-Day.
- Below info from the 458th Bomb Group website.

Hill, Howard R T/Sgt

Airplane &
Engine Mech 752

FR0886: 01-
Mar-45

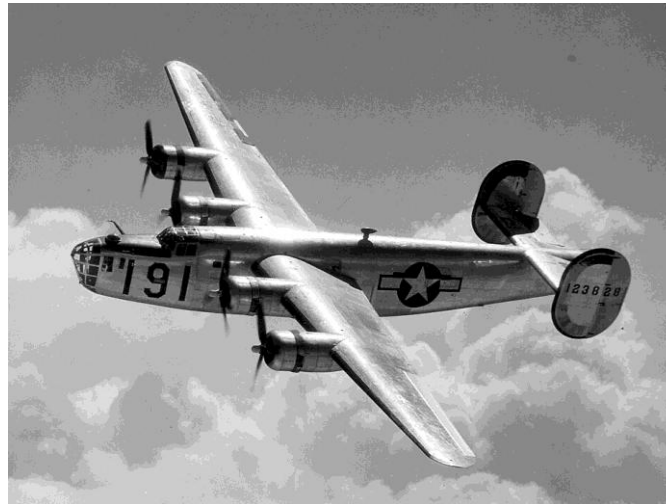
Crew Chief -
Final Approach
w/100+
missions

Klase, E H Sgt

752

FR0866: 01-
Feb-45

Asst Crew
Chief to Sgt
Hill



B-24 - FILE PHOTO

Final Approach

- (serial number 42-52457) nicknamed "Final Approach"

Name	Block	Mfg	Serial No.	SQ	RCL	Comments
FINAL APPROACH	B-24H-15	FO	42-52457	7V	Q	LOST - 9 APR 45

War ended in Europe 8 May 1945



One of Dad's Stories

- Aircraft engines generally have dual ignition systems (two spark plugs per cylinder) to ensure reliability.
- The B-24 was powered by four Pratt & Whitney R-1830 Twin Wasp engines with 14 cylinders each.
- Before flight you run each engine up to full power and switch between the two ignition systems checking for problems.
- One day Final Approach was out on the flight line preparing to fly another mission, but they detected a miss in one of the engines. Dad and his helpers changed all 28 spark plugs in about 10 minutes, and they flew the mission.



Final Mission

- Final Approach crash 9 Apr 1945
 - Scroll down to: “On the 9th “
 - Dad was safe on the ground back in England.
- Complete Crash Report w/PIX
- Two of the gunners killed. The others spent a short time in a prison camp.



Final Approach with fire in number-2 engine over Lechfeld, Germany

After V.E, Day

- The group was reassigned to March Field, California (50 miles east of LA) in August (1945) with the goal of transitioning to the B-29 Superfortress and joining the fight against Japan. Before training could begin the war in the Pacific came to an end and the group was deactivated on September 15, 1945.
- Dad was assigned to B-29's possibly at Wendover, UT
 - Did Mom go back to Salt Lake?
- Dad discharged 18 Sep 1945

Links

- <https://458bg.com/>
- [Final Approach crash](#) 9 Apr 1945
- <https://aircrewremembered.com/abramowitz-leonard.html> Complete Crash Report w/PIX
- VE-Day 8 May 1945 (War ends in Europe)

From the National Personnel Records Center

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

1 ARCHIVES DRIVE ST LOUIS, MO 63138-1002
www.archives.gov



November 20, 2024

ALAN KLADE
110 GIFFORD AVE.
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07304

RE: **Veteran's Name: KLADE, Elwood H**
SSN/SN: ***151**
Request Number: 2-30129694765

Dear Recipient:

Thank you for contacting the National Personnel Records Center. We regret any confusion or concern experienced by the wording we use to explain the possibility of a record being destroyed in the fire at this Center. Unfortunately, we have no means of knowing for certain if a military record was destroyed in the fire, because the records were filed alphabetically and there were no lists or indices of what records were filed in the area where the fire occurred. In addition, there is a possibility that the records could have been out of file at the time of the fire, or never received. However, based on what we know about what records were stored in the area that suffered the most damage from the July 1973 fire, it is probable that the records cannot be located because they were destroyed.

