

RALPH P HECKEL

STAFF SERGEANT  
UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE

318TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON 3RD AIR COMMAND  
GROUP

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

AIRPLANE AND ENGINE MECHANIC 747

DATE OF INDUCTION 15 MARCH 1943  
DATE OF ACTIVE SERVICE 22 MARCH 1943  
DATE OF HONORABLE DISCHARGE 2 JANUARY 1946

DATE OF DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	DATE OF ARRIVAL
7 NOV 44	SWPTO	1 DEC 44
31 JUL 45	CP TO	7 AUG 45
17 OCT 45	JAPAN	17 OCT 45
UNKNOWN	USA	21 DEC 45

MY FATHER ALWAYS WOULD TELL THE STORY OF GOING TO BED NOV 16<sup>th</sup> 1944 AND IN THE MORNING HE WOKE UP IT WAS NOV 18<sup>th</sup> 1944 AND MISSED HIS 21ST BIRTHDAY, THE CARRIER SHIP CROSSED THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE SO HE MISSED HIS BIRTHDAY

BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS

NEW GUINEA SOUTH PHILIPPINES (LIBERATION)  
LUZON WESTERN PACIFIC

## DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS

Ralph P Hecke

UNIT CITATION, AMERICAN THEATER SERVICE RIBBON  
ASIATIC PACIFIC THEATER SERVICE RIBBON,  
PHILIPPINE LIBERATION RIBON WITH ONE BRONZE STAR  
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL - 45

MY FATHER TALKED ABOUT LANDING  
IN JAPAN 3 DAYS AFTER THE SURRENDER  
OF THE JAPANESE AND BURNING THE  
PLANES (JAPANESE ZERO)

ON A SADDER AREA HE TALKED  
ABOUT THE BULK OF HIS PHILIPPINE  
EXPERIANCE OF WHEN US WOULD  
TAKE BACK A ISLAND THE AIR FORCE  
WOULD FLY OUT THE POW'S AND  
HE SAID IT WAS HARD TO SEE  
OUR MEN JUST A RACK OF BONES  
AND THAT THEY WERE INSTRUCTED  
NOT TO GIVE WATER OR FOOD FOR  
THAT WOULD KILL THEM AND THAT  
THEY HAD TO BE GIVEN IN SMALL  
AMOUNTS BY THE TRAINED TO DEAL  
WITH THAT.