

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, 4900 Appleridge Ct., Dayton, Ohio 45424

I am endeavoring to put together a good history of the 306th Bombardment group, an idea which has been in my mind for some years. I am working diligently on the matter, collecting all kinds of data and working through the official history and records of the group. I served as a navigator with the 367th Squadron from June through November, 1944, and currently am director of news and information services at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. I solicit your assistance in my project.

I am interested in any special materials which you may have, such as good photographs of personnel, battle damage, plane insignia, etc. I am also interested in commendations (other than the usual Air Medal and DFC) you may have received, special stories which you may have in your possession, letters that are highly descriptive of combat action, or any other documents. I would appreciate receiving xeroxed copies. But, if you do not have such facilities readily available, I would appreciate the loan of materials which I might copy and return to you immediately. I am also interested in manuscripts of memoirs which you may have prepared, particularly if they were done within a couple of years of the events. Again, I would appreciate copies or the opportunity to copy them.

Name LIGHTBOWN, HAROLD F.
Address 50 Friend Street, Wakefield, Massachusetts 01880
Telephone 245-3662 (617) Date June 10, 1975
Occupation Printing Employer Lightbown Press, Inc.
Address 369 Congress St Boston Mass Telephone 426-5228

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:
3/41 to 10/41 - 22nd Coast Artillery, Portsmouth, N.H. Pvt., PFC. Gunnery.
10/41 to 2/42 - 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, Westover Field, Springfield, Mass., Cpl., Radio Operator., Anti- Sub patrol, B-18's, LB 30's.
2/42 to 4/42 - Ferry Command out of Boeing Plant, Seattle, Washington, B-17s, Sgt., Jack Fries TWA Flying school, Albuquerque, N.M. Radio Op. B-24's Sgt.
After leaving the 306th:
6/43 to 10/43 - Gunnery Officer, 384th BG, 2nd Lt., 10/43 to 6/44 - Gunnery officer, 92nd BG, 2nd Lt., Laredo Air Force Base, Texas, from 6/44 to 7/44, Kingman Air Force Base, Arizona, Gunnery Range Officer 7/44 to 8/45, 1st Lt.

306th Record:

Arrival Date 5/43 Squadron or other unit 369th
MOS Radio Operator-Gunner Combat Status 10/42 - 5/43
Missions Completed 25 (Amen)
Promotions Tech Sgt. to 2nd Lt at completion of tour
Decorations X AM 3olcs XDFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM
X PH 4 Battle Stars National Defense with clasp. ATO, ETO, Unit Citation other

(OVER)

Other personal data:

Married, 3 children, wife Arlene, Grandfather.
Interested and coach Soccer, Home mechanic, clocks.
Skiing.

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?)

Finishing the 25., and getting painted with the magic number.

Rommily Sur Seine, west of Paris, deepest penetration to date 12/20/42 we lost our bombardier, Lt Conrad Farr, flight engineer Ben Gordon was also shot up, plus myself. Landed at RAF field lands End.

The day the 306th lead navigator took us into Brest, France after hitting St Nazzaire thinking it was Lands End, England. The defense held off until we were few miles off shore. Whamo. Snuffy Smith was off our wing the day he received MOH.

Etc. Etc.

The day Wild Bill Casey dropped back to cover wing for Lt Crammer (I think), got chewed out for dropping formation.

The day Arizona Harris kept firing as turret went below the waters of Bay of Biscay, Slept in same hut with Arizona. Had duty of getting his belongings together.

Taking a 2x 4 out of ceiling of hut for fire every nite until heavy wind finally Any knowledge of the whereabouts of negatives of pictures that were collapsed it taken by photo section after completion of tour, when we were stripped and painted with 25s would be appreciated. Would like to find the print. Have written to Washington and all over. The print that I had gave to the owner of a Boston newspaper when he was visiting the 384th BG for him to bring back in 1943 for my parents to keep. I knew it would not pass cenceorship if mailed. It was lost when this fellow returned to Boston.

Visited all of the old bases in jolly jolly few years back. Thurleigh is used my the Air Minstry, Poddington is a drag strip and also a place to breed maggots for the fishing industry. Grafton Underwood buildings some are still intact. Most control towers are standing and being lived in. Interesting. Had nice letter from Gen Frank Armstong few years back, he was in Alaska. Gen Ernest Hardin just retired. Remember him when he was 1st Looie in the 369th.

Commissioned with Mike Roscovich, Fayette Pa, Joe Bowles, and one other first Gunnery Officers in AF. Interesting article in book Air Gunner by Andrrw Roobey, Stars & Stripes

Collector of 8th AF books and material.

Add additional pages, if necessary

Slowly Jim whittling this list down.
Have any leads?

Onetime ranking officers in 306th Bomb Group
for whom addresses are sought

Col. George L. Robinson

CO OF 306TH

Lt. Col. Wm. S. Raper

~~Lt. Col. Robert C. Williams~~

Lt. Col. John S. Chalfant

Lt. Col. Maurice V. Salada

369th

Lt. Col. Henry W. Terry III

← GREAT GUY!
TOOK OVER 369
AFTER

Lt. Col. John Lambert

369th

Lt. Col. Ralph L. Oliver

CO. WEAPOUN UTAH
+ THERMORIGHT

(RIP)

369th

Lt. Col. Robert P. Riordan
AIRPLANE "WAHOO" WITH
INDIAN HEAD

Lt. Col. Eugene C. Lavier

Lt. Col. George R. Buckey

~~Major Harry J. Holt~~

369th

Maj. Charles E. Flannagan
WAS OPERATIONS OFFICER
LATE 1942

Maj. Earl W. Kesling

~~Maj. Thomas E. Witt~~

Maj. William J. Lanford

Maj. Mack McKay

Maj. Thomas M. Hulings

Maj. John J. Buie

OUR ORIGINAL PILOT WAS CAPT HOWARD.
FINISHED WITH LT. MARRISH.

BALL TARGET GUNNER PETE PAPPAS
LIVED IN HAVENHILL MASS. UR
VISIT OF TAN.



1/24/78

Dear Russ:

Thanks for copy of Echoes. See Warren Borges once in awhile, talked with Jack Howard in Ill couple of weeks ago, after seeing letter in Echoes from Dorothy Howard regarding England trip.

Russ, regarding Search. Corresponded with or sent Parley D Small in Packwood, Iowa a citation that I printed up for a "job" in the Fall of 1942. His serial #37190921 was on it and he was tail gunner with Wild Bill Casey. The package was not returned so presume that was his address. Regarding CHANGES, wrote to Tiger Terry couple of weeks ago at the address you show in your 306th Roster, that has not been returned so presume that also is his correct address. Could be wrong.

Page 3: Banshee was Wild Bill Caseys, Sgt Bennett crew chief and nose art was done at Westover in Fall of 42 if memory is correct. It looks like Sgt McMahon at pilots window. I flew a couple in this one when Caseys regular WOG, Hagemer was on sick call. Casey was a good pilot and on one particular day got a good reamin for dropping back and covering one of our cripples. He's down in FLA and a great guy! It was #12448 and one of the original from Wendover. Little Audrey, was Hennesseys if memory is correct, another original, Wilson Elliot was Engineer I think. The other three remember seeing around base but cannot fill you in too much. Needless, to say you know the significance of the "Dingleberry Cluster" to the AM. Noticed Frank Armstrong mentioned. Had a nice letter from him awhile back when he was head man in Alaska, he was going to look me up if he came to Boston. Freeman's book is quite up to date on aircraft identification etc. May have some material for Mrs June Paull.

Russ, could you pick up the name of Benjamin Gordon for the record, although deceased of 1967. Ben was our Flight Engineer on Jack Howards crew in 1942 and 43, leaving from Wendover. Ben did 25, was wounded on Romilly-Sur-Seine job on 12/20/42 with me. The day we lost our Bobardier, Conrad Farr. Was commissioned as 2nd from T/Sgt and stayed in after 45. Ben was stationed in the Pentagon when his heart failed him during the day. He was Col. Had a nice note from his wife. ~~TE~~

Trying to think of original pilots that left Gander in Fall of 42: Oliver, Howard, Casey, Flannagan, Johnson, Crammer, Hennessey, Spaulding, Riordan etc. Probably missed half of them. Don't seem to function the same as I near 60.

Russ, you all have a done a great job. How are you set for pictures? Will look through my files for anything on Group papers prior to Dec 42.

