

Oct. 31, 1953

Dear Russ:

I'm sending this picture taken in the Omaha reunion at hope it may be some part of 306th memories of a great reunion. My wife and I had the best time ever and are looking forward to being in Ft. Worth next year.

About two weeks ago I drove over to Boulder to see Elwood Bratman who was a tail gunner for P-51 for a while and was shot down. I believe with another crew, he mentioned who it was but the name escapes me right now.

He lives only 70 miles from Williamsport, Pa. where the B-17 "Eager Beaver" was being used for training mechanics for several years before it was scrapped. They kept a piece of it with the "Eager Beaver" insignia ^{on it} on it. I believe I sent you a copy of the print that Harold Cowley took a couple of years ago. There was some talk at Omaha about the museum for the 306th at Thurlough and some of the fellows expressed an opinion that the piece of the Eager Beaver should be in the museum. Bratman said he'd be willing to go to Williamsport and see if the College there would be willing to let the piece be placed in the museum.

I'm also enclosing the card that James W. Little sent me if I need more information on the Eager Beaver, he's retired Air Force, I don't know how much information he has or if he has additional photos of the airplane available but he sounds really helpfull.
OVER

So let Brotzman know if he should
contact the school and also contact Prof. Little
about the piece of the airplane. I would guess
that overall that the piece of airplane doesn't really
mean as much to the school as it would to the 3064.

Well, but this picture is OK and again some of
the fellows feel that piece should be in the new
museum. Best to call them and hope to see you in
H. Worth.

Your friend

Andy

ELWOOD H. BROTZMAN

RT. 1 BOX 121

LACYVILLE, PENNA. 18623

I was on the crew of
Eager Beaver with Capt. Ribber
then with Max & Guido
on Little Savage. We had
a couple places but lost
them. sorry can't be of more
help. But my mind just
won't remember. would be like
to know about Capt Ribber
and crew of ~~Little Savage~~
Eager Beaver,

I saw in the 306 News
They are trying to find the
address of Eddie F Espitalier
could you notify them

EDDIE F ESPITALIER

745 LEMOS AVE

SALINAS CALIF 93901

was the JOHN REGAN. you
mentioned C.O. for 306 gyp.
or 315 sq. in 43 and wasn't
there a Wilson job C.O.
before that.

Looking forward to your book
maybe it will help me to
remember

Elwood Profman

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Dr. Laurinburg, NC 28352

EDWARD - on birth certificate
Name ELWOOD H BROTZMAN
Address LACEYVILLE Box 121 PA 18623
Telephone (717) 889-1555 Date 8-24-77
Occupation RETIRED Employer _____
Address _____ Telephone _____

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

10-41 to 11-45 FORT NIAGARA N.Y. SHEPPARD FIELD TEXAS
A.M. SCHOOL. BRUCE, IDAHO, GOWAN FIELD, 709, B.C. 817. 3-4, 23, 7-42. WENDOVER, UTAH.

After leaving the 306th:

306th Record:

Arrival Date 7-42 Squadron or other unit _____
MOS _____ Combat Status S-2-ENGINEER, T.G.
Missions Completed 25
Promotions _____
Decorations 2-AM olcs / DFC / olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM
/ PH Battle Stars _____ other _____

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

Name ELWOOD H BRITZMAN

Address BOX 21 LACEYVILLE PA 18623

Telephone (717) 869-1555

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot MAX JUDAS

Plane # and Name BORROWED FROM ANITAER Sq.
UNKNOWN

Mission Date 5-21-43

Target WHEILMSHAVEN G.

Cause of loss: AA fire Fighter attack Other, explain _____

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can:

How and where did you leave plane?

What happened when you got on the ground?

CAPTURED

Did you meet any of your crew mates?

How were you treated, if captured?

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.

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

5 June 1977

Mr. Elwood H. Brotzman
Box 121
Laceyville, PA 18623

Dear Elwood:

Thanks for your reply to my inquiry.

We have not yet located Capt. Reber, but the John Regan you asked about was the 368th C.O. Col. Wilson, (J. W. Wilson) was the first C.O. of the 423rd, but was not group C.O.

Col. Overacker was the first group C.O., followed by Armstrong, Putnam, Robinson, Sutton and Upham.

