

6 June 1975

Mr. Arthur P. Bove
100 South Main Street
Putnam, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Bove:

First, in writing this letter I am going on a lot of assumptions, but principally that it will in some way reach you. Since last we corresponded in 1946 I have moved at least eight times and lived in five different cities in three states.

But, I hope we make connections.

After all of these years I have concluded that it is time someone wrote a new history of the 306th Bomb Group, and with this in mind I have been hard at work on a lot of basic research in the last several months.

What I am really writing to ask, is, if you still have in your possession the pictures which you used in your book. If you do, I would very much like to acquire them because many of them could be used again, assuming that I can complete a good manuscript and find a publisher.

It may be presumptuous of me, but I really would like to make some arrangement with you for the pictures or any other material you may have that I might acquire.

Any assistance you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

The story of the 306th is worth telling again, and now that many of the records have been declassified some aspects of it will be easier than immediately after the war.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong
4900 Appleridge Ct.
Dayton, Ohio 45424

ARTHUR P. BOVE
100 South Main Street
Putnam, Connecticut

7 November 1946

Dear Mr. Strong:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 5. It was nice of you to take time out to write. You must have guessed how eager I am to know whether the book does justice to the 306th.

Although I worked for months on the history while at Thurlleigh and nearly a year since, checking and re-checking facts, I had no way of knowing whether the history would be what the men of the Group would expect. My family and my friends, who are discerning, have, of course, told me that they liked it, but what I am really interested in knowing is what former members of the 306th think of it. So, I value your opinion because you were in the 306th and because you, too, write.

You may be interested in the enclosed review from the local newspaper. If you have the space in your alumni magazine and if you feel that it will reach former members of the Group, I should appreciate your using all or part of it. Feel free to edit it, especially those local touches. Although I had a mailing list of well over 4,000, every mail brings me letters from someone who has heard of the book from someone else.

I have asked the veterans' magazines to run announcements and many of the New England papers have featured the book. Needless to say, I'll appreciate anything you can do to bring the history to the attention of former members who may not have heard of it.

My all good wishes, and thanks, again.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur P. Bove

2 August 1979

Mr. Arthur P. Bove
100 S. Main St.
Putnam, CT 06260

Dear Arthur:

I would very much appreciate it if you would loan me your pictures of the 306th, as I see on checking "First Over Germany" that there are still a number of pictures which I do not have. My collection must now number more than a thousand.

I am in a position to copy them quickly and to return them to you within a couple of weeks.

I will be happy to pay any shipping and handling charges that you might incur.

Again, I would be most appreciative of any effort you might take to send these photos along to me.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong



8 August
1979

ARTHUR BOVE

Dear Russ:

Given enough time, I eventually get things done.

I am today sending you everything I have on the 306th, including pictures and other material not used in "First Over Germany!"

I am also sending you the manuscript for my history. The page you see enclosed was inadvertently omitted in the box of material I sent.

You need not return any of this unless you intend to dispose of it. I think you will be a good custodian of this material, and if I should ever need any of it, I shall write to you.

I am sorry to be so late.

Good luck!

Arthur

22 August 1979

Dear Arthur:

The materials arrived in good order, and I am so pleased that you sent them along.

I have taken the larger individual pictures off the layout sheets, cleaned off the rubber cement, and put them away.

There were several in there that I was glad to add to my collection. Without counting, which looks like a horrendous job, I suspect that I now have in the neighborhood of 2000 prints in my collection.

Additionally, the pictures are a good source of names and 1946 addresses.

I have copied off those we don't have, and have mailed lists to 8-10 fellows around the country to see if we cannot locate more. I found one in North Carolina from the picture, and put him in the computer today.

Thanks again for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

100 South Main Street
Putnam, Conn. 06260
2 July 1980

Dear Russ:

I am enclosing some pictures which I have just come upon. They were used in "First Over Germany."

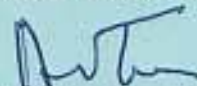
Enclosed also are copies of two sheets of a letter from the Battery Press.

I knew nothing of plans to reprint this book, and I hope it will not interfere with your plans. I had wanted you to have --and to use at your pleasure--all my material.

Perhaps there may be some way you can use this before Battery re-copyrights the book, if that is possible.