**Revised in old section at Arlington*

15 February 1978

Dear Harold:

Appreciated your interesting comments from the last Echoes.

Thanks for the note on Ben Gordon. We'll get that into the next Echoes, perhaps out in March, if moving into a another house does not through me into too much of a tizzy.

As to your list of original pilots--there were 36 in all, nine from each squadron. Three in your list were actually co-pilots at that time, who later became first pilots.

I'm still receptive to any pictures I can get a look at. Have copied several hundred and returned originals to various owners. All of the photo lab people we have found have been able to come up with good collections.

Hope you have weathered this wintry weather. Talked tonight with my young brother who lives in Needham, so got a first hand account of the whole thing. I have no desire to return to my native Michigan to live. The southland is the place to be, especially in the winter.

Have seen Casey and had a great talk with him. He says that is himself in the plane window. I have one with Wilson Elliott on top of the plane, but we have not yet been able to locate Elliot, or anything about him.

Sincerely,

4647BOWN

1/9/79

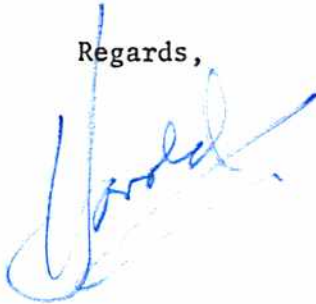
Bill:

While I think of it, otherwise will forget. Another for the roster.

Walter J. Ceglarski
73 Harvard Street
Dedham, MA 02026

369th - Original member from Wendover
Aircraft Mechanic

Regards,



PS: Just noticed in the obits. Harold Rogers, 369th.
That must have been the Rogers that I knew in Site 7. Waist
Gunner, and took along his dog on missions. He made a small
oxygen mask for the dog. Also noticed Wiley Glass, that must
have been Capt Glass as we knew him in 42, think he was S2?

Rogers was a stunt man from Hollywood. We also had a Bill
Brown who was manager of a well known theatre there in Holly-
wood. Is that the one listed in CA?

1/5/79

Dear Bill & Russ:

Many thanks, Echo arrived. Front page no less! You'll be spoiling the "ole" guy!

Last page first. Regarding annual "report", Please find enclosed cash enclosed to help defray some of your costs. Your other efforts along with Russ no doubt will be ever compensated for. A lot of work and you both are due a "bouquet". Also last page pic, front row center looks familiar in the one of Bill Flanagan, 39th. Could'nt see and familiar names in new additions.

Page 7, Arizona Harris, same hut in Site 7 and next bunk. Great likeable guy. We were ahead of them that day and had occasion to watch from my open radio hatch position as they dropped back, thing Crammer was the pilot, and think that the mission was the one where Bill Casey dropped back to cover Crammer. I was with Jack Howard, Gus Holmstrom, Brownie, Conrad Farr (KIA that mission), Ben Gordon, Pete Pappas, Cecil Smith, Harvey Cox, May and myself. Ben Gordon and I both WIA that day. . . Will get after following up for you on 2 names listed in "Recently Missing..Can You Help column, Cecil Smith & Harvey Cox. Will report back to you.

Page 3, enjoyed Jerry Eavedo's contribution which has started to unfold a mystery that has had me wondering for quite awhile. And that was in regard to what ever happened to Brute Bettinger and Gus Holmstrom (page 3, bold face type). Both were co-pilots when on my tour, Gus with Jack Howard and Bettinger with Al Maresh.

Which leads me to page 2. I was saddened to see Al Maresh's death in 1971, although I had lost track of him, have often wished that I had got in touch. Do you have his relatives address, think he was from Texas. And, were Holmstrom & Bettinger KIA on Oct 14, 43 or were they POWs? Enclosing postage free envelope. Last time I talked with Jack Howard he was wondering what happened to Gus.

Page 2, please let me know if you have an address on Maresh. Warren Borges drops into office occasionally. Do you have Lee Kesslers street address ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ in Canton Ohio? Remember that Wilmshaven one in May of 43.

Good to see a lot of the old gang in Washington, would like to ponder over that questionnaire regarding 306th alone for next year. Pete Pappas was supposed to stop in today for lunch but my girl said he missed me by five minutes. Heard from Bill Casey at Christmas, he has been under the weather. Also heard from Jack Howard.

Regards, the best for 79,

RS January 1979

Dear Lightie:

Glad you enjoyed the last Echoes, even if your picture made Page 1. I thought that might get a response out of you, as it did Jerry.

Holmstrom was KIA on the mission in question, but Bettinger was a POW and returned. Haven't been able to locate him, although I think I've run his name through the VA.

Al Maresh came back on a VA list as deceased, so have no other information than the date. He came from Texas, but I had not been able to track him down there at all.

Lee Kessler is at 170 Saratoga, NW, Canton, OH 44708.

If you come up with any other names, let us know. Also, do you have any old records that might show WWII hometowns? This is the place we have started on a great number of people, and eventually found them. Its like looking for a needle in a haystack, but it does payboff. With our gains and losses we are still at about 1100 names. Bill and I keep adding them, though, two or three a week. Every so often we get a big spurt.

Nice to see you in Washington. Let us know later on what you think of the 306th alone in '79. Some of us favor it. It would be a lot of work for a few, but I think everyone might have a better time for a heck of a lot less money.

Sincerely,

Russell A. Strong

36674 MISSION FROM 10
OCT 9 1942 - JULY 1943

*Sightseeing
201 file*

- ✓ 9 Oct 1942 1. Lille, France
- 7 Nov 1942 2. Brest, France.
- 8 Nov 1942 3. Lille, France.
- 9 Nov. 1942 4. St. Nazaire, France.
- ✓ 14 Nov. 1942 5. La Pallice, France.
- 17 Nov. 1942 6. St Nazaire, France.
- 18 Nov. 1942 7. La Pallice, France.
- 22 Nov. 1942 8. Lorient, France.
- ✓ 23 Nov. 1942 9. St. Nazaire, France.
- 12 Dec. 1942 10 Rouen, France.
- ✓ 20 Dec. 1942 11 Romilly Sur Seine, France.
- 30 Dec. 1942 12 Lorient, France.
- 3 Jan. 1943 13 St Nazaire, France.
- 13 Jan. 1943 14 Lille, France.
- 23 Jan. 1943 15 Lorient, France.
- 27 Jan. 1943 16 Wilhelmshaven, Germany
- ✓ 4 Feb. 1943 17 Hamm, Germany
- 2 Feb. 1943 18 Emden, Germany.
- 14 Feb. 1943 19 Bremen, Germany
- 16 Feb. 1943 20 St. Nazaire, France.
- ✓ 26 Feb. 1943 21 Wilhelmshaven, Germany
- ✓ 27 Feb. 1943 22 Brest, France.
- ✓ 4 Mar 1943 23 Hamm, Germany
- ✓ 6 Mar 1943 24 Lorient, France.
- ✓ 8 Mar 1943 25 Rennes, France.
- ✓ 12 Mar 1943 26 Rouen, France.
- ✓ 13 Mar 1943 27 Amiens, France.
- ✓ 18 Mar 1943 28 Vegesack, Germany
- ✓ 22 Mar 1943 29 Wilhelmshaven, Germany
- ✓ 28 Mar 1943 30 Rouen, France.
- 31 Mar 1943 31 Rotterdam, Holland.
- 4 Apr 1943 32 Renault Plant, Paris, France.
- 5 Apr 1943 33 G. M. works, Antwerp, Belgium.
- ✓ 16 Apr 1943 34 Lorient.
- 17 Apr 1943 35 Bremen.
- ✓ 1 May 1943 36 St. Nazaire.
- 13 May 1943 37 Aircraft Factories at Mautte, France.
- 14 May 1943 38 Kiel Germany.
- 15 May 1943 39 Airdrome, Heligoland, Island.
- 17 May 1943 40 Lorient, France.
- ✓ 19 May 1943 41 Kiel, Germany.
- 21 May 1943 42 Wilhelmshaven, Germany.
- ✓ 29 May 1943 43 St. Nazaire, France.
- 11 June 1943 44 Wilhelmshaven, Germany.
- ✓ 13 June 1943 45 Bremen, Germany.
- 22 June 1943 46 Huls.
- ✓ 25 June 1943 47 Hamburg, Germany.
- ✓ 26 June 1943 48 Tricqueville, France.
- ✓ 28 June 1943 49 St. Nazaire, France.
- 29 June 1943 50 Ville coublay, France.
- ✓ 4 July 1943 51 Nantes, France.
- ✓ 10 July 1943 52 Caen, France.

(GERM.)
(FIRST)

FINISHED →
TOUR

C-O-M-B-A-T O-P-E-R-A-T-I-O-N-A-T M-I-S-S-I-O-N-S

NAME (LIGHTBOWN, HAROLD F.) SQUADRON 369th. Bomb. Sq. (H)
 RANK T/Sgt. GROUP 306th. Bomb. Gp. (H)
 DUTY R.O. SERIAL NUMBER 31033176

DATE	GROUP MISSION NUMBER	INDIVID MISSION NUMBER	REMARKS	TIME	TOTAL TIME
1942- 7/11	2	1	Brest	5:05	5:05
14/11	5	2	EaPallice & St. Nazaire	7:15	12:20
23/11	8	3	Lorient	6:30	18:50
20/12	11	4	Romilly	5:00	23:50
1943- 4/2	18	5	Emden	5:45	29:35
26/2	21	6	Wilhelmshaven	6:00	35:35
27/2	22	7	Brest	5:15	40:50
4/3	23	8	Hamm	4:10	45:00
6/3	24	9	Lorient	7:45	52:45
7/3	"	"	"	1:30	54:15
12/3	26	10	Rouen	4:35	58:50
13/3	27	11	Amiens	4:35	63:25
18/3	28	12	Vege sack	6:20	69:45
22/3	29	13	Wilhelmshaven	6:15	76:00
28/3	30	14	Rouen	4:30	80:30
16/4	34	15	Lorient	6:20	86:50
1/5	36	16	St. Nazaire	6:50	93:40
1/5	"	"	"	0:30	94:10
1/5	"	"	"	2:15	96:25
19/5	41	17	Kiel	6:30	102:55
21/5	42	18	Wilhelmshaven	6:10	109:05
29/5	43	19	St. Nazaire	6:00	115:05
13/6	45	20	Breman	6:30	121:35
25/6	47	21	N. W. Germany	5:35	127:10
26/6	48	22	Tricqueville	3:15	130:25
28/6	49	23	St. Nazaire	6:40	137:05
4/7	51	24	Nantes	6:40	143:45
10/7	52	25	Caen-Carpique	4:30	148:15

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Alfred M Zinkovich FV 659619
6250 Trans SQ Box 1196
APO 96307
San Francisco, Calif.

ZIP CODE

Free



Mr. Harold F. Lightbown
Lightbown Press Inc.
301 Congress St.
Boston, Mass. 02210

Bob
I should
mention
that
I
was
at
the
base
at
the
time
I
was
writing
you

Did
I
think
you
visit
the
base
at
the
time
I
was
writing
you
Could
hear
lead
H.

30 Jan

I stalled off writing you from Savannah because I was heading over here to Vietnam arriving here on 11 Dec. They assigned me the job of Transportation SQ Cdr and let me tell you I have my hands full. This is my first time over this part of the world and I must say it's very different nothing like England. It was sure good to hear from you and hope we might get together sometime. I'll return to the US on 8 Dec 66 and hope to be stationed in Florida. I'm on the payroll until June 68 but

I'm going to try to get out
in July 67. When I
returned from England
I got out and worked
for G.E. in Holyoke Mass
for 5 yrs and then
recalled in May 51

I have my ROFA COL
and will have over 26 yrs
I would never have
figured this war out if
I didn't come over here
and see for myself.

Well thanks again & fight
for writing, I'll keep in
touch. a

Your friend
Mike

I forgot to tell you I'm at Saigon
I live in the Continental Palace
Hotel in the downtown area



January 18, 1979

Dear Russ:

Thanks for prompt response regarding Maresh, Holmstrom & Bettinger. Will forward info to Jack Howard and to Bill Casey, also to Pete Pappas.

Russ, have contacted a firm in Bradford, Ohio, called Bradford Awards, Inc., PO Box 8 in regard to making up some Fitin Bitin patches, assume they could furnish for other squadrons if so desired. In case you should get any inquiries. Imagine they hand paint. Cost \$3.50. Seems fair, will probably have a few made up and send to some of the old gang.

Regarding building up roster. Remember a Communication man, Stephen Pisinski, 369th maintenance from Worcester, MA. Ring a bell? Located my old 201 file in attic the other day, will go through if for any thing that may be of interest to you and Bill C.

Have written to Lee Kessler. Think we may have been running about neck and neck at time of his mis-fortune. I have a feeling he started with Lille in Fall of '42 also.

Trying to run down the firm that is selling the fac sim of the A-2 jacket. Saw a couple at Washington, also an ad in the ROA magazine. Am interested in picking one up so I can slip into it each time I watch Twelve O' Clock High. For the 100th time I guess.

Still working on the 306th alone idea. You don't feel that it may be stretching it a little thin? Will get back to you later, as I think about it.

Always good to hear from any of the old gang.

The best.

Lighty



June 3, 1975

Dear Russ-

Was very much interested in your letter In Air Mail of latest copy.

Am a pioneer of Fitin Bitin going back to Wendover Utah started operations in early Fall of 1942. Finished with Mike Roscovich and commissioned as Gunnery Officers in Spring 1943. Flew next to Snuffy Smith (MOH) day he received award over Bay Of Biscay heading into Brest.

Here is a name for you to contact: Lt Col Wm M Collins, 2973 Heatherbrae Drive, Poland Ohio 44514, he is the 306th contact man. Have s3ent him my list of names.

Could tell you plenty of stories, however lets establish contact first.

Regards,


Harold F Lightbown

5 June 1975

Dear Harold,

I received your letter today, and am very happy that you have written. If I can carry this project through, I'll need all kinds of help.

I am currently researching the group monthly histories, asking questions, contacting people, etc.

I figure it is probably a 10-year job, but maybe less, if everything goes well.

I have been in contact with Col. Collins, talked with him on the phone and sent him a couple of lists of addresses, and have a start on a third. I live on one side of Wright-Patterson AFB and work on the other, so there is constant exposure to and stimulation from the base activities for my work.

On my way back to the office this afternoon I'll stop at the Air Museum to try to iron out a couple of wrinkles. Currently I am trying to establish contact with as many of the senior commanders as possible, partly because several of them are not getting any younger. But I need contacts with a wide range of people, so am putting out feelers everywhere.

Enclosed is the form I've developed and I'd appreciate your filling it out and returning it, and I'll be in touch with you again.

Sincerely yours,

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

25 May 1976

Mr. Harold Lightbown
369 Congress Street
Boston, Mass. 02110

Dear Harold:

As you probably know, the 306th Bomb Group is moving ahead with October reunion plans here in Dayton for 1976. The first effort in Miami last October was small, but everyone there felt it was quite successful.

In promoting the reunion and the formation of a 306th Association, we are in need of a newsletter. I have had a lot of experience in producing such things, and will at least get it started.

Our problem at the moment is lack of money. Could we prevail upon you to advance us a little credit for a couple of issues of a newsletter over the summer?

It would probably be a single 8½x11 sheet, printed both sides. In about a 500 quantity. Perhaps, with a couple of halftones, and all sent to you camera ready. I'd leave the paper selection up to you, as you would probably be able to use something out of your storage.

Then, you'd ship them back to me or to Bill Collins in Poland, O., for mailing.

After the reunion at the latest we'd be able to pick up the tab, and possibly from donations to do it earlier.

Please let me know your thoughts on the matter at the earliest possible time.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

4900 Appleridge Court
Dayton, Ohio 45424

513/233-8735

24 September 197-6

Mr. Harold Lightbown
369 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Harold:

Can you give us the same fine treatment again?

Any paper, any ink you have available and will work. I have used one picture this time to brighten it a little bit (and I ran out of copy!).

Both Bill and I have had an excellent reaction to the first issue, and if satisfactory with you, I think we'll probably continue the arrangement, very likely on a quarterly basis next year. We may well expand it to four 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11 pages and things begin to move along.

Send- me 50 copies and the rest to Wm. M. Collins, 2973 Heatherbrae Dr., Poland, O. 44514

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Dr.
Laurinburg, NC 28352

Incidentally, on the next issue I'll have a new and better drawn heading. Just didn't have time to get it done, but my artist will be working on it next week.

11 February 1977

Mr. Harold Lightbown
369 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Harold:

I have been through a number of hundred pictures which I got recently from Rudy Skalak, as well as another bunch today from another photo type, and the only thing I have come up with that might possible be you is the one copied herein.