We are enclosing NA Form 13038, **Certification of Military Service**. This document verifies military service and may be used for any official purpose. This response was delivered electronically. A watermark of the NARA emblem has been digitally applied in lieu of a raised seal and may serve any official purpose. This watermark has been affixed to the separation document(s) to attest to its authenticity. The information used to prepare the enclosed NA Form 13038 was obtained from an alternate record source. We regret that our response could not be more positive; however, we hope the information we have provided will be helpful.

If you have questions or comments regarding this response, you may contact us at 314-801-0800 or by mail at the address shown in the letterhead above. If you contact us, please reference the Request Number listed above. If you are a veteran, or a deceased veteran's next of kin, please consider submitting your future requests online by visiting us at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

Sincerely,

JACOB CROSKY
Expert Archives Technician (AFN-MC5C)



**We Value Our
Veterans' Privacy**
*Let us know if we have
failed to protect it.*

Please complete our on-line survey. We really want to know how we did answering your request. Go to www.archives.gov/veterans/survey and enter your request number 2-30129694765. The survey should only take a few minutes and is used to help improve service to our customers.



Certification of Military Service

This certifies that

Elwood H. Klase
202 05 1151 / 33 059 801

was a member of the

Army of the United States

from

May 27, 1942

to

September 28, 1945

Service was terminated by

Honorable Discharge

Last Grade, Rank, or Rating

Sergeant

Active Service Dates

Same As Above

Date of Birth: 7/9/1917 Place of Birth: Nescopeck, PA

Given at St. Louis, Missouri on 11/20/2024



THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN OF THIS PERSON'S MILITARY RECORD

This Certification of Military Service is issued in the absence of a copy of the actual Report of Separation or its equivalent. This document serves as verification of military service and may be used for any official purpose. Not valid without official seal.

Following is just backup info.

November 1942
Army Airforce Training Detachment
Class 7-43-A
Vlutee Aircraft Inc.
Nashville, TN

Sep 1942
A.A.F. T.T.C. Class 1
615 City Park Ave.
New Orleans, LA

Draft Card

Name	Elwood Harrison Klase
Birth Date	08 Jul 1917 (Actually 9 July 1917)
Birthplace	Nescopeck, Pennsylvania
Employer	Elmer Leonard
Complexion	Sallow
Race	White
Height	6 2
Weight	207
Eye Color	Gray
Hair Color	Brown
Relationship to Head of Household	Father
Relative's Name	<u>William Klase</u>
Event Type	Draft Registration
Event Date	16 Oct 1940
Event Place	Hazleton, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, United States
Event Place (Original)	Hazleton, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, United States
Affiliate Publication Number	563728
Affiliate Publication Title	World War II Draft Cards (Fourth Registration) for the State of Pennsylvania

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q29Z-JXQ6>

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 Employer Elmer Leonard
 Complexion Sallow
 Race White
 Height 6 2
 Weight 207
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 Hair Color Brown
 Relationship to Head of Household Father
 Relative's Name [William Klase](#)
 Event Type Draft Registration
 Event Date 16 Oct 1940
 Event Place Hazleton, Luzerne, Pennsylvania,
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 Event Place (Original) Hazleton, Luzerne, Pennsylvania,
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 Affiliate Publication Number 563728
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DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT			
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Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy
	Gray	Red	Dark
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled
	Brown	Black	Light brown
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown
		Red	Black
Philippine			

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification.

