

607 Roberts Dr.
Vienna, Va. 22180
Nov. 18, 1993

Dear Mr. Strong,

I am honored to be included in the 306th directory as my Father's daughter. Thank you.

I am enclosing some correspondence which I am sure you will find interesting.

First, is a picture of my Dad's crew on November 3, 1943. This mission was his 23rd. The quotes about the men are from him.

Next is a letter written to my mother after my Dad & his crew were shot down November 26, 1943 over Bremen. It was written by Dr. Dantzig.

The second letter was written by 1st Lt. William W. Peterman (# 2044349) to my Mom as well. He relates an incident which I was hoping someone at the 423rd might recall. Lt. Peterman clearly thought a lot of my Father & his flying abilities. I know, sadly, that Lt. Peterman died in 1990 - but read that he left the original flying control logs for the Group. Is there a chance that the incident he spoke of in his letter (my Dad landing with the 1,000 lb. bomb under the wing) might have been documented in the log? I would so much love to read about this. My Dad has completely downplayed it. But I & my mom & my children would really like to read about it, or correspond with someone who was there. Would there possibly be other references to my Dad in the log? How could I find out?

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My Dad was very moved to received the
squadron diary. And it answers many
questions that I have had. A few more:

October 21, 1943 - what was the entry on
this date?

July - 52; 1943 what are the names of
the two crews? We do know that
Ralph Zimmerman was a navigator on
one of the crews arriving. He was
wounded on a mission, 6 Sept, 1943
with my Dad as pilot. He told my
Mom years later that my Father
saved his life.

A small thing: my Dad is listed in
the ^{Pilots'} appendix as Virgil W. Jeffries. His name is
Virgil H. Jeffries.

Also we noticed that in the 423rd Squadron
aircraft ^{appendix} my Dad's 25th mission was flown
in the "Las Vegas Avenger". Neither my Dad, nor
his copilot, Bob McGalliard, remember flying
this plane on the final mission. (I wrote you
earlier about this.) I wonder where did this
info come from & is there another source I
could use to find out more about this
plane? Are there any maintenance crew members
who might remember working on my Dad's
planes? I would LOVE to correspond with some-
one who remembers working with my Dad on
his plane. (Possibly could it be asked in the newsletter if any
maintenance crews from 423 from April - Nov. 1943 remember working at
V. H. Jeffries' planes? and also remember the name, "Las Vegas Avenger"?)

Have you had any luck in finding the Squadron special orders that you mentioned wanting? Who would have these?

I had the wonderful fortune to receive a 45-minute phone call, ^{last week} from Col. Charles Schoolfield who very kindly recounted leading the 306th on Oct 14, 1943. My Dad led the high squadron - I guess you know, it was exhilarating to speak with him.

I am beginning to do research on a screen-play that will recount some of my Dad's experiences including Schweinfurt & Bremen. I am especially anxious to talk with anyone who worked with & remembers my Father.

If you would like to print the enclosed picture in Echoes, I could have the original picture duplicated & send it to you. My Dad & mom have only the original & I want one made for myself & my family - if you would like one, please let me know.

I want to thank you, Mr. Strong, for your thousands of hours of work on behalf of our men & their families. Your work is absolutely treasured by us all.

I wanted to add a note about the November 26, 1943 Bremen mission - which somewhat refutes the Diary & the two enclosed letters which were written second hand.

Before my Dad got to the target, they had

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already lost an engine. After the bombs were
dropped, they were going slower than the
rest of their group & were left behind.
A couple German fighters found them -
& watched them for several minutes be-
fore opening fire. The crew fought back
for a considerable time, ^{perhaps as long as 20 minutes} until a second
engine was shot out & at the same
time the electrical system. The plane
started to spin & my Dad called for a
bailout. On that terrible day, four of the
men went down with the ship. The tail-
gunner, Henry Steelsmith, Richard Mower, the
radio operator, Arthur Adrian, Ball turret, and
Harold Owen, waist gunners, were lost. This has
always been hard on my Dad.

My Dad & Bob Mc Gulliard evaded capture
for 22 days. They were turned over to the
Germans by a Nazi sympathizer & both
went to Stalag Luft I until May, 1945.
Other crew members surviving: Lt. John H. Moon, James Porter,
William Throatt, Frank Ramsey.

Thank you for your help in my
search. God Bless.

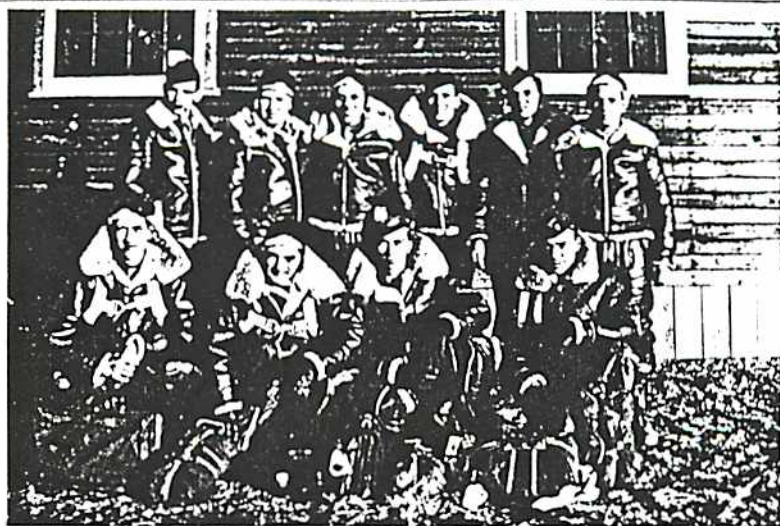
Ann Jeffries Thaise

P.S.

The day after Thanksgiving marks the 50th
anniversary of my Dad & his crew getting shot
down. Just like in 1943, it is a Friday.

P.P.S. My Dad cannot find the current ^{members} directory. Could you please
send one?

Thank you!



Back row:

1. William Manning *wj*

2. Eugene Minor *e* *MD*

3.

4. William Ceuture *tg*

5. Gerald Bump *bt*

6. Frederick Griggs *e*

Front row:

* 1. Dwight W. Wait - Bombardier
Flew his missions w/ 92nd Bomb Grp.

2. Matson Ewell *N*

3. Carl Morrison *cp*

4. Lloyd Johns (Not Deceased)
3077-A VIA Serena SO
Laguna Hills, CA. 92653

* ~~Seymour~~ Seymour Ratner
From Brooklyn Took Dwight
Wait pos. as Bombardier

I called L. Johns, he will try
to get this name - if you are interested.