Please let me know how you feel about this and what you intend to do Or whether you know of anything I can do to protect your interests.

Yours sincerely,



ARTHUR P. BOVE

THE BATTERY PRESS, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 3107, UPTOWN STATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219

June 2, 1980

Mr. Arthur P. Bove
100 South Main St.
Putnam, CT 06260

Dear Mr. Bove:

For the past four years, the Battery Press has been reprinting scarce World War II aviation and military unit histories. An illustrated brochure on our program is attached for your review.

As a result of a survey to our nearly 2,000 collector customers, we plan to reissue a number of aviation titles which deal with the air war in Europe. Although our collectors will support this effort, we normally need the interest of former unit members to both cost justify the reprint and also lower the price to all potential purchasers. For this reason, we have contacted the 306th Bombardment Group Association and secured a mailing list of that group to work on a reprint of your book First Over Europe: A Story of the 306th Bombardment Group. This was the title originally published in 1946 by Newsphoto Publishing Company. I enclose a flier which is being mailed to members of your association in the next ten days.

Although this book is no longer under copyright, we will be sending you five copies for your family use if the project is successful. We will make that decision in mid-July and will keep you posted on our efforts as the project progresses. Please let us know if you have any questions as we feel this is a particularly important book to be reissued.

Sincerely yours,



Richard S. Gardner
President

RG:cb

Attachment

THE BATTERY PRESS, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 3107, UPTOWN STATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219

TO VETERANS OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP

In September, 1976, The Battery Press began a special limited edition reprint program for scarce World War II aviation and military unit histories. Thirty-five titles have now been released and six more books are in progress for delivery later this year.

As a result of our efforts, we have received numerous requests from our collector customers for material dealing with the Eighth Air Force in Europe. Since the 306th played a vital role in that campaign, we want to re-issue **FIRST OVER EUROPE: A STORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP** as part of our Aviation Series. Most of you should be familiar with this excellent book by Arthur Bove. It was originally published in 1946 by Newsphoto Publishing Company and has 138 pages and 821 photos in an 8" x 11½" format. It covers the 306th from activation at Salt Lake City Air Base in March 1942 to combat in Europe, beginning over France in October of that same year. The book highlights the offensive against the Ruhr, missions flown, and the many personalities of the 306th.

Our collectors will help offset the financial burden of a new hard-cover deluxe edition, but we need the interest of former unit members to make the project successful. If you need a replacement for a lost or damaged copy of the original edition, this is your opportunity to support such an effort. The maximum price would be \$20.00 postpaid with the understanding that this could go down if interest from all sources, veteran and collector, is greater than anticipated. **SEND NO MONEY NOW.** Complete the coupon and return to us by July 20, 1980. We will send exact payment instructions when we are ready to proceed. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Some of you may also be interested in another excellent book which is **AVAILABLE NOW**. This is Roger Freeman's **B-17 FORTRESS AT WAR** which has 191 pages and over 250 photos (including several in color) in a large 8½" x 11½" format. A particularly interesting section describes the duties and experiences of a typical member of each of the various crew positions. We feel this attractive book is the best we have seen on the B-17, its flight/ground crews and its operations in World War II. The price is \$20.00 postpaid. Use the form below and send payment by check or bank credit card.

We hope you share our enthusiasm for a quality reprint of **FIRST OVER GERMANY**; please remember to respond by July 20.

..... Detach and Return

TO: The Battery Press Inc., P.O. Box 3107, Uptown Station, Nashville, TN 37219

___ I want _____ copies of **FIRST OVER GERMANY** at a maximum price of \$20.00.

Enclosed is payment for _____ copies of **B-17 FORTRESS AT WAR** at \$20.00 each. Tennessee residents add 6% sales tax.
Available now.

___ Send your free list of aviation books to be released later this year.

NAME _____

Master Charge # _____

ADDRESS _____

Exp. date _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Return by July 20, 1980

11 July 1980

Mr. Arthur P. Bove
100 South Main St.
Putnam, CT 06260

Dear Art:

Nice to hear from you and I really do appreciate those additional pictures. I must have more than 2000 in my collection now--too many to count.

I've just received some other pictures this week, and expect to get some more next week.

