

62095

Name BABBS, JAMES L Address Box 447 Wood River, IL  
Telephone 618-254-4560

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot EDWIN G. PIPP Plane # and Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mission Date MAY 1, 1943 Target ST. NAZAIRE FR.  
Cause of loss: AA fire  Fighter attack  Other, explain

DUE TO NAVIGATIONAL ERROR FLEW OVER BREST AT 500 FEET

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can: WAS A BAD MISSION FROM THE START. NEW CO-PILOT COULDN'T KEEP IN FORMATION. OUR NAVIGATOR "FUZZ" FLOWER WARNED US WE WERE COMING BACK OVER BREST. FIGHTERS, FLAK & GERMANS FIRING SMALL ARMS, CONCENTRATED ON OUR PLANE. STAYED IN TAIL UNTIL TAIL SHOT UP (WOUNDED LEFT KNEE & RIGHT ELBOW) WENT INTO WAIST (TWO NEW GUNNERS - ONE DEAD ONE OUT OF HIS TREE) FIRED RIGHT WAIST GUN DESTROYING ME 109 - GLANCED DOWN - SAW WATER COMING UP AT US & WAS KNOCKED OUT. BALL TURRET GUNNER STILL IN BALL WHEN WE HIT (ONLY ~~TWO~~ <sup>FOUR</sup> CAME OUT ALIVE)

How and where did you leave plane? WAS UNCONSCIOUS DUE TO CRASHING IN WATER. CAME TO WITH MAY-WEST TORN OFF (IN WATER) BUT GRABBED OXYGEN BOTTLE THEN SWAM TO RAFT.

What happened when you got on the ground?

PICKED UP BY GERMAN SEAPLANE TAKEN TO BREST HOSPITAL (VERY LITTLE TREATMENT) TAKEN TO POW

Did you meet any of your crew mates?

YES. PILOT PIPP - ENG. ELI ROGERS AND TOGALIER MILLEO? - HIS FIRST MISSION WITH US. CAMP

How were you treated, if captured?

NOT BADLY UNTIL TAKEN TO STALAG 7A - TRANSFERRED TO XVIIIB (THE ONE BEVIN WROTE ABOUT) WHICH WAS THE WORST ALLIED AIRMEN'S CAMP. WENT ON FORCED EVALUATION MARCH. (ESCAPED - RECAPTURED & TAKEN BACK TO XVIIIB WHERE ONLY HOSPITAL PATIENTS WERE LEFT, RELEASED BY RUSSIANS)

Any additional details, reminiscences, letters, or documents of these events would be appreciated. If you do send such materials, I will copy them and put them back in the mail to you within 24 hours. THE ATTACHED PICTURES OF LINDA AIRFIELD B-17'S SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN ON LAST "MISSION" TAKING US TO FRANCE (MAY 1945)

Do you know the present, or WW II, addresses of any of your crew or other 306th personnel?



Hi;  
How IN THE HELL ARE YOU?  
SEEMS LIKE I KNOW YOU.

TALKED TO ELI ROGERS ON PHONE  
AND MAILED HIS GERMAN POW  
I.D. CARD & PHOTO TO HIM

I HOPE THE 306<sup>TH</sup> HISTORY IS  
COMING ALONG SMOOTHLY & HOPE  
TO HAVE A COPY SOON.

KEEP THE PICTURES - THEY WERE  
TAKEN ON ABOUT MAY 10, 1945. (LINZ  
(AUSTRIA))

ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

PLAN TO SEE ELI SOON, MAYBE WE  
CAN HAVE A CHAT WITH YOU.

JAMES L. BABBS  
Box 447  
WOOD RIVER, IL 62095

28 March 1991

Mr. James L. Babbs  
7018 Island Village Dr  
Long Beach, CA 90803-4303

Dear Mr. Babbs:

I assume I am addressing the son of James L. Babbs, who served with the 306th Bomb Group, became a prisoner of war, and later returned to the United States.

I have recently learned through Edwin G. Pipp, the pilot of Babbs' ill-fated plane, that the elder Babbs died in March of 1990.

As I received a change of address in July, I therefore assume you made the change, which is fine.

However, I need some more information about your father, principally the date and place of death.

I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope for the information I need, and will mark your entry in our listing as the son of James L. Babbs.

Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