If this is it, I'll be able to copy it soon and get a print to you. But, from your description, I rather doubt that its the one you are looking for.

I'll have another newsletter along in a week or so.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong



November 29, 1976

Dear Russ:

Had a nice letter from Bill Gentle, Photo Section and he enclosed a photo of Roscie after his 25th. Roscie and I along with Joe Bowles and Alan Meaux were the first four in ETO commissioned as Gunnery Officers. Roscie as you no doubt know was killed up in Scotland while taking off. Joe Bowles still lives in Roanoke VA.

Russ, Bill mentioned that he sent you a box of Pictures and was wondering if by chance the one I was looking for was in there. He said he remembers including one of some- one that had finished his 25th. Could you please mail to me or make a print? Will reimburse you for any expense and will promise to return to you.

Will continue to exhaust all leads.

Many thanks, hoping to meet you personally,
sincerely,



November 18, 1976

Dear Rudy:

Have written to Bill Collins and he has suggested writing to you.

Was one of the pioneer members of the 369th of the 306th and completed my 25 in the early spring just after Mike Roscovich. As a matter of fact was commissioned as a Gunnery Officer with him as first in the Eighth.

Am sending out an SOS for either a print or neg of a picture that was taken by Photo Section, as was the custom to strip us to the waist and paint us with that famous yellow GL paint that was so common. I was given a print and made the mistake of giving it to a VIP newspaper owner from Boston that was touring the bases. He was to bring it home and contact my folks so they could pick it up. It would not have passed cencorship at the time, thats why I did not mail it myself for it was taken beside a B-17.

I cherished that picture. Is there any possibility of negs being available after all this time?

Any help would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,


Harold F. Lightbown

306th - 1942-43
384th - 1943-44
92nd - 1944

*Puss -
Once again, name & face no longer ring a bell. All of the 95th mission photos, I have, are in the box. Perhaps you can help Lightbown.*

Rudy S



February 16 1977

Dear Russ:

WHAT A SURPRISE! After 34 years of searching for the long lost Pic. That skinny kid on the left with the happy grin is yours truly. My next job is to place the name of the other happy 25'r.

Can even remember painting "the buxom lady" on the nose in the dusk of the countryside.

Although I sent this pic home (via the Boston Newspaper Owner, who lost it -- or sometimes I wonder whether it is in their morgue file) you can see that there was a good chance of censorship confiscation showing the nose armament. As you remember at that time we were weak up front on head-on attacks. Although commissioned as Lt at that time, and less chance of censorship, I still thought it would arrive safely home to US via the Boston Globe owner. However, it was a sorry day.

MANY, MANY thanks for your efforts. Am anxious to make up some enlarged prints and get one under glass to show my grand-children.

Looking forward with anticipation. Any expense, please let me know.

All the best,

Harold L

16 March 1977

Mr. Harold Lightbown
369 Congress St.
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Harold:

Here it is at last. I just ran into time problems and couldn't get the thing out of the way.

Let's do 800 copies, and send me 50, and the rest to Bill Collins. Return the pictures to me. Also the original copy.

I have made copy negatives of the photos I got from Skalak, and will try in the next week to get a nice print off to you of your 25th.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong



8/7/78

Dear Bill:

Always look forward to Echoes. A great effort by all concerned and a lot of work for you both.

You no doubt are saying, instead of verbal bouquets, "why doesn't he contribute a little help" (Enclosed \$10.00). Wish it was \$100.00. Chalk it up as dues or whatever.

Looking forward to Washington "mission". Bill, a formal banquet I most certainly would attend, however, please put me in for a "weak" vote.

While cleaning out a desk drawer not too long ago ran across a few extra copies of a "keepsake" that I put together for Caseys gang on that November day that you have mention in last Echoes. If it is something that you would like to add to your memorabilia, OK, if not heave into "deep 6" file.

Have a lead on Mike Zinkovich, bomb-aimer on Jack Howards crew. Will try to track him down for you, to add to your list.

Was surprised not to see Howard or Maizewski's name included in Chicago reunion. I thought that was a must for both. Hope that they are well.

Any idea on who to expect in Washington from 306th?

Kindest regards,



6/12/79

Dear Russ:

Back in July Echo's you ran an excerpt from First of the Many, regarding the "job" on November 27, 1942, pertaining to Wild Bill Casey's crew. Hagemer, Casey's regular ROG was on sick call and I was "elected" to fill in for him.

Please find a copy of a memento that I had made up a few years back and sent to the gang listed, as a keepsake. Thought you might like to have it for your files.

Phone rang last Sunday nite around 10, and who is it but Casey's wife down in Florida. She said "ole Case" and her were lying in bed and Case said, "let's call Lighty". I had sent him a "fitin bitin" patch framed up, also sent one to Jack Howard and Pete Pappas.

Have written to Charlie Schoolfield regarding that Black Thursday * episode, for that was the day Gus Holmstrom and Brute Bettinger went down. Holmstrom was our co-pilot along with Jack Howard, pilot, until he got his own crew. Bettinger was co-pilot for us when Jack Howard went back to States. Al Marrish was our pilot. I am very much interested in the fate of these two fellows. Do you know if they were POW's or KIA? Bert Perlmutter who used to live in Long Island NY was also commissioned as Gunnery Officer, now living in Florida.

Please, anyhelp I can give yourself, or Bill Collins regarding contacts, let me know. Am working on a couple of others that I know about.

Regards,

KIA / POW / ?

29 June 1979

Dear Lighty:

In answer to your letter of June 12, I'm just back from a research trip to California, and located several long, lost types, including Gus Holmstrom.

My missing air crew report indicated that Holmstrom was killed, so I'd never made any effort to locate him. But, when I was in Glendale, I located Bob Seelos, who went down 5 Apr 43 over Antwerp, and he said he'd seen Gus.

I located Gus in Canoga Park, 23338 Schoenborn St., and talked with him on the phone, I'm sure he'd be glad to hear from you.

When passing through Bakersfield I stopped and tried to check on Bettinger, but ran into a stone wall. Jack Howard is on our list and Al Marish is dead.

On my travels I saw such as Del Wilson, J. W. Wilson, Mack McKay, Al LaChasse, Seelos, John McKee, etc. It was a great trip and I had a terrific time talking with these and about 20 others.

Sincerely yours,



9/5/79

Dear Russ:

Great talking with you last evening.

Tried Pete at 7:00 AM this morning at work, girl said he was in Europe on trip, so, left message for call back when he returns.

This past long weekend while up to lake, got into paperback copy of Flying Forts, Martin Caidin, Ballantine War Book. Action stories on both ETO & PTO and first chapter was on Jay Zeamer CMH from MA here. A few years back, had a call from a Lt Col Fredette, was in the area from Washington and writing history on CMH winners. He had heard that we were alongside Snuffy that day over Bay of Biscay, after St. Nazaire and was looking for any helpful information. Met this Zeamer, along with Fredette at nearby hotel, and had a good evening chatting.

What I am leading up to is this. It might be worth while picking up this fellows name for your files.

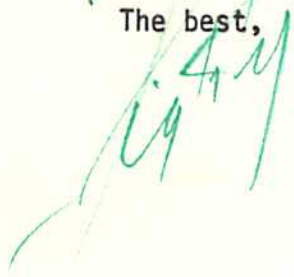
Lt. Col. R. H. Fredette(Ret)
Hq. USAF (CHO)
Washington, DC 20330

Office of Air Force History
Forestal Building
Independence Avenue (Opposite Smithsonian)

Who knows, might have info on 306th that he picked up along the way.

Throwing this in for what it is worth, have to do things while fresh in my mind, otherwise forget.

The best,





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2/5/80 7:30 AM

Dear Bill & Russ:

1000

First of all please find enclosed check to help start the year off. Received Echos yesterday, Everything in the office stops! Warren Borges was in yesterday, we do the printing for the American Welding Society, of which he is active. He's a hot ticket, and I kid him about his pamphlet dropping missions ("After the war was over"). I ask him where he was in '42 & '43. Just phoned Pete Pappas at his plant to try and get identification on one of the gunners shown in Riordans crew, however, he got home late last evening and didn't get a chance to read his copy.

OK! lets see if I can be of some help, regarding latest Echo's! Your statistics on original crews was dynamite! A lot of effort for both of you in compiling. You both deserve a lot of credit. On page 5 - Youree's crew. That has to be Roscy kneeling in front at left. My buddy, along with Joe Bowles & Alan Meaux, when the four of us was commissioned as Gunnery Officers. Underneath is Checks gang, and my memory is foggy on just which one he was KIA on. However, I recall the action, for I had a good view of the 423rds formation, for they were off a little to our left and a little higher. If I recall we were going in when he got it, his copilot must have been burdened with the complete job. Check caught a 20MM on a frontal attack I think. Next page - Hennessys, that is Krijak, third from right, he was a ROG, and also in Site 7 (On the KESOE village road). You list a Houx, that was Pappy, in our barracks or hut, and was quite old, at 38. He was Nubbins Highams close friend, and their pet expression when the CQ shone the "torch" in our eyes was "wake up and p---, the worlds on fire!" I dont see Pappy Houx pictured with Hennessys crew. Higham flew quite a few missions with us as the 10th, as wait gunner along with Cecil "Smitty" Smith. Next pic down - Riordans (Rip) Back row right, is Schultzie Shultz ROG, in our hut at Site 7, front row right is "Little Bit", ball turret, next is Holloway (real southerner), next comes Owens and then I think it is Santoro who you do not list for I think he was the Engineer. The name Herman Albert is a complete blank for me. That takes care of Riordans crew. However if you ever hear from Rip (and it is strange that you don't) for he is still around somewhere. I guess some people like to forget the past. Bottom pic - Mac MacMahon kneeling front left, Steve Stenson, ROG, our hut Site 7 next. Now, a question for you. Can anyone identify the one on the right, back row, Johnsons crew? For I feel sure that is the fellow pictured with me, the day we finished and painted with 25's. At first I thought the gunner pictured was Tipton, but don't think so.

in the level

(?)

??

??



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2

To update your stats on center spread -, Howards crew. When did Jack Howard become POW?????? Ben Gordon, Harvie Coxie Cox, and myself, all wounded 12/20/42 over Romilly, Anderson as I recall flew two or three and then was replaced by Brown (Brownie) If I recall there was something pertaining to Anderson and the idea of bombing, and the idea of relatives being on the Continent.

FARR, KIA

Your stats have cleared up a lot of mysteries on what happened to various people. You often wonder who made it, and who didn't.

As I peruse the paper further, and if I can help on any other identification will send along.

The best to you both,
sincerely

Fitzly

Feeling old! 62 today. Unbeleivable!

16 March 1980

Dear Lighty,

Thanks much for the comments which you sent along following the last issue of Echoes.

According to responses, the only real mistake I made on those 315 names was Jack Howard. He did not become a POW, but was returned to the States along with Mack McKay after 16 missions.

That was kind of fun to do, and certainly got a lot of comment from a lot of people, clearing up mysteries along the way.

I've got another long list in the April issue, one in which I hope you, Joe Bowles and others can clear up a bunch of missing names. It may tax memories a bit, but it ought to clear the record.

Thanks for writing.



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~~27 GARFIELD ROAD~~
~~MELROSE, MA 02176~~
50 Friend Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

25 February 1981

Mr. Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Russ & Bill:

Great! One of the better issues, especially page 7 showing the labors of Brownie (Navigator) and myself - Piccadilly Commando. Never could figure out whether 2 C's or L's. Think we put an extra C in. Never could paint or draw "feet", that's why I cut them off, however, other parts of the anatomy never seemed to give any trouble. Which is the "bomb?"

Could you give me address of John N Cole in Maine? Didn't have any luck in our National list of newspapers. This had to be the same A-2 jacket that I saw on a young girl one day passing through the lobby of the First National Bank in Boston. I couldn't help stopping her myself and asking the origin of the jacket. She informed me that a friend had given it to her a few years back. If the old A-2 could only talk.

Wish they would let the issue regarding the long winded speeches "die a natural death." I think one of the main gripes, was the fact that we had a 20 piece orchestra waiting to play some good music, and we didn't get started until after 11:30 p.m. I am sure they paid a good fee for that band. I know this was the main gripe of my own "bride". By Saturday evening think most had had all the speeches and speakers they wanted. Frankly, as for myself I had gone out to the "latrine", when I came back couldn't get back in again through the ballroom door, along with others we were held back by one of the hotel employees.

Col. Terry married the niece of the innkeeper at the Falcon. Jack Howard or Bill Casey should be able to fill in the missing info.

Andy Rooney & Bud Hutton wrote a book "Air Gunner", out of print, chapter on Roscy and Arizona H. in it. Wrote to Andy R. about a year ago regarding the book and availability, however never did get an answer. Didn't have any luck in local K-Mart's on B-17 book, will keep looking. Pete Pappas phoned the other nite after getting Echoes, he also was very pleased with issue.

I really ramble on, will write again soon.

Slightly

27 February 1981

Dear Lighty:

Nice to get your letter today, and because I'm on the road so much of late (which eats into my book finishing time) I'll answer immediately.

I first became aware of Cole when my Needham-living brother sent me that A-2 column. I also have another that deals with the 8th I'll use some day. Simpsons Point Road, Box 3137, Brunswick, ME 04011 is the address we have for Cole on our mailing list for Echoes. He does write some good stuff, and I think others have probably appreciated the A-2 piece. The next one is on a mission to Bremen, which he did not want to fly.

If you have a copier in your place and really want "Air Gunner," borrow it from the Boston library, or have them get it on an inter-library loan and copy it. That's the way I got mine, and then in my bookbinding hobby, I put it all in a hard cover. Should have had it with me in NYC when I went to see Rooney.

You might also look in book stores for that B-17 book that K-Mart sells. I saw it in the remainder section of Kroch and Brentano's in Chicago right after I bought mine at K-Mart. Same book, and the remainder price was about the same as K-Mart. If you still bat zero, let me know and I'll pick up one for you if I can.

Enjoyed the rambling with you.

Special Award By CAP Presented Harold Lightbown



A SPECIAL AWARD for "outstanding service" is presented to First Lt. Harold F. Lightbown of 50 Friend st, Wakefield (right), for his continued contribution to the area squadron of the Civil Air Patrol headquartered at Camp Curtis Guild, Reading. Making the presentation is Squadron Commander Major Joseph Grillo of Melrose. (Photo by Don Young)

READING — In special awards ceremonies recently, the Camp Curtis Guild Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, a United States Air Force Auxiliary Unit, presented a special "thank you" trophy to First Lt. Harold Lightbown of Wakefield for his continued support and assistance. The award was presented by Major Joseph Grillo, Squadron Commander. First Lt. Lightbown is a resident of 50 Friend st.

Other awards presented were to First Lt. James Pillsbury of North Reading (formerly of Wakefield) for outstanding service to the Cadet Squadron.

Several Cadets also qualified for awards and citations including Cadet Shaun Sullivan of Melrose who was presented the Mitchell Award which marks

the half way point in a Cadet's career. Cadet Sullivan is the first member of the Camp Curtis Guild Squadron to qualify for this award in the Squadron's short three year history.

Other awards and citations presented to Cadets were as follows: Cadet Recruiter Ribbon to David Stables and Joseph Lovati, two Bronze Clasps to William Ford, Cadet Advisory Council to David Staples, and Shaun Sullivan, Red Service Ribbon for two years service to David Martin and David Staples, Curry Ribbon and Unit Citation to Kurt Barrett, and the Arnold Ribbon to Edward Pigott and Tony Zagarella.

Model Rocketry Badges were also presented to Cadets Alan Camuso, Shaun Sullivan and David Martin.

*Enclosing
some goodies!*

*Did I send
one of these to
you?? - know
I sent Bill C. one.*

*HAPPY NEW YEAR
1982*



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6 August 1982
0900 hrs.

Dr. Immanuel J. Klette
Us Rep Office
APO New York NY 09038

Dear "Marry":

There is not much doubt in my mind that you will recall my name, however, after just reading the interesting chapter from Freeman's latest, could not resist getting a few lines off. Stopped off last week at Luray Caverns, VA to say hello to Jerry Cavedo and he gave me Xerox.

Went over with Jack Howard as ROG, flew with Wild Bill Casey on three or four, starting with first in Fall of '42. Al Maresh and Brute Bettinger took over our crew after 16 or so, when Gus Holmstrom took over his own crew. Jack Howard went back to States and I went the route with Marish (deceased).

I knew Daley quite well from Site 7, and was on that St. Nazaire run (one of many) that day. Remember, as we cut off on the next hard stand, walking over to your airplane as they lifted Daley out. One thing that is very vivid in my mind, is the fact that Daley's hair had gone completely white.