Don't worry about the reissue of your book. I don't think it will have any effect upon mine. My book, now about half done, is more a straight history, and will really be quite different. A great deal of the material I am using has never been published before, much of it coming from interviews of people who have never really discussed things before.

At first The Battery Press idea gave me a jolt, but I decided it would probably have no effect, and a great many men would like to get your book anyway.

As it now stands I expect to complete the manuscript late this summer, to complete the rewrite by the end of the year, and then John Ryan will serve as my editor. So, I hope to be ready to go to press sometime in the spring.

But I do appreciate your concern. Hope everything is well with you.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong



The Observer Company

Windham County Observer
MURIEL S. EVANS
PUBLISHER

ESTABLISHED 1881

36 SOUTH MAIN STREET,

PUTNAM, CONNECTICUT 06260

TELEPHONE 928-2015

100 S. Main St
Putnam, Conn
Feb. 6, 1976

Dear Mr. Strong,

I am sorry to be so late in replying to both your letters. The first came just a few days before I had to undergo major surgery, and in the confusion your letter went unanswered. I went back to

work as editor of The Observer in November.

I do have most of the manuscript of "First Over Germany" and the photographs. Somewhere! I have to make a major

cleanup of everything that I have acquired over many years. Then I hope everything will turn up.

Before I undertake the search —

which if you could see the clutter here, you would regard as major — do you have a publisher? ^{My Book} Mine was privately published and distributed, but I don't think that would be practical today, since the mailing



The Observer Company

Windham County Observer
MURIEL S. EVANS
PUBLISHER

ESTABLISHED 1881

36 SOUTH MAIN STREET,

PUTNAM, CONNECTICUT 06260

TELEPHONE 928-2015

list I have is 30 years old.

Do you have any mailing lists?

A group is planning an October reunion in Dayton, Ohio, on October 30th, for the Martin Bremer from East Moline called me Sunday for mailing lists.

If I retire soon from The Observer, I shall have more time to fulfill his and your requests. In the meantime, why don't you list the specific photographs you would like to have?

I get occasional requests about five or six a year for "First Over Germany", which I am unable to fill. It would be good to have another book, such as the one you suggest.

Good luck,

For the PBox

22 February 1976

Mr. Arthur Bove
100 S. Main St.
Putnam, Conn.

Dear Art:

After reviewing First Over Germany, I really would like to get hold of all the pictures which appeared in the book.

While I am still researching, I am trying to collect everything I can, so that when I get down to writing I will be set to turn out a finished manuscript.

I have been collecting pictures for quite a while, and have come up with some very good ones--getting two Friday afternoon that were quite unusual. Once I have completed my use of them, I hope to be able to place them in some kind of an archive so that they will not be destroyed, but will be preserved for whatever future use might be wanted.

I expect that once I have completed a manuscript, that it will probably be privately published and distributed. However, if luck is with me, I might find a commercial publisher. I have done considerable publishing in the last 25 years, so know a great deal about the field. One of the advantages of privately publishing is that you can maintain greater control and have greater flexibility. But that is a decision that is yet to be made, and because of some other personal commitments, I am not now ready to be tied down to any kind of schedule.

We are researching living members of the 306th, and now have a pretty good list of current addresses, and expect in the next year to expand it greatly. At such time as I may achieve publication I rather expect that there will be a rather large mailing list available. This work is being headed now by Bill Collins at Poland, Ohio, and is being expanded.

If you want, however, I can pick out some specific photographs that do interest me.

I would be happy to pay all shipping costs on the bulk of pictures sent to me.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong
4900 Appleridge Court Dayton, Ohio

