

306B6

1606 W. 5<sup>th</sup>. Ave.  
Gastonia,  
N.C. 28052

Air Force News  
Box 4738  
Hollywood,  
Florida 33023

Dear Sir:

I was stationed in England during World War II with 2099 Fire Fighting Engineers as a Crash Crew Chief, at Station 111 Thurleigh, England. I would like to have some more information about reunion at Saint Louis Mo. Hotel or motel reservations, cost, etc. I have several mementos of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Issue of Stars and Stripes, August 1945, also a village paper featuring this Air Base. I also have photos, etc. Please enter me on your mailing list. Any information will be greatly appreciated. I was in England 29 months.

Sincerely,  
Odell L. Barber  
1606 W. 5<sup>th</sup>. Ave.  
Gastonia,  
N.C. 28052

6-5-80

Odell L. Barber  
1606 W. 5<sup>th</sup>. Ave.  
Gastonia, N.C.  
28052

Brother Strong,  
Dear Sirs:

I really enjoy receiving the 306<sup>th</sup>. Echoes, but we of the 2099<sup>th</sup>. Fire Fighting Enge. of Thurleigh, England have been omitted from this paper and also we were not mentioned in the 8<sup>th</sup>. A.F. album. I think we did some good for the 306<sup>th</sup>. as we did save a few 17<sup>th</sup>. and some men too. We were some of the first there as I was there 29 months myself. The first mission as I recall was 13 planes over Germany. I was crew chief of the Crash Crew from 43 into 1945, dates I am not sure. I don't know where any of the rest of the 2099<sup>th</sup>. One I remember the morning the R.A.F. accidentally dropped Inc. bombs not far from our mess hall, and when the bombs reventment blew up. Also the two B-17s colliding in the air over Thurleigh Base.

Enclosed find a few photos the one from river bridge

Bedford, England. Also copy of  
Battle of Britain. You may not  
want to print this, but this  
was written by English girls  
and answered by the yanks as  
we were all called.

Please return all this as they  
are keepsakes.

I did have the opportunity to  
set up my photos etc., also  
Stars and Strips, front page  
85 points to go home. I came  
home Nov. 1945 and got out 1947.

Thanks,  
Odell Barber

28 July 1980

Dear Odell:

Many thanks for the poems, which I have copied. I'll be hoping to use them in Echoes at some future date.

Also, I have kept the pictures for a little bit longer, until I can make copies of them. But I have them marked and will get them back to you.

The firefighters were certainly important, and you will enjoy the center spread in the July Echoes which has about 20-25 pictures of crashes and damage to planes.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong