

RECORDS UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish to, fold and mail as per address on reverse side. Or, if obtained at a reunion, hand to Russ Strong)

LAST NAME: *SPENCER* FIRST NAME: *DONALD* TITLE:
STREET ADDRESS: *314 MT. VERNON AVENUE* TELEPHONE: *(313) - 882-1207*
CITY: *GROSSE POINTE FARMS* STATE: *MICHIGAN* ZIP: *48236*

DATE JOINED 306th ASSOCIATION: *1980 (?)*
REUNIONS ATTENDED: (Years) *1983 - OMAHA*
1986 - DAYTON
1987 - WASHINGTON (ARLINGTON?)
WIFE'S NAME: *BETTY*

LAST EMPLOYMENT: *COMERICA BANK - DETROIT*

COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED: *UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN* DEGREE(S): *AB - DATE: 1942*
MBA - 1947

SERIAL #: *0-813803* SQDN: *423RD* MOS: *(1022) (1024)*
CO-PILOT FIRST PILOT

DATE ARR: *JULY 21, 1944* CREW: *#4121*
FEB 1944 *JOHN B. DELAPOER'S*

DATE DEPARTED: *FEBRUARY 1945* HIGHEST RANK IN 306th: *FIRST LT*

SERVICE RETIREMENT DATE: *NOVEMBER 13, 1945* RANK or GRADE: *FIRST LT.*

DECORATIONS WITH 306TH: *OVERSEAS BAR, AIR MEDAL W/5 OLC,*
EAME RIBBON W/3 BR STARS

TOP SERVICE ASSIGNMENT AFTER 306TH: *6th FERRYING GROUP COMMAND ATC*

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS WITH 306TH: *-*

QUESTIONNAIRE

CATERPILLAR CLUB - IRVING CHUTE COMPANY

NAME:

COMBAT JUMP DATE & MISSION:

HEIGHT WHEN BAILED OUT:

ANY PROBLEMS WITH PARACHUTE:

306th Bombardment Group. SQDN:

314 Mt. Vernon
Cross Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236
December 21, 1987

Dear Russ -

You announced at the 306th Reunion you would be retiring from your duties at Western Michigan and moving to North Carolina. Before your leave Michigan, I would like to express my appreciation for all you have done for us who had the experience of serving with the 306th, certainly without your effort and leadership, there would not have been the success of "First Over Germany", 306th Echo, and the recent reunions.

For me, who started with the 423rd as co-pilot with Jack Delaport's crew, reading your book, attending the reunions, and reuniting with former comrades, have been a very but welcome experience. All of our original crew has now been recruited except for our bombardier, Dick Card, who was killed in that fateful collision December 15, 1944, when he fell in on John Wilkes' crew. It was through the Echo that our crew members were able to meet again - thanks to you.

I trust your services to the Group will continue. But do enjoy the retirement age of your life, my best to you and your lovely wife.

Sincerely,
Don Spencer

314 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
June 3, 1993

Mr. Russell A. Strong
Secretary/Editor
306th Bombardment Group Historical Association
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Russ:

It's evident that I was not fully alert the other evening when you called asking from what flying school I obtained my pilot wings. Maxwell Field was mentioned, but that was for pre-flight.

The facts are

Class 43-I (Oct 1 1943)
Moody Field
Valdosta, Georgia.

Subsequently I became co-pilot in Jack Delapoer's crew, a first pilot January 5, 1945, and completed my tour of 35 missions January 29, 1945.

I trust you will be able to correct your records to reflect this data.

Thanks,



Donald R. Spencer

314 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
November 16, 1991

Dear Russ:

Now that I've returned from a delightful week's stay in London with a "musical" tour group, I wish to express my thanks for talking on the phone before I left to tell me what you knew about present day Thurleigh.

Your indications sided with what I surmised. As a result, a day was not spent there. Instead, Betty, my wife, joined me in taking the "underground" to visit the RAF Museum at Hendon. As in most good museums, its displays are excellent. They included not only WWII craft but everything from pre-Wright brothers to space vehicles; also exhibits showing construction of an early biplane to the scene--with sound dialogue--of a WAAF's quarters in WWII.

My visit coincided with the November 11 "Remembrance" Holiday weekend, and other numerous visitors there were RAF veterans. It was a delight to talk and reminisce with them. A main exhibit there which we did not have time to go in was "The Air Blitz," but it has to be well worth seeing.

On another day our group visited the Churchill War Rooms--again, well done and interesting.

During my stay at Thurleigh from July '44 to January '45, I visited London probably 3 or 4 times for a night or 2. Sightseeing was not on the agenda. This time, though, I now realize the feeling of "deja vu" is not as strong as I had thought it might be. The buildings and things have changed--and, of course, I have too.

The October issue of "Echoes" tells of the 1992 reunion in England. While I would like to join it, I have to say now it will be going on without me. But I wish you and the others a great experience.

Thanks for talking to me, Russ.

My best,


Donald R. Spencer

314 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
February 17, 1988

Mr. Russell A. Strong
Secretary/Editor 306th Echoes
2041 Hillisdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Dear Russ:

You've accomplished a real job in compiling the list of pilots appearing in the January issue of Echoes. I appreciate seeing my name among those of the 423rd. If, however, the list is open for corrections, could my position designation be changed to "CP-P."

Who knows, if Ronald Reagan should decide to star in "Command Decesion II," I may want to send a resume to pilot a B-17.

Best regards,



Donald R. Spencer

INDIVIDUAL FLIGHT RECORD

(1) SERIAL NO. 0-813803 (2) NAME SPENCER DONALD R. (3) RANK 2nd Lt. (4) AGE 1918
 (5) PERS. CLASS 18 (6) BRANCH Air Corps (7) STATION #111, APO 567
 (8) ORGANIZATION ASSIGNED 8th 1st Air Div 40th CBW 306th 423rd
 (9) ORGANIZATION ATTACHED _____
 (10) PRESENT RATING & DATE Pilot, 1 October 1943 (11) ORIGINAL RATING & DATE Same
 (12) TRANSFERRED FROM _____ (13) FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS None
 (14) TRANSFER DATE _____

(16) DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

PERS CLASS	RANK	RTG.	A. F.	COMMAND	WING	GROUP		SQUADRON		STATION	MO.	YR.
						NO.	TYPE	NO.	TYPE			
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

(17) MONTH JANUARY 1945

DAY	AIRCRAFT TYPE, MODEL & SERIES	NO. LANDINGS	FLYING INST. (INCL. IN 1ST PIL. TIME) S	COMMD. PILOT C CA	CO-PILOT CP	QUALIFIED PILOT DUAL QD	FIRST PILOT		RATED PERS.			NON-RATED		SPECIAL INFORMATION				
							DAY P	NIGHT P N OR NI	NON-PILOT			OTHER ARMS & SERVICES	OTHER CREW & PASS GR C D-AI	INSTRUMENT 1	NIGHT N	INSTRUMENT TRAINER	PILOT NON-MIL. AIRCRAFT	
									P-AI								OVER 400 H.P.	UNDER 400 H.P.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
4	B-17G	1			4:00													
5	"	1					6:40											(COMBAT)
6	"	1					6:10		1:00					1:00				(COMBAT)
7	"	1					7:00											(COMBAT)
8	"	1					8:15											(COMBAT)
10	"	1					7:10		:50					:50				(COMBAT)
20	"	1					6:10		1:10					1:10				(COMBAT)
29	"	1					7:55		:30					:30				(COMBAT)
2	Link Trainer															1:00		
CLOSED: CHANGE OF STATION																		

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Thomas F. Witt
 THOMAS F. WITT,
 Major, AG,
 Oprns. Officer,
 306th Bomb. Gp. (H)

(37) THIS MONTH	(38) PREVIOUS MONTHS THIS F. Y.	(39) THIS FISCAL YEAR	(40) PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS	(41) TO DATE	(42) TOTAL STUDENT PILOT TIME		(43) TOTAL FIRST PILOT TIME		(44) TOTAL PILOT TIME		
					49:20	3:30	53:20	316:10	34:55	1:00	
					228:00	49:20	3:30	528:05	14:00	11:15	
					228:00	49:20	3:30	897:35	48:55	12:15	

AIRCRAFT	NL	CARD NO. 1					CARD NO. 2					CARD NO. 3							
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36

Notice Feb, 1945

O-P-E-R-A-T-I-O-N-A-L S-O-R-T-I-E R-E-C-O-R-D

NAME: SPENCER, DONALD R.RANK: 1st Lt.A.S.N.: 0-813803DUTY: PilotGROUP: 306thSQUADRON: 423rd

Date of Mission	Group Mission Number	Indiv. Mission Number	Geographical Location of Targets		Time	Total Combat Time
Aug. 5, 1944		1	Dollbergen	Germany	8:05	
6		2	Stendel	"	8:50	
7		3	Montbargier	France	8:15	
8		4	Caen Area	France	5:45	
14		5	Chivres	Belgium	8:15	
15		6	Frankfurt-Eschborn	Germany	7:45	
24		7	Vorden	Germany	9:15	
26		8	Gelsenkirchen	"	7:00	
Sept 3, 1944		9	Ludwigshaven	Germany	8:15	
17		10	Volkel	Holland	6:15	
22		11	Kassel	Germany	7:45	
25		12	Frankfurt	Germany	7:30	
27		13	Koln	"	6:45	
28		14	Magdeburg	"	9:00	
Oct. 3, 1944		15	Nurnburg	"	9:00	
7		16	Ruhland	"	9:15	
14		17	Koln	"	7:30	
17		18	Koln	"	7:00	
22		19	Hannover	"	8:15	
Nov. 2, 1944		20	Merseberg	"	8:00	
5		21	Frankfurt	"	8:15	
6		22	Hamburg	"	8:20	
8		23	Merseberg	"	8:45	
21		24	Merseberg	"	8:45	
Dec. 6, 1944		25	Merseberg	"	8:50	
15		26	Kassel	"	8:45	
28		27	Seigburg	"	6:45	
30		28	Mainz	"	8:00	
Jan. 5, 1945		29	Niedermendig	"	6:40	
6		30	Koln	"	8:10	
7		31	Urskirchen	"	7:00	
8		32	Speyer	"	8:15	
10		33	Gymnich	"	7:10	
20		34	Rheine	"	6:10	
29		35	Koblens	"	7:55	273:25

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Thomas F. Witt
 THOMAS F. WITT,
 Major, AC,
 Oprns. Officer,
 306th Bomb. Gp. (H)

CONFIDENTIAL

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