

Pilot graduation class: 44- D

Where? Stockton Field, California

PERSONNEL RECORD UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Date April 15, 1944 .

Complete this form and return to Russell A. Strong, Secretary, 306th BG Assoc., 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205, to be filed with 306th records.

LAST NAME: STREUN FIRST NAME: Kenneth MI: H TITLE: 2d Lt

Street Address: Deceased

Telephone: ( )

City, State

Zip + 4: \_ \_ \_ \_ - \_ \_ \_

Winter Address:

Telephone: ( )

City, State

Zip + 4: \_ \_ \_ \_ - \_ \_ \_

Date of birth: 10-11-1922

Wife's name: Lucille #c 0  
#gc  
#ggc

College(s) attended: Southwestern  
Weatherford, Oklahoma

Degree(s), & when: BS - 1943

Last employment & job title & retirement date: NA

Serial #(s): ASN 18131478

Squadron: 369th Specialty: Pilot  
B-17

Date joined 306th: December, 1944

If combat, what crew? He was flying  
co-pilot with 1st Lt Robert D. Stewart

Special duties or assignments w/306th: Unknown

No of missions flown: Unknown

Date of last mission: 1-1-45

Date leaving 306th: MIA - 1-1-45

Highest rank/grade w/306th: 2d Lt.

Other 8AF units served with, and when: None

Top service assignment after 306th: NA

USAF retirement date: NA

Rank/grade: NA

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the Squadrons or other units serving with the 306th, are sought by the secretary, as many of these do not appear in any collections of materials in National Archives or the Air University.

If you know of others who served with the 306th and who do not appear in the current 306th Directory, please add their names and current/WWII hometowns or other addresses to the back of this sheet so that searches may be implemented to add them to our present 306th roster.

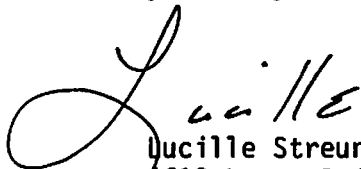
22 July 1999

Rus -

Am sending you a copy as a gift of my book which I ended up publishing myself.

Do hope it will not be too "ho hum - yawn" etc., for you, but thought maybe it might be of some interest to you.

Very best wishes to you and your family always.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lucille". The letter "L" is large and loops around the first part of the name. The "u" and "i" are connected, and the "l" and "l" are also connected. The "e" is a simple cursive flourish.

Lucille Streun  
4613 Lunow Drive  
Okla City, OK 73135  
405/672-8393

Please describe the 1944-45 8th AF patch. In watching "Memphis Belle," it appears the patch was a little different. Also, do you know if it is available?

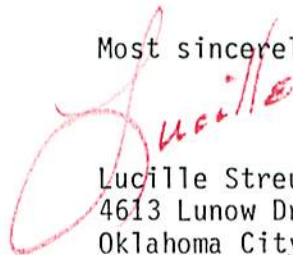
Is it permissible, in good taste, to wear those patches now on a bomber jacket?

I'm enclosing a personal check for \$60 which should cover what I've requested. If it doesn't, please let me know. If I've sent too much, don't return any, just use it where needed for the 306th Association expenses.

Well. I've probably ruined your day with all of these requests, and for that I apologize.

Thanks, again!

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Lucille". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Lucille Streun  
4613 Lunow Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73135

LS:

Enclosure

8 May 1996

Dear Russell,

Though it seems awkward, I hope I'm on a first name basis by now. You certainly are where my name is concerned.

Business first. I do want Lt. Streun's mission reports, although I doubt if he flew more than three. Please send all you have.

Also, please send another copy of *First Over Germany*. I want to give it to an Oklahoma library -- perhaps at the college where he graduated.

Am still working on my book. In fact, I started all over. I never want to fail to give credit where credit is due, and Davis (my teacher at OU) did offer some good suggestions which I am working on. But he also did a pretty good job of demoralizing me. It has taken me a while to sort through his comments.

First of all, I think his belief that historical facts flatten a story is screwy. They certainly do not for me or Rosamund Pilcher. She uses so many of the same ideas I plotted in my book in her latest (best seller) *Coming Home*.

I may not quote as much of your book as in the original draft, but I shan't leave out much. With your permission of course.

Next, I have some questions.

What does the term "Abbeville Kids" mean? I'm sure it has some special significance I missed in reading the book.

Please tell me about Hunter Publishing. Is it still in business?

What is its publishing criteria?

Can it be engaged to publish a book and if so, would the cost be prohibitive? Probably so, I would guess.

What were the 1944-45 ribbons for 306th combat service excluding decorations, and are they available now, perhaps at the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patt?

2 June 1996

Dear Lucille:

I regret that I haven't gotten back to your story earlier, but I seem to be involved too much in Family History, but I have a deadline there. We are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary 13 July, and our children decided it should be done in Kalamazoo, MI, our hometown, and will probably include tons of relatives from both sides of the family, although not many actually live there now.

The Abbeville Kids were the FW 190s of the Luftwaffe stationed in Northern France, who chased the B-17s frequently early in the war.

Hunter Publishing is a large printing company. You ought to consider someone more in your region. Call one of the universities in your area, ask for the publications director, and talk to him/her about prospects and guidance. They will have a good handle on the printers who might be able to help you. I went to Hunter because I knew them and had worked with them closely over some years. But, they are expensive.

In 44-45, men were receiving Air Medals, Purple Hearts for wounds, Distinguished Flying Crosses. The ETO ribbon was for service in that theatre. Yes, ribbons are available. I would suggest you contact a service organization: National Guard, Air Reserve unit, American Legion, etc.

I see people wearing patches for 8th, etc.

21 November 1995

Dear Lucille:

I enjoyed your letter, received yesterday, and hasten to answer it before family descends for several days of Thanksgiving celebrations and football.

As to your manuscript, perhaps what you need are some Combat Mission reports on your husband. We sell them for 3 missions for \$5, and if you would let me pick out perhaps six of his that were interesting you would be going back to the real "raw" material for your writing, and the teacher could exult at that, rather than just quoting out of my book. Let me know.

I don't know where that crew picture came from. I didn't mark its origin on the back, but it very likely came from one of the crew members.

I mailed the book to Standlee. And I still have copies available.

Variant spellings of 306th names are legion, and it has been difficult for me at times to straighten them out. So, if I hit a bad source first, it usually has taken some time to get the right name in place later. Even the original orders often had the names misspelled. I'm always happy to finally get it right. The book manuscript was in preparation 15 years ago and I have learned a lot since.

Sincerely yours,

14 November 1995

Russell A. Strong  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205

Dear Russell Strong,

In our complex world of technology which seems to have whizzed by me, I still prefer to write letters.

Got a little busy last summer, but have meant for some time to thank you for allowing me to use material from *First Over Germany*, and also for your comments about my manuscript.

Am still working on it in a writing class at OU. My instructor is encouraging, but tough. Didn't know how he would accept his ancient student and was afraid he wouldn't like the material as he is young and very contemporary, but he did like it. Said it was terrific, but objected to my style. He especially doesn't like the way I've so liberally quoted you. And he is right. So there is much work ahead. When I've completed a revision, would like you to take another look if you wouldn't object.

Was so pleased and surprised to see the picture of my husband and his crew in your summer 1995 issue of "Echoes." Thank you! Am very curious as to how you came by that picture.

A strange coincidence occurred in the spring issue of "Echoes." My name was listed as a new "family" member, but also listed as a 306th member was my husband's engineer, Standlee. Was very pleased about that as I had lost contact with all of his crew. I wrote to him, and later we visited by telