



William Marcus Tatum

Staff Sergeant William Marcus Tatum was born in Dallas, Texas in 1923.

Bill enlisted in the US Army Air Force in January 1943 and served until November 1945. He was assigned to the 8th Air Force, Bomb Group 447, Bomb Squadron 709, and was stationed at RAF Rattlesden, near Rattlesden, England. He flew 18 bombing missions over Germany as the ball turret gunner on the B-17 "Sad Sack". He survived a ditching at sea on mission 13 and an emergency landing on mission 18 in Sweden, where he was held for 9 months. Following his release, he was sent to the Santa Ana Army Air Base near Santa Ana, California for R&R. While there, he met his wife, Melba Estes, at a USO dance. They were married in February 1945.

Bill was recalled in October 1950 and served in Tucson, AZ until October 1951.

Bill worked as a banker for most of his career. Bill and Melba moved to Tustin from Orange in 1957 and lived there until their deaths in 1985 and 2015, respectively. They are survived by their three children, Randi, Dan and Gail, and six grandchildren.

Bill and Melba are buried at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California.

Medals: Air Medal, two Oak Leaf Clusters

Ribbons: Army Good Conduct, American Campaign, Europe-Africa-Middle-East, National Defense, World War II