I've had correspondence with Max Judas, who is now living in Tennessee and running a cattle ranch. He stayed in service to retire as a colonel.

Back to Wilson, there was also another Wilson in the early days, Col. Delmar Wilson, who was deputy c.o. for a while and then transferred in early 1943. He later became a major general.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

2/17/02

From: Brotzman2@aol.com <Brotzman2@aol.com>
To: russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net <russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net>
Date: Saturday, February 16, 2002 4:30 PM
Subject: Re: Russ Strong's Reply

Dear Russ WE had a dairy farm in Penna until 1966 and aftr we sold out Elwood worked as an electrical contractor until he had to retire We had 3 children a son and 2 daughters he was predeceased by our daughter Patricia in 1991 At the present time we live in Florida bur we are taking him back internment in the family grave in Penna on the anniversary of his death As soon as I know more about the CD will let you know it is our other daughter and son who are producing it and they distribute worldwide through their company. Am sure members of the 306 would find it interesting although I understand the pilot of Little Savage has also passed on as have some other members of the crew am not sure which B17 is going to be on the front cover Nabel Brotzman P,S Elwood always enjoyed the reunions when he was able to come

Dear Mr Strong Just recieved the Jan issue of 306 Echoes and found your e-mail address Wanted to let you know 2 things sad paeret first Elwood passed away from complications with surgery on Oct \$ of last year he had ben in falling health for sometime The second is I think a little more exiting for the 306 a C.D. of world war 2 music is in production right now and is going to feature as front cover a picture of a B17 and a write up inside showing a picture of Little Savage and the crew. It will be on sale at many musuemns including the 8th Air Force Musuem Also at many National Parks Am not sure at this time when it will be out but soon it can also be ordered through Four Winds Trading Co 1370 Miners Drive Suite 103 Lafayette Co 80026 If this infomation is of any interest to you let me know and I will either send you one or let you know more when I get mine Sincerely Mabel Brotzman

From: Brotzman2@aol.com <Brotzman2@aol.com>
To: russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net <russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net>
Date: Saturday, February 16, 2002 11:25 AM
Subject: Elwood Brotzman

2/17/02

From: William Winslow <wwinslow@cfl.rr.com>

To: russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net <russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net>

Date: Friday, February 15, 2002 1:03 PM

This is more or less a test to see if I can contact you thru this e-mail system.

I was a pilot of a B-17 crew flying with the 367thSqdn.-1 st. flight
Jan1945,thru last fligft 18 July 1946 when the 306th. was deactivated.

Thanks for the 306th.Association and Echoes.

William B. Winslow-L/C USAF Ret.

2/15/02

Dear Russ, You asked for information. I can't remember exact dates. I enlisted at Elmira N.Y. August of 41. went to Fort Niagra. then to Shepard Field, Texas. Finished A.M. school. went to Gowan Field Boise Idaho. April. to the 309. June I joined the 306 at Wendover. went S-2 school and was assigned to 368, S-2. When the Grp. was getting ready to ship out. I was to stay behind to form a new cadre. I went up to the grp. C. O. I thought He was going to chew Me out. finally He grinned and said that all categories were filled except for a tele type operator. any way I went along with the grp. to Thurliegh, I wasn't given an assignment. so I went out on the line and happened to pick Rebbers plane and worked as a mechanic, when the grp. made their second mission and put the tenth gunner on. I asked Rebbert to put Me on, I flew a couple of missions in the waist. on one mission our tail gunners oxy mask froze up and He just made it to the waist.. I gave Him My mask. and went back to the tail, and from then on I flew as tail gunner. Lally was Co pilot. when He got His own plane. I went with Him. when Judas got His plane I went with Him. I flew the Paris raid with Regan. I was shot down with Judas on My 25 mission and it was (for You the war is over.) The morning going out to the Plane I told Judas I was going to ask for five more missions. and He said He would kick Me but all over the base if I did I didn't. there was a Paul Shields, from Ill. In the 369, I have never seen His name in the directory. excuse My typing My son and daughter, gave Me computer and Printer. and I am just learning, did You hear that Eddie Espallier died last spring. I had a stroke 2 yrs ago and can't write but other wise am coming pretty good So long and best wishes.

Elwood Brotzman
34642 SW 188th Way
Homestead Fl, 33034

ph.(305) 248 -7526