

August 1, 2000

Dear Mr. Strong

I can't tell you how pleased I am with the 367th Combat Diary. It has filled in so many of the gaps in my memory. Thank you very much. I will want to buy a copy of "First Over Germany" a little later.

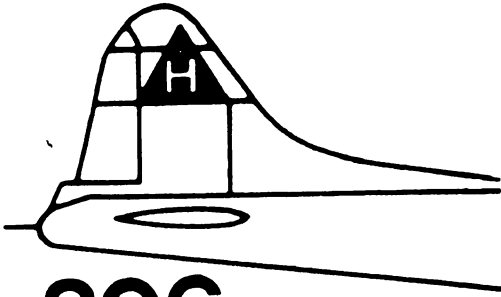
The diary arrived while our son and wife were visiting from Maryland. Seeing for the first time an account of my last bombing mission moved us greatly. My first two missions, as co-pilot, resulted in forced landings and through the years which was the first and which was the second became reversed in my recollection of the events. The hip wound the pilot, Wm. Davis, suffered prompted us to make an emergency landing in the south of England. This field had a landing area nearly square and close to a mile wide. I can't remember the name of it. The pilot was treated there and then, the next morning, we all flew back to Thurleigh. The account of my second mission Jan 1, '45 doesn't mention that we had gas tank damage and had to land in France, at an emergency field for fuel.

Are there records of the enlisted crew's names or the names of the co-pilots? I am also interested in the 306th Bomb Group Association and its activities. The diary's preface makes reference to 306th Echoes. Is this a publication? Are back copies available? You see, your work has really spiked renewed interest in the past.

Thank you very much,



Roland A. Lissner
220 West Avenida Cordoba
San Clemente, CA 92672-5411



367th, 368th, 369th, 423rd Squadrons, and service organizations
Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England – September 1942-April 1945

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

Secretary/Historian

Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205
Telephone & Fax
704/568-3803

5 August 00

Dear Roland:

In response to your letter of 1 August, I am enclosing a couple of back copies of 306th Echoes. We have been publishing this quarterly since 1975, so there is a tremendous backlog of information.

It is available on microfiche, indexed, through 1994, and can be read at any library.

But, I think the thing you will be really interested in is our collection of Miss Report data. We sell this, 3 missions for \$5. During the era you flew this normally includes the Intelligence Summary of the mission, a track chart, a formation chart, and the crew interrogation sheet. This lists the crew for the mission in which you just participated.

I am enclosing copies of your Missing Aircrew Report, and also a copy of the orders listing you and your squadron assignment on arrival at Thurleigh.

The directory costs \$10. I am sending a copy, assuming you will want to send a bill or a check for it.

People usually get a big kick out of the Mission Reports because they kind of get down to the nitty-gritty. They really do jog your memory.

Don't delay too long in ordering a copy of First Over Germany. I think it will be out of print after the reunion.

Now, I expect to see you at the reunion, as it is long a long hop for you from San Clemente to San Diego. I say that hoping that both you and your wife are in good health. But we do have people coming in wheelchairs, using canes and crutches. So make it if you can, because for four days everyone talks 306th--they just look a bit older.

Sincerely,

ALWAYS FIRST

FIRST OVER GERMANY

Author

First Over Germany

Command and Staff
Officers, 8th Air
Force, 1942-45

Editor

306th Echoes (quarterly)
306th Directory (biennial)
306th Squadron Diaries
367, 368, 369, 423

Roland A. Lissner
220 West Avenida Cordoba
San Clemente, 92672-5411

May 30, 2000

Dear Mr. Strong,

After posting an inquiry on the net, seeking information on the 306BG - 367BS, I received an E-mail from a lady by the name of Peggy O'Sullivan. She, too, was looking for information regarding the 306th. I wasn't able to help her, but she was most helpful to me. Perhaps you know of her. She gave me your name and that is why I'm contacting you.

I was only in the "Clay Pigeons" squadron for two months. I flew thirteen missions, and was shot down on the fourteenth over Berlin on February 3, 1945. We made a forced landing on the southern coast of Sweden, and I was interned there until August. My assigned plane was the Rose of York. It was the AAF's plan that my crew would finish up our tour and then fly the Rose back to the states on a bond selling gig much like the Memphis Belle had done. Feb. 3rd was to be the Rose's last mission. After her return, she was going to be sent to the repair depot for mechanical overhaul. While that was being done, my crew would finish up it's tour. Because the BBC correspondent, that had covered the christening of the Rose, was going on this last mission to record a report of her last combat flight, the Rose was positioned in what was thought to be one of the safer formation locations. I was flying Group Deputy Lead and in the number 2 position, not thought to be a good place for the BBC man.

I'm sure you know the Rose didn't make it back.. When I returned to England, and Thurleigh, I learned that my records and belongings had been sent to Liverpool for shipment to my next of kin. The only items received were my Individual Flight Record and personal effects. I remained in the AAF, in the 5th AF until 1948.

Not having the details and destinations of the missions I'd flown didn't seem important at that time. Other than writing two letters of inquiry, sent through channels, to Washington, I never tried to get a listing of the targets that we had bombed. The letters proved a waste of time. My only records are the dates and combat hours flown recorded in my Individual Flight Record.

Now that I am retired and have the time, my sons want me to write an account of my time in the service and experiences while participating in the WWII effort. To do this, I need to know all those details that I have forgotten, and of which I have no written record.

I understand that you have compiled a "367th Combat Diary" Does it contain the missions and targets of the 367th for January and February 1945? If so, this what I've been looking for. I will be grateful for any help or direction that you can give me. I would also like information regarding the 306th BG Association.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. A. Lissner".

Roland A. Lissner
Capt. AAF
Inactive Reserve

Mission Report Data for:

12/29/44			
12/29/44	1/5/45	1/14/45	1/21/45
12/30/44	1/6/45	1/15/45	1/28/45
1/1/45	1/7/45	1/17/45	1/29/45
1/2/45	1/10/45	1/20/45	2/1/45
1/3/45			2/4/45

18 reports ÷ 3 = 6 × \$5.00 = 30.00 TO RPH

X tint over Germany - \$38.00 5/22/00

Dear Russell,

Directory \$68.00
 10
 28.00

Thank you for your letter & enclosed 306th Echoes & orders of squadron assign. Is it possible to get a more readable copy of the orders? We are in Nebraska now but hope to be able to attend the last day of the reunion. Enclosed is a check for the above order. I look forward to meeting you at S. D.

Sincerely,
Robert

R.A. Lusner
 220 W. Ave. Cordoba
 San Clemente, CA

5/28/00

92672-5411

P.S. Have talked (by phone) with John Eubank re. attending back.

*8 Nov 2002

Dear Roland:

Per our conversation of yesterday, I am enclosing copies of all of the information I have on the mission of 29 Dec 44.

All I have in the Mission Report files are the individual crew interrogations, and yours' is pretty well annotated. I am it will be helpful for you and of great interest to family membrs. It kind of lays out your day.

Thanks for chatting with me,