

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

Name DONALD C. MARSH
Address RR 3 13085 MCWILLIAMS RD.
Home Phone 513-981-2786 Date 3-2-80
Occupation EXAMINATION SUPERVISOR Employer OHIO DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
Address 65 S. FRONT ST. COLUMBUS, OH Bus. Phone 614-466-7565
43215
Serial No(s) 0-708518 - 15375098

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

BASIC TRAINING - MIAMI BEACH, FLA.
SCHOOL - N.C. STATE COLLEGE, RALEIGH, NC.
NAVIGATOR PRE-FLIGHT - MONROE, LA.
NAVIGATOR SCHOOL - SAN MARCOS, TEX.
? COMBAT CREW TRAINING - ARDMORE, OKLA

After leaving the 306th:

NONE

306th Record

Arrival date at Thurleigh ABOUT MAY 5, 1944
Squadron or other unit(s) 367th
MOS # _____ Specialty NAVIGATOR
Missions Completed (and date of last) 34 - SEPT. 12, 1944
Promotions 1ST LIEUTENANT
Decorations 1AM 3olcs 1DFC ?olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM PH Battle Stars

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

(over)

Name DONALD C. MARSH

Address R.R. 3 13085 McWILLIAMS RD.

Telephone GREENFIELD, OH. 45123

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot CHARLES WEGENER

Plane # and Name 278 LIMBRIAGO

Mission Date SEPT. 12, 1944

Target RHILAND, GERMANY

Cause of loss: AA fire Fighter attack Other, explain

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can:

Conditions were very to confusing to me! The first indication of the fighter plane attack that I had was the explosion of a 20 mm shell under my navigators table. This set off my inter-com. The bombardier motioned we were under attack. About a minute later he told me we were to bail out - there was fire in cockpit and engineers section.

How and where did you leave plane?

Bailed out front hatch. Location - just northeast of Berlin.

What happened when you got on the ground?

I landed in a tree and climbed down. I evaded the first German search team but shortly after surrendered to a second team.

Did you meet any of your crew mates?

Two or three days later I saw Griffin and Wegener at Okerwald.

How were you treated, if captured?

I was not mistreated at any time. at Stalag Luft 1 we were on very short food rations from late January to May, 1945.

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.

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

March 15, 2005

Dear Sir:

Sorry I'm so late in sending this information. My husband Donald C. Marsh died Nov. 30, 2004.

He was a navigator with the 306th bomb group until he was shot down on his 33rd mission Sept 12, 44, and was a P.O.W. until May 45

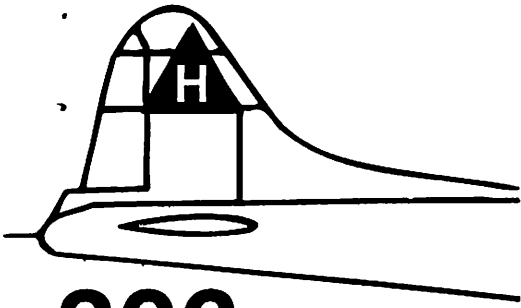
He leaves his wife Margaret, five children, 8- grandchildren and 4- great-grand-daughters

Sincerely

Mrs. Donald Marsh (Margaret)

13085 McWilliam's Rd.

Greenfield, Vh. 45123



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

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

See the Thurleigh Airfield Museum

President

Albert McMahan
273 N Peachtree St.
Norcross, GA 30071

26 March 2005

Vice President

Herman Kaye, JD, MD
1905 Carla Ridge
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Margaret:

Secretary

Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Thank you for sending information about Don. I was sorry to learn of his death, and I considered him a good friend while we were in combat during WWII. We were there at about the same time, and we navigators spent a fair amount of time together.

Treasurer

Royce Hopkins
35427 Pontiac Dr.
Brookshire, TX 77423

I also saw him at a few reunions, and enjoyed the renewal of our friendship. I may have met you at the same time, but do not recall it now. I was also interested in your family having five children, as my wife and I have five sons. But you are ahead of us on great-grandchildren, as we have to be blessed with them at some time in the future.

Directors

William Carnicom
112 Columbia Ct.
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Also, I do not at this time know if Don ever obtained a copy of the history of the 306th which I authored nearly 20 years ago. Perhaps some of your children and grandchildren will find it of interest.

William Houlihan
35449 Heritage Ct.
Farmington, MI 48335

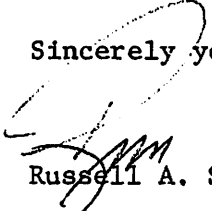
Hugh Phelan
556 N. Hwy 67
Donaldson, AR 71941

The best of life to you and your family, I am

Robert Rockwell
229 Beverley
Munster, IN 46321

Sincerely yours,

Past President
Royce Hopkins


Russell A. Strong

British Representative

Ralph Franklin
Mill Hill
Keysoe, Beds MK44 2HP
United Kingdom

March 2, 1980

Russell A. Strong
522 Jennison
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Dear Russell,

I finally located papers, pictures, etc. from World War II and went through them. I am sorry it took me so long.

I am enclosing 2 pictures of our original crew at Thurligh. I have a picture of the 10 of us together but it is not very clear. The names are on the back of the pictures. I see that a William Griffin attended the reunion. He is possibly the copilot of our crew. We remained together as a crew with a few exceptions for around 25 missions.

Another crew ran our plane, 278, through the hedge fence at the end of the runway probably in August and the fateful mission on Sept. 12 was its first mission after repairs. We should have aborted - not much went right that day.

I couldn't find any orders from the time I left San Marcos on. Whoever packed my things in England didn't do a very good job or maybe they were not supposed to send such items home. I have a diary and other items from the POW camp but these would not be of much help to you in your 306th history. Sincerely,

Donald C. Marsh
RR 3 13085 McWilliams Rd.
Greenfield, Oh. 45123

All Entries MUST be in Ball Point or Typed

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FROM

306th BG Assoc
5323 CHEVAL PL
CHARLOTTE NC 28205

TO

RONALD C. MARCH
10385 Mc WILLIAMS RD
GREENFIELD, OH 45123

24 January 1990

Dear Don:

I am sorry to have been so delinquent at returning your treasured diary. I had made note of your comment at Little Rock, but then did nothing about it.

When I sat down today to clean up some desk matters, it came to mind again, and I quickly copied it so that I can get it out in this afternoon's mail.

It has some good things in it, and when I get to working on the POW stuff later this spring, your material will be drawn on heavily.

Hope you are having a good winter. We are now getting to Columbus often, as one of our sons was transferred in October to Columbus to manage a restaurant for the Bill Knapp chain.

Look forward to seeing you again in San Antonio.

All the best,

We also attended my grandson's graduation from State University, in Savannah.

On the way home we stoped for a couple of days to visit another grandson + family in Morrisville, N.C.

Everything was wonderful - but a little hard at times to enjoy things without Don.

Thanks again from me and all of my family.

Sincerely
Margaret

P.S. Found 2 letters that you had written in July + Aug. "45"

Dear Russell:

So sorry I am late in sending our sincere thanks for your great book "First Over Germany."

We are deeply touched by your generosity.

I know Don would have loved reading it, as have all of my family in Greenfield.

My oldest son Tom, from Mississippi is visiting me this week-end so I'm loaning it to him.

Don gave my daughter, granddaughter and I spent about 5 hours at the Air Force Museum in Savannah. Don's name has been inscribed in the Memorial Gardens. What a great place.



Designed by Anne Marie Trechslin

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X for Don Marsh

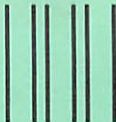
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F. A. STRONG

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