You most certainly are to be commended on your extended tours. I don't mind telling you, I had no plans on ever finishing the 25, when they finally determined a number. And to reach the figure of 91 is simply amazing. My hat is off to you sir!

Joe Bowles, Reggie Harris, Roscy and myself were commissioned as Gunnery Officers and each went his merry way. Roscy was killed in Scotland as you no doubt realize.

Was down to Memphis a couple of weeks ago and dined at 91st Bomb Group restuarant. Tiger Terry's picture was on wall along with a lot of other mementos. 306th has one in Orlando FL. I respected Terry a great deal, and thought he was a great asset from what we had.

Rather doubtful on this letter arriving, due to my old address from Echos. Would enjoy hearing from you, and will sent along a copy to Jerry C.

Best kindest regards,
[Signature]
Harold F. Lightbown

PS: Visited with Joe Bowles & wife, also phoned "Doc" Charlie Flannagan in Tell City, Indiana from W. VA.

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*Russ -
AM GOING TO ORDER BOOK AND GET A FEW LINES OFF
SHORTLY!
LIGHTBOWN
note
8/9/82*



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13 August 1982
0700 Hours

Dear Russ:

Trust this finds you in good health. Everything well here in Boston, although it is taking more courage each morning to face the mirror.

Last couple of weeks, the southern-west bit, stopping off at clock museum in Columbia, PA, visit with Kermit Cavedo at Luray Caverns, VA & wonderful evening with Joe & Frances Bowles in Roanoke. Took a couple of books down for Joe's signature, Air Gunner, Sgts Andy Rooney & Hutton, 1943. Great chapters on Roscy & Arizona. Had letter from Andy Rooney short while back (copy enclosed). We have here in Framingham, MA a young fellow of about 35, who has about the most complete collection of 8th AF, and other material I have ever seen. Even to a complete Bendix ball turret on a trailer that he tows around and sets up at shopping malls etc. Had it shipped up from a "bone yard" down in Texas. We just got through working an Air Show together at Plum Island Airport. I had the CAP cadets and we set up a recruiting booth. No tower, so they were directing traffic on apron and flight line. This fellow has complete maned in setups of German and RAF flight outfits, also USAF. He has given me a lapel pin that is quite unusual, 3 dimensional of 8thAF insignia.

Did the Worlds Fair and grand ole opry bit, Elvis's Graceland at Memphis and a wonderful dinner with another couple at the 91st Bomb Group Restaurant, at Memphis airport, complete with old bikes at front door, couple of "meat wagons", sentry box and wooden lift gate also a beat up C47. The "belle" was in a hangar across the field being restored so did not see it. Restaurant was filled with interesting 8th memorabilia, picture of Tiger Terry, and I didn't realize that he had gone to the 91st after I left 306th. They run a tape through ceiling speakers etc of a veteran crewman conversing with one of the "new johns", telling him of the pitfalls of typical mission.

Phoned Charlie "Doc" Flannagan over at Tell City from Elizabethtown, W VA, chatted at his office. Come to find out he had a patient in chair. Can visualize someone sitting there with a mouthful of cotton while we talked.

Russ, I guess if Kermit can order two books on 306th, I should be getting at least one. Please find check enclosed. The best to yourself, and Bill C. Always enjoy Echo's, and it gets first preference before morning business mail.

Kindest regards,

Designing
Commercial

Direct Mail
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Social

Advertising
Book & Catalogue

Binding
Mailing Service

6 August 1982
0900 hrs.

Dr. Immanuel J. Elette
Us Rep Office
AEO New York NY 09038

Dear "Manny":

There is not much doubt in my mind that you will recall my name, however, after just reading the interesting chapter from Freeman's latest, could not resist getting a few lines off. Stopped off last week at Luray Caverns, VA to say hello to Jerry Cavedo and he gave me Xerox.

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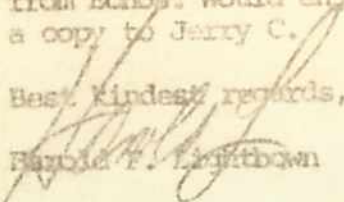
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Rather doubtful on this letter arriving, due to my old address from Echoes. Would enjoy hearing from you, and will sent along a copy to Jerry C.

Best kindest regards,


Harold F. Lightbown

1 March 1982

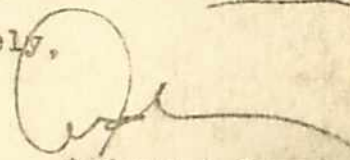
Dear Harold,

If I were to make a list of all the people whose letters I feel guilty about not having answered, I believe your name would head the list.

I simply have more on my hands than I can handle. This business of being well known is a mixed blessing, I find. Most of us make more friends over a period of a lifetime than we could possibly be in active association with during any one period. Friends get lost, move away or somehow disappear into the distance and their friendship is just a pleasant memory. I'm not lost and I haven't disappeared and because of my relative well-knownness, people can find me. You forget you make so many friends. It's a constant pleasure and perhaps the nicest thing that comes with my work. If it were not for the guilt feeling I live with over not having done more about reestablishing those old friendships, it would be blissful.

My daughter, Emily, works for WCVB in Boston and if I get up there to see her, I'll call you. I may be weak on the Harold but I've never forgotten the Lightbown.

Sincerely,



Andrew A Rooney

ANDREW A. ROONEY

CBS
NEWS

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New York, New York 10019



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27 August 1984

Dear Russ:

Always good to hear from you. The attached addresses for Smitty & Coxie I feel are current. Have written to them hoping they will try and make Ft Worth. Wyndom Haynes is now 7601 Canyon Ct, Tampa FL 33615 (1-813-886-3541).

Met with Lee Kessler last summer in Boston. Am hoping that he will make it this Fall. Pete & Harriet Pappas are planning on going. Think reservations are in. Phoned Jack Howard & Bill Casey a couple of weeks ago, trying to drum up a few more attendees. Wrote to Parley Small, Alan Meaux, Jerry Cavedo and a few others. It would be great to see them once more. Sorry to hear about "Snuffy", didn't realize he was in his seventies. Was he thirty or thirty-one in that picture being decorated? Didn't look it. We were off his wing that day, with the foul-up at Brest. Not sure whether I was with Bill Casey or our regular, Al Marish, who had taken over Jack Howards crew.

Also wrote to Charlie "Doc" Flannagan & Dolores (spell?) in Tell City, hoping he will make it. We had a good time in Orlando and the wives hit it off well. He goes hunting every year or west around October sometime, perhaps it won't conflict this year.

The best to Bill Collins if you are talking with him. Hope to see you all in Ft Worth.

The best to all,



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4/4/85

Dear Russ:

Your recognition, news-wise, was long overdue. Enjoy Echoes and look forward to each issue, only wish could be more help to you and Bill., for you both are "worth more money!"

As you can see "Fitin Bitin lives on" here in MA way. Have had a lot of comment and questions on the 306th, and have come up with a stock answer, that it was a "famous Group in WWII". The younger generation ask what was WWII? Pete Pappas got a great kick making up the plate and fortunately we are on a one plate system here in MA.

Russ, that Seren O. Preus (MA) came from Arlenes home town of Stoneham, MA. Have looked up last name, but no longer any kin-folk there. I was in the old First Reco. Squadron with him flying out of Westover in 1941, Douglas B-18's on sub patrol. We all took off by troop train in 1/42, after Pearl Harbor for Pendleton OR. Remember him at Pendleton, but lost track after they shipped me to Fack Fryes (TWA) Flying School (B-24-s) at Albuquerque (Spell., terrible). I could be wrong, however don't think he ended up in 306th.

Recent mailing from 92nd B.G. states they are going to B-17, Seattle Open House, along with other Groups. Pete Pappas may go, however I am not sure, for can't make them all.

Still trying to sell out and retire. Want to buy a printing plant?

Any old volumes around on Echoes? I used to send along my copies to other people after reading, now am sorry didn't keep them. Missing Vol 4, 1,2,3, & 4. Mol 3, 2.3, & 4.
~~Vol 2, 3, Vol 1, 1,2, & 3.~~

Just noticed there are 2 #2's for Vol 2, All set on Vol 2.

The best to you Russ, and say hello to Bill.
Am enclosing a donation for Echoes.

Lighty

23 September 1985

Mr. W. Raymond Wood
1801 Ridgemont
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Raymond:

I read with interest your letter in Air Force, Air Mail section, of September issue. I did not know your brother, for I had left the 369th by October, 1943.