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrant for (Name) (Address) (City) (State) (Date of Registration)

16 Oct 1940

LOCAL DRAFT BOARD
 SELECTIVE SERVICE
 Co. No. 1, Hazleton, Pa.
 John J. Dvansha, Chairman
 John W. Dvansha, Secretary

Local Board No. 1
 Hazleton City

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wendover Air Force Base](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wendover_Air_Force_Base)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho World War II Army Airfields](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_World_War_II_Army_Airfields)
- <https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/AAF/VI/index.html#contents>

Time Line

- Draft Registration 16 Oct 1940
 - Probably working at Hazleton Diner 225 W. Broad St. and living Hazleton YMCA 210 W. Broad..
- Married Lois Roth 28 Aug 1941
- Drafted 27 May 1942
- Basic Training (where?)
- September 1942
 - A.A.F. T.T.C. Class 1, 615 City Park Ave., New Orleans, LA
- November 1942
 - Army Airforce Training Detachment, Vlutee Aircraft Inc., Nashville, TN
- 458th Bomb Group
 - The 458th Bombardment Group (Heavy) was activated on July 28, 1943, at Gowen Field, Idaho.(Boise) It was comprised of four squadrons – the 752nd, 753rd, 754th, and 755th.
 - In September the group moved to Wendover Field, Utah (150 mile west of Salt Lake) where most of the combat crews were assigned for training.
 - In late October 1943, the group moved to Tonopah, Nevada for Combat Crew training which began on December 1, 1943.
 - In early January 1944, having been assigned to the 8th USAAF, the group moved overseas to the European Theater of Operations (ETO). The aircrews picked up brand new B-24 Liberators and flew them individually via the Southern Ferry Route to England. The ground echelon traveled via ship out of New York. The first aircrews started arriving at the end of the month at their new base, Horsham St Faith in Norwich, a permanent RAF airfield built in 1939. It was hereafter known as AAF 123.
 - March Field, Calif, 21 Aug-17 Oct 1945.
- After V.E. Day
 - Was assigned to B-29's possibly at Wendover, UT

Training

<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/AAF/VI/AAF-VI-16.html>

aircraft maintenance, 461-64, 473-75,
629-37, 672-73;

At New Orleans, Louisiana,
the municipal airport, enthusiastically recommended as a station for
a heavy bombardment group, proved to have excessively short run-
ways when the group moved into the new post.

<https://www.navsource.org/Naval/usaaf.htm>

New Orleans Army Air Base (New Orleans Airport), New Orleans
30th Bombardment Group (Heavy) (June 1941)
2nd Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) (B-17)
21st Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) (A-29)
27th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) (A-29)
38th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) (B-18)

458th Bomb Group

- <https://www.americanairmuseum.com/archive/unit/458th-bomb-group>
- <https://www.8af.org/458th-bomb-group.cfm>
 - Stations. Wendover Field, Utah, 1 Jul 1943; Gowen Field, Idaho, 28 Jul 1943; Kearns, Utah, 11 Sep 1943; Wendover Field, Utah, 15 Sep 1943; Tonopah AAFld, Nev, 31 Oct-29 Dec 1943; Horsham St Faith, England, Jan 1944-14 Jun 1945; Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 12 Jul 1945; Walker AAFld, Kan, 25 Jul 1945; March Field, Calif, 21 Aug-17 Oct 1945.

Time Line

- Drafted 27 May 1942
- Basic Training (where?)
- The 458th Bombardment Group (Heavy) was activated on July 28, 1943, at **Gowen Field, Idaho.(Boise)** It was comprised of four squadrons – the **752nd**, 753rd, 754th, and 755th. In September the group moved to Wendover Field, Utah (**150 mile west of Salt Lake**) where most of the combat crews were assigned for training. In late October 1943, the group moved to **Tonopah, Nevada** for Combat Crew training which began on December 1, 1943. It was at this time that LtCol James H. Isbell was appointed as group commanding officer, a post at which he would remain until March 1945.
- In early January 1944, having been assigned to the 8th USAAF, the group moved overseas to the European Theater of Operations (ETO). The aircrews picked up brand new B-24 Liberators and flew them individually via the Southern Ferry Route to England. **The ground echelon traveled via ship out of New York.** The first aircrews started arriving at the end of the month at their new base, Horsham St Faith in Norwich, a permanent RAF airfield built in 1939. It was hereafter known as AAF 123.

Time Line

- The group was reassigned to March Field, California (50 miles east of LA) in August (1945) with the goal of transitioning to the B-29 Superfortress and joining the fight against Japan. Before training could begin the war in the Pacific came to an end and the group was deactivated on September 15, 1945.
- Discharged 18 Sep 1945