You and your buddies



on pass



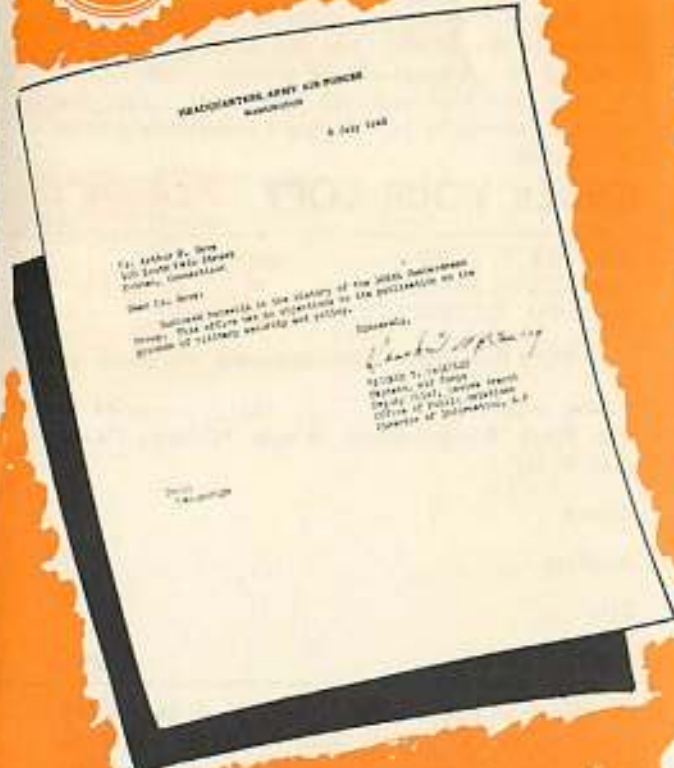
in the air



with the medics



APPROVED



with your crew



on parade

**ONLY
the authentic history of the
306th**



**AIR OFFENSIVE, EUROPE
NORMANDY
NORTHERN FRANCE**

**ARDENNES
RHINELAND
CENTRAL EUROPE**



Windham County Observer

Dramatic Story Of 306th Bomb Group

"FIRST OVER GERMANY"

Former Sgt. Arthur P. Bove
Writes Clear, Concise Narrative
Of Heroic Action Of Men
Of Eighth Air Force Unit.

FIRST OVER GERMANY: THE
STORY OF THE 306TH BOM-
BARDMENT GROUP. By Ar-
thur P. Bove. 148 pp. \$5.00

By **ABBIE H. KEITH**

The people of Putnam are always glad to greet proudly any Putnam man or woman who enters the magic circle of authorship. This fall we greet the first of our servicemen to publish a book upon the War. Arthur Bove's "First Over Germany," just off the press, is a volume of which he and we may well be proud. This attractive book will claim the interest, not only of his fellow townsmen, not only of the men of the 306th Bombardment Group for whom it is primarily written, but also of every reader, for who has not been thrilled by the exploits of the Eighth Air Force, an important unit of which this book makes real to us.

The volume itself is attractively bound, printed upon excellent stock in double column, thus containing a much larger amount of text than one might at first think, since an outstanding feature is the ample illustration by almost countless prints of all sorts—photographs of officers and men, of planes and of places. It is astonishing that the reproduction of casual snapshots has been so successful. It was H. G. Wells who made his famous Mr. Britling note that the Kodak shows only sunny days. Though this may not be strictly true, certainly the wealth of these pictures will recall to the men of the 306th much that they will be happy to



Former Sgt. Arthur P. Bove—Author of "First Over Germany"

remember and much that, even though it be touched by sadness, they will cherish in memory.

However, interesting as are the varied and extensive illustrations, and tireless as the author has been in collecting them, the written content is the vital element of this book as of any.

Mr. Bove has written a clear, concise history of Bomb Group 306 from the time it was welded into a unit at Salt Lake City, March 1942, through its training period to its arrival in England in the early fall of 1942. It was stationed at Thurlleigh, Bedfordshire, where it took over in December an R. A. F. field, and from which it operated till V-E Day. Then follow accounts of the experimental period, descriptions of the four squadrons of the 306th and a spirited narrative of the attack on January 27, 1943 which established the Group's right to the title, "First Over Germany." The narrative continues to a Post-War Supplement. Due credit is given to both the famed and the

unknown heroes, to the commanders, and to the friendliness of the people of Bedfordshire. There are careful tabulations of operations and of raid scores—an imposing total, indeed. There is a chapter contributed by the Chaplain longest with the Group, and there are reprints of pertinent articles from English papers and from "Stars and Stripes." It seems that nothing is lacking to make the dramatic story complete, and one realizes how carefully and painstakingly the work has been done.