Looking through the names of crewmen that you had listed, I find a James F. Montana, 920 Winston, Melrose Park, IL 60160. If you write, or contact him he no doubt could help you regarding your brother.

An interesting note is the fact that George "Brute" Bettinger, was our co-pilot, along with Al "Tex" Marrison pilot in the spring of 1943. He took the crew over from Jack Howard, who returned to the states after completing somewhere around 15 missions. The aircraft was named the "Piccadilly Commando". Al Marrison has been listed as deceased in Group records, as of 1971. Am not sure if this is the year he died or the year it was confirmed. Bettinger is not listed in 306th directory and would be interested in his locale, if he is still around. Marrison and Bettinger made a great pair and was always very confident with them up front.

If you contact Russell A. Strong, 2041 Hillside, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, who is very close to all personnel, he might be able to throw more light on the situation. The other crewmen listed are not in the 306th directory.

The best of luck in your endeavor.

Harold F. Lightbown
50 Friend Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

23 September 1985

Mr Earl Saunders
13452 Gable Hill Drive
Sun City West, AR 85375

Dear Earl:

Your lettin in September Air Force magazine caught my eye pertaining to the 369th. Some of the crewmen listed are in the 306th directory. It is quite possible you are not aware that there is a very active 306th Historical Society. Latest reunion was just a few weeks ago at Colorado Springs.

Suggest you contact Russell A Strong, 2041 Hillisdale, Kalamazoo MI 49007, who is right on top of personnel. He can also help regarding membership, for you should be on the roles.

The best of luck,

Harold F Lightbown
306th Bomb Group
369th Bomb Sqdn

50 Friend Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

1 August 1985

Mr. Earl R. Saunders
13452 Cable Hill Drive
Sun City West, AR 85375

Dear Earl:

My eyes open up, when catching the 306th in a publication.

Recent Air Force, August issue you mentioned a contact for the Group. There has been, for a few years now an association, which has grown to many members. There is a reunion slated for September at Colorado Springs. This should be a good one to attend, living in Arizona.

Your 306th contact is:

Mr Russell A Strong
2041 Hilldale
Kalamazoo MI 49007

He will be pleased, I know, to pick you up on the roster.

Good luck.

Harold F Lightbown
50 Friend Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

PS: Also former member of "Pitin Bitin"

*Russell A Strong
Capt. 1st Lt.
The Great
Lightbown*

Special Award By CAP Presented Harold Lightbown

READING — In special awards ceremonies recently, the Camp Curtis Guild Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, a United States Air Force Auxiliary Unit, presented a special "thank you" trophy to First Lt. Harold Lightbown of Wakefield for his continued support and assistance. The award was presented by Major Joseph Grillo, Squadron Commander. First Lt. Lightbown is a resident of 50 Friend st.

Other awards presented were to First Lt. James Pillsbury of North Reading (formerly of Wakefield) for outstanding service to the Cadet Squadron.

Several Cadets also qualified for awards and citations including Cadet Shaun Sullivan of Melrose who was presented the Mitchell Award which marks

the half way point in a Cadet's career. Cadet Sullivan is the first member of the Camp Curtis Guild Squadron to qualify for this award in the Squadron's short three year history.

Other awards and citations presented to Cadets were as follows: Cadet Recruiter Ribbon to David Stables and Joseph Lovati; two Bronze Clasps to William Ford, Cadet Advisory Council to David Staples, and Shaun Sullivan, Red Service Ribbon for two years service to David Martin and David Staples, Curry Ribbon and Unit Citation to Kurt Barrett, and the Arnold Ribbon to Edward Pigott and Tony Zagarella.

Model Rocketry Badges were also presented to Cadets Alan Camuso, Shaun Sullivan and David Martin.



A SPECIAL AWARD for "outstanding service" is presented to First Lt. Harold F. Lightbown of 50 Friend st, Wakefield (right), for his continued contribution to the area squadron of the Civil Air Patrol headquartered at Camp Curtis Guild, Reading. Making the presentation is Squadron Commander Major Joseph Grillo of Melrose. (Photo by Don Young)

GAVE SYRS TO THE "SALEM MA. SQUADRON" AS "AEROSPACE EDUCATION OFF" — NEVER SAID THANKS ?! —
 OLE HAROLD LOOKS GREAT
 HUH ?! NICE MEMO TO

8/11/86

Russ:

Please send along a copy of F.O.G. Have had Boves issue of F.O.G. for years and was under impression it was a re-print until I glanced at Pete Pappas's copy last Sat eve. Personalize title page if you so desire. Looking forward to Dayton & we can be more "newsy"

The best, as always,

Lighty

OVER

Thought Bone copyrighted
that title??

Also have copy of text of the
"Mangy" How are you seem
that?

Reese - would you have a
306th patch for a blaze
jacket. H. I assume.

If so, could you send along
with book. Will pay
you in Dayton that I.

17 August 1986

Dear Lightie:

You must have missed all the explanations five years ago that this "First Over Germany" was a different book from the first "First Over Germany."

It was Art Bove who first suggested that I use the same title again. I thought about it for several months and could not come up with anything I through even approached it, so I used the same title. His copyright- had long before run out, so that was no problem.

The only serious problem is that it has confused some people.

Your copy went in the mail Friday, so it ought to be arriving shortly.

I have a first edition copy in mint condition of "First of the Many", and when I returned to the States in '45 bought a copy of the Redding and Leyshon book, "Skyways to Berlin." It also has much early stuff on the 306th in it, some stories which I have copied in Echoes.

Shortly in Echoes I am going to run the names and authors of several books. Many of them are out of print, but can easily be obtained as interlibrary loans, an inexpensive way to get to read some hard-to-find books. Currently am reading the new biography on Eaker, and there is a new one on LeMay. Also, on vacation enjoyed the paperback "The Hunt for Red October." It is a modern thriller.

Look forward to seeing you in Dayton.

All the best,



HAROLD F LIGHTBOWN

TEL. 245-3662 426-5228

THE

Tic Toc Timery®

Antique Clock Repair & Restoration

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4/8/87

Carroll -

Please dump the enclosed into the "kitty", wish it were more, however "all grist for the mill" I assume. Gen Rader phoned last week, regarding printing for reunion, however, have sold my plant in Boston, and have just held onto a few of the larger better accounts and have tied in with another firm. Work mostly at office at home, along with shop in basement (Horology). Pete Pappas phoned this evening and he had gotten together with Jack and Dorothy Howard in FL. Both planning for Washington. My Arlene retires next week for good. Always enjoy seeing "you and Yours" at reunions. Stay healthy, and the very best to all.

Regards, Lighty

MEMBER OF AWI

MEMBER OF NAWCC

DAVE —

"
LITTLE MORE CRIST
FOR THE MILL" —

THE BEST TO
YOU AND YOURS!

SEE YOU IN D.C.

LIGHTY

6/16/87

Russ -

THIS FELLOW JUST PHONED A FEW MINUTES
AGO, SO AM DOING THIS WHILE HE'S IN MIND.

GEORGE HAYNES (369TH)
18 MT AUBURN ST.
LAURENCE MA 01843

(AIR CREW ~~1-5-87~~ ARRIVED 2 DAYS PRIOR TO D DAY)

SENT OFF NOTICE TO 8 LOCAL PAPERS
PLUS BOSTON GLOBE (ATTACHED). WILL
SEND ALONG ANY NEWS EXES. EVEN
1 BETTER THAN NOTHING I SUPPOSE.
COULD YOU SEND HIM ANY LITERATURE
(RECENT) THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE
REGARDING REUNIONS? HE ~~HAD~~ HAD
NEVER HEARD OF 306TH ASSOC.

THE BEST!

R1647/



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Wakefield
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1/1/89

Lightbown, Harold F.
50 Friend Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

(617) 245-3662

2/5/18

Arlene

MIT (Eves) 1939, 1940

Lightbown Press, Inc., President & Treasurer ^SDisolved 1986 Boston, MA
Touchmark, Inc., Broker & Consultant, 1986 to date Boston, MA
Tic Toc Timery, Clock Repair, 1974 to date Wakefield, MA

Joined 1975 (?)

Attended: Ft Worth, Colorado Springs, Dayton, Washington, Las Vegas (306th)
Washington, Orlado (8th)

02044620 - Comm. 369th Radio Operator (ROG) & Gunnery Officer
31033176 - Enlist.

