

Name Roy B. BRANSON Address 814 E. PIERCE LUBING, TEX. 78648  
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MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot WESLEY COURSON Plane # and Name B17 F414  
Mission Date 7/25/43 Target HANOVER  
Cause of loss: AA fire / Fighter attack ✓ Other, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can:

The plane was unable to maintain speed, and aileron ~~and~~ controls were damaged by flak into target. Leaving target, fighter fire wounded or killed all six men behind the flight deck - 20 mm killed the radio operators, wounded the engineer, and hit the armored back of the pilot + co-pilot seats leaving them uninjured (very lucky). Other men were killed or wounded in different attacks. Some fire was started and controls became unworkable - the pilot ordered bail-out.

How and where did you leave plane? Parachuted from about 20,000' within a few miles of the North Sea on the track back from Hanover. I came down near GRENINGEN.

What happened when you got on the ground? Taken prisoner by two German land army men -

Did you meet any of your crew mates? Not until later in POW camp.

How were you treated, if captured? I would have to say, "Relatively well" considering you dropped bombs on people and came floating down behind them. (the bombs)

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.

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Russell A. Strong

Name ROY B. BRONSON  
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Home Phone 512-875-2758 Date 5/21/81  
Occupation MERCHANT Employer SELF  
Address SAME Bus. Phone 512-875-5111

Serial No(s) 0-678151

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th: Graduated from flying training at Pampa AFB, Tex. April 1943. Sent to Pyote AFB, Tex. for Bomber phase training. Before I started training, I replaced a sick Co-Pilot on a crew that had finished training and went overseas in June 43.

After leaving the 306th:

I left the 306th (Involuntarily) July 26, 1943 being shot down on a Hannover raid. Became a POW and was liberated from Stalag VIIA 4/29/45. Returned to USA and discharged in late 1945.

306th Record

Arrival date at Thurleigh Late June 1943  
Squadron or other unit(s) 423 rd  
MOS # 1051 Specialty CO-PILOT or TWIN ENGINE PILOT  
Missions Completed (and date of last) 2 - 7/26/43

Promotions \_\_\_\_\_

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM PH Battle Stars

(On unusual DFCs, and Silver Stars and above would like to see a copy of the citation)

Other personal data:

**Description of Air Missions:**

(What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your role? What heroics did you witness? What events were there of which you have special knowledge?)

Add additional pages, if necessary