



**Gail
Shanelec**

Army Air Corps

Gail Shanelec

Mar 17, 1925 -

BIRTHPLACE: Ellsworth, KS

SOLDIER DETAILS

**DIVISION: Army Air Corps, 5th Air Force Bombing
Command**

THEATER OF OPERATION: Pacific

SERVED: 1943 - Jan 6, 1946

HONORED BY: The Eisenhower Foundation

BIOGRAPHY

Gail "Pep" Shanelec was born in Ellsworth, KS on March 17, 1925. He grew up in Ellsworth and acquired his nick name "Pep" because of his Bohemian heritage. The name stuck and he still goes by "Pep" today. Shanelec graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1943, and was drafted into the service August of 1943 at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He went to Wichita Fall, TX for basic training in the Army Air Corps. Shanelec's typing skills learned in High School landed him a clerical job. The next stop was Camp Kerns in Salt Lake, Utah taking overseas training. More training was done in New Orleans and finally Shanelec was put on an ship, headed out, taking its passengers through the Panama Canal toward the South Pacific. Shanelec served on several islands during his tour. At one point, ready for a change in scenery, Shanelec talked to a pilot who was leaving his base for other Islands and he bummed a ride. They visited several places. During this time, Shanelec was listed as AWOL. After his side trip, he returned to his post and the AWOL listing vanished. Shanelec finished his time in the service and returned to Ellsworth, KS. He attend Emporia State university becoming a teacher and coach. Shanelec married and had three children. He lived lived in Ellsworth most of his life, retired and still had his home at the time of the interview - November 2023.