Mr. Bove has written simply, as is fitting, for a narrative of heroic action does not need embellishment, but he has written with a vigor and enthusiasm that speaks plainly of his own close contact with Group 306 and of his deep admiration and affection for it. The result is a book which will bring deep satisfaction to members of the Group and their families and one of which Mr. Bove and his many friends have reason to be sincerely proud.

Observer Writer Is Author-Publisher Of "First Over Germany"

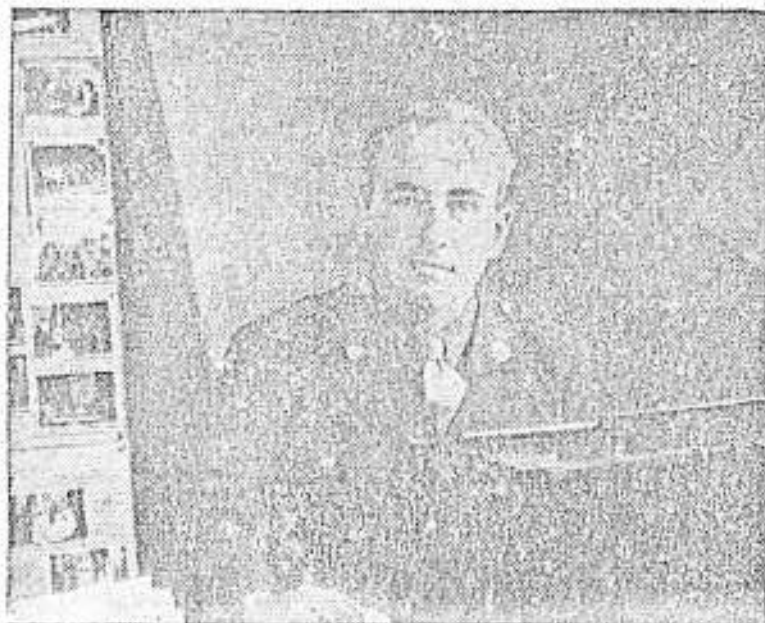
Arthur P. Bove, for more than ten years prior to the war assistant editor of the Windham County Observer and now a special staff writer for this newspaper, is author-publisher of a new World War II book, "First Over Germany," which will be brought out on September 30. The first edition has been completely sold out.

"First Over Germany" is the story of the colorful 306th Bombardment Group of the Eighth Air Force, which, on January 27, 1943, led the Eighth in the first bombing attack on Germany proper for the "first offensive action in World War II by any American unit, in any branch of service, in any war on German soil."

In a book profusely illustrated with aerial and ground photographs and drawings by Clark Fay, British artist, "First Over Germany" recounts the activities of the veteran bombardier group from the days of its activation in Salt Lake City four and half years ago, through the tedious combat days at Thurling

(Continued on Page Ten)

Author Of Book "First Over Germany"



Former Sgt. Arthur P. Bove

...circumstances, extended, up to the time of its deactivation in July, 1946, in Istres, France.

Although Mr. Bove conceived the idea of publishing a history of the 306th when he was a member of the organization and Public Relations Department head, the work of collecting material and writing was done largely since his release from the service. The book is the culmination of nearly a year of research, in which official and unofficial sources were tapped. The completed work has been approved for publication by Air Force Review, Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.

While "First Over Germany" will be of special interest to former members of the Group who

have already over-subscribed the first printing. It may prove of interest to the general public, who may place orders prior to the October 15, date of the second publication.

Mr. Bove, the author, joined the Army Air Forces shortly after his arrival overseas in January, 1944. He was inducted into the Army on his birthday, May 23, 1942, and was discharged with the rank of sergeant on January 10, 1946.

A writer on military subjects during the greater part of his Army career overseas, Mr. Bove was also author of a column "A Reporter Goes to War", which appeared for nearly four years in the Windham County Observer.

Name Arthur P. Bove

Serial No(s) 3313 3357

Squadron or other organization at Thurleigh 368th

MOS No. & Specialty

Public Relations and
Historical Section

Date of Assignment to the 306th

JUNE, 1945

Date leaving the 306th

Dec. 1945

Other information

Editor, Publisher of First Over Germany:
A Story of the 306th Bombardment
Group

Name and address of someone who will always know
your current address:

Miss Lucy Bove and/or

Mrs. Rose B. LaRose, at 100 South Main

PUTNAM, CT 06260