^{June}
~~May~~, 1942 Jack Howards (Assign) also Tex Marish's who took over Howards
crew when Howard went back to States, also flew 5 or 6 with
Bill Casey

Departed: 7/43

2nd Lt.

384th BG - Gunnery Officer & 92nd BG - Gunnery Officer
1st Lt.

Gunnery Range Officer, /Kingman AFB, AR 1844-45, Massachusetts Air National Guard,
Communications Officer Massachusetts Wing, Civil Air Patrol, 1978 to date

Most memrable: Would have to be that day in July, upon completion of the 25,
stripped down and painted with the 25's, or the Rommiley, 12/20/42 when we
lost Lt Farr and BeⁿGordon, To^PTurret and myself managed to get in the way of
20 MM's, also when we started to let down at Brest, thinking it was Lands End.
Most humerous: We couldn't get at the coal pile, so each nite we took down one
of the 2x4 roof rafters in hut. Capt Stanko making one of his routine Saturday
morning inspections opened the hut door and roof started to buckle.

Russ:

I apologize for being so lax in not getting this info back to you. While putting
luggage up in the attic, I went thru pockets and found your canary Work Sheet
passed out at Vegas. Too soiled and wrinkled, hope you can fathom the info from
this sheet.

Lighty

Semi-Retired & Semi-"tired"

Site 7



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1/1/89

One of my resolutions is, to try and catch up on my correspondence with dedicated people like yourself. From time to time, I look back, especially when getting together with Pete Pappas who is a few miles to the north and think that perhaps yourself as historian might be interested in. So, if this sheet doesn't have any rhyme or reason, please forgive me.

Have you ever had a bearing on a Steve Pisinski, Worcester, MA. Was in the Comm. Section at Wendover. Repair. Lost track of him and we were very good friends.

From time to time you mention the numerical order that a combat crewman finished. Any idea where I was in the "batting order"? Also, how many of the originals aircraft that left Gander survived (369th)

Every December I think of the Rommiley Sur Seine (spell?) and one point of interest to me, is the fact that the 20MM that came thru the skin on the right side of the radio room, thru my hip and slammed into the liaison radio transmitter had a date of manufacture on it of 12/12/42 on it, only 8 days after manufacture it was being used. This shell never did detonate, and have often thought, was it armor piercing or could some Frenchmen working in the manufacture have altered it? Ben Gordon and myself were transported to the hospital for a stay, however one of the other gunners picked it up, carried it back to the hut and I was told it was buried beside the hut in Site 7. Perhaps some farmer has ploughed it well under.

Jack Howard is resting in a nursing home after suffering a stroke the night he returned home from Vegas. Have talked with Dorothy a couple of times and he is improving. He had a heart operation a few years back. I feel truly dedicated to Jack, Wild Bill & Tex for the job they did in getting me through. I really owe them a lot, and of course the rest of the crew members. We were all just kids in those days and didn't know any better. We were told to climb in there, and climb in we did.

Do you ever have any word on a Zinkovich (Bomb Aimer), Howards crew and then Marish. Last I heard from him was the Korean conflict, he ended up as a Transportation Officer. Star football player at U of NH.

Someone else I would like to get a bead on is, Harold Green, finished as a radio operator/gunner and was commissioned around the middle of 1943

Did you know that the gunners in Site 7 hut had a motorcycle (BMW) that was kept under a tarp out in the field (away from Stanko). This machine was rolled out on the back road to Kesoe village, was fired up and away the 2 riders would go. One on the seat and one sitting on a yellow air force cushion on the rear fender. There was no shifting pedal, just a square lug sticking out. After picking up speed the driver would give the rear seater a prod and he would reach down and shift gears with a crescent wrench. The constable in the village would just see a whirl of dust go by and as we looked back he would be shaking his fist at those "crazy Yanks". This was a nightly event. Fired on Hi-Octane fuel.

Russ-

I had promised you to send along anything that is in my 201, that might pertain to the 306th. Sooo.. I am doing it now. They might not have any interest at all, however here they are.

Keep up the good work, the best in '89!

Lighty

Sent along a little more "grist for the mill" to Dale B a couple of weeks ago

8 January 1989

Dear Harold:

When I got home from Christmas in Michigan lasstnight, I found your envelope with copies of all of your orders.

As is my practice with such things, I got them all copied today and am returning these to you now.

I really appreciate the material, and will examine it carefully for things I can use.

One of the interesting items was the "Citation of Airplane Crew". I have never seen anything like this before and will use it very shortly in Echoes.

Good to see you in Vegas.

All the best,

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

GENERAL ORDER)

15 December, 1942.

NO.....76)

EXTRACT

AWARDS OF PURPLE HEART * * * * *	SECTION I
AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS * * * * *	SECTION II
AWARDS OF AIR MEDAL * * * * *	SECTION III
AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER * * * * *	SECTION IV

III. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 74, Hq., AFMUSA, 16 November, 1942, the AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men.

(HAROLD F. LIGHTMAN, 31033176,) Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious achievement while serving as Radio Operator and Gunner on a B-17 airplane on a combat mission over enemy occupied Continental Europe, 23 November 1942. The airplane was attacked at 17,000 feet altitude by overwhelming numbers of enemy fighter airplanes, several crew members were wounded and the airplane was severely damaged. Displaying great courage and resourcefulness Sergeant Lightman remained at his post in the Radio Operator's compartment, skilfully repairing communication facilities as damage occurred, thereby maintaining the vital communication system throughout the airplane. The courage and skill displayed upon this occasion contributed much to successful completion of an important mission and reflect highest credit upon this soldier and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 34 Circle Road, Wintthrop, Massachusetts.

General Order No. 76, Headquarters Eighth Air Force, 15 December, 1942.

By Command of Brigadier General CHAUNCEY:

t/ JOHN A. WATSON,
Colonel, A. C.,
Actg. Deputy Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/ Wm. W. Dick
t/ WILLIAM W. DICK,
Colonel, A. G. U.,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

JOHN T. STANKO,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

DISTRIBUTION: 400

CO 68

RESTRICTED
NO DISCUSS

17 Dec 1942

CITATION OF AIRPLANE CREW

A citation is awarded to the crew of B-17 airplane #12118, consisting of the following officers and enlisted men of the Army Air Forces, United States Army, for gallantry in action against an armed enemy while on a combat mission over enemy occupied continental Europe, in November 1942:

1st Lt William J. Casey, 0410335, Pilot, Box 2, Redbank, New Jersey
2nd Lt. Oliver S. Tilli, 0661597, Co-Pilot, Route 2, Ravenna, Michigan
2nd Lt Walter C. Lecker, 0726000, Navigator, 4600 S. Grand Blvd, St. Louis, Mo.
2nd Lt. Albert G. Smith, 0726082, Bombardier, Arizona Apts., Phoenix, Arizona.
S/Sgt Joe Bowles, 93091168, Gun-ball turret, 802 Tenth St. Ext., Roanoke, Va.
S/Sgt Wilson W. Elliott, 16089362, Eng-gun top tur, Route 12, Knoxville, Tenn.
S/Sgt Reginald C. Harris, 14061967, Gunner waist, 529 Comile St, Houston, Texas
S/Sgt Allan F. Moats, 16076347, Gunner-waist, 2214 Lakeland Ave, Madison, Wis.
Sgt Harold P. Lightbown, 4034176, Radio opn-ran, 529 Pleasant St, Auburn, Mass.
Sgt Parley W. Small, 97100921, Gunner-tail, Packwood, Iowa.

Shortly after completion of its bombing run the airplane was attacked by seven enemy aircraft, attacking singly and from various angles. Every man of the crew, working in perfect coordination with all others, manned his station in the airplane so courageously and successfully that the entire attacking group of seven enemy airplanes were destroyed with gunfire in twelve minutes of combat. Four crew members were wounded and the airplane was severely damaged but returned safely to its base.

Displaying the courage, indomitable strength, and spirit inherent in a well trained combat team, this crew achieved a most notable victory in the face of great odds. The courage, skill and teamwork displayed by this airplane crew is of the highest order and worthy of emulation. (AG 210.5 and AG 220.5)

By order of the Theater Commander:

E. S. HUGHES,

Brigadier General, GSG, Acting Chief of Staff.

OFFICIALS:

T. J. Davis (s) B.T.S.

T. J. DAVIS,

Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General.

A FOUR COPY:

John T. Spargo
JOHN T. SPARGO,
1st Lt, Air Corps.

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