

July 17, 1992

Please note - the enclosed member of the 306th Bombardment Group Assn. is deceased as of April 3, 1991. Please notify all those sending correspondence to take his name off the list - Thank you -

Mrs. Chen Stafford
3727-70 Ave. E. W
Tacoma, WA 98466

Dear Russell —

11/30/83

Received a second "First Over Germany" book and will return the extra copy to you.

The account of our demise on the Schornfurt raid (Page 169) was a little mixed up. I was co-pilot that day but flew in 1st pilot's (leftside) seat as Besson preferred to fly lead plane of low squadron from right seat. Thus, I didn't wiggle out a window but wiggled down passage way between pilot seats. Then dove headfirst out of nose hatch which had been blown off from 20 mm explosion in nose killing bombardier & Navigator. He hadn't made it to the target when we bailed out. Both inboard engines

CRR

When fire + radio room had fire. Back
End Oxygen was shut out. Then we got
hit with rocket in tail, the plane
("Georgia Peach" - Bessie was from Georgia)
stood on its tail + Geo + I had a hell
of a time getting nose down. After
that we had to give up formation as
our right rudder ~~was~~ control was not
working. Fighter attacks from under-
neath opened up holes in engine nacelles
and hit nose compartment killing Young
+ Lukins. Bessie ordered bail out
and we jettisoned the bombs. Bessie
watched me go down the hatch. + ~~Drop~~
Oscop was getting out of top turret when
I left the machine. Guess it didn't
stay together long enough for their escape.

Am enjoying the book. Have recently
heard from Pat Walsh (P. 141) Here who can come
to P.O.W. reunion in Seattle next year along
with a couple other ex-POWs who lived in
same room with me in Staley Luft 1. Berth.

Regards.
Chuck Stafford

Dear Russell—

The Jan 58 issue of Eclips has me listed as a CP with the 423rd.

Please tell the historian that I was a CP with the 367th - I flew missions with Jackmeir, ^(KIA) Besson, and some others. I flew overseas with Jim Hunter's (KIA) crew and arrived at 367th-43-08-08.

I had 3 missions in (milk runs) as a CP and never shot landing, via B-17 nor had I any formation flying training. I felt sorry for the pilots I flew with. After my first mission the squadron leader asked my pilot if we were flying Everson action (LeBourge mission) to which

he answered: "Hell no - this guys never
flown formation."

Then I took over controls at 10,000'
while the pilot put on his oxygen
mask, I had a rough time - felt
like I was flying a hog up a hill
that was covered with grass.

"Cowboy" Fuchmeir showed me the
ropes of formation flying. I enjoyed
missions with 'Foch'. We both stuck
our wing-tips in the waist gunner
window - the tighter - the better

Regards, Chuck Stafford

P.S. I belong to the Tacoma Yacht Club and
there are 3 ex-8th A.F. officers who are
members and all 3 of us were POW.s at
Luft 1. Dinwiddie Fuchmeister, 367th Pilot,
and Edie officer is an acquaintance and we
are both members of Christ Church Parish
(Epsoc.) Tacoma.

CHARLES R STAFFORD
3727 70TH AVE CT W
TACOMA, WA 98466

MIA 23 APR 86
with Biquad
L. Brock
General Mail
in the morning
had lived since

number 36774

43-08-08

SCHIMMEL, VERNON R	CP	44-09-25	45-03-23	TOUR
SCHOENBACHLER, EDWIN A	P	44-07-03	44-11-21	MIA/POW
SCHRACK, DOUGLAS T	P	44-08-21	45-02-00	TOUR
SCHROEDER, ROBERT W	CP	44-08-29	44-09-15	
SCHULTZ, WILMER G H	P	45-01-13		
SENFTON, EUGENE R	CP		44-11-05	TOUR
SEYMOUR, JAMES G	CP-P	44-04-03	45-01-24	TOUR
SHADOWEN, REXFORD O	CP	44-05-29	44-07-31	
SHUTZ, JULIUS P JR	CP	43-10-16	44-04-15	TOUR
SMITH, L EUGENE	P	44-12-20	45-10-00	28 MISSION
SMITH, ROBERT H	CP-P	43-01-15	43-06-00	TOUR
SMYTHE, CARL P	P	44-08-08	45-01-07	TOUR
SNOBBLE, JOHN K	CP	44-12-20	45-05-14	
SPENCER, DONALD R	CP	44-07-21	45-02-00	TOUR
SPRUNGER, RICHARD W	CP	44-08-21	45-03-24	TOUR
STAFFORD, CHARLES R	CP		43-10-14	MIA/POW
STEELE, DAVID A JR	P	42-12-11	43-07-30	TOUR
STEIGER, CLIFFORD L	P	45-02-16	45-11-00	12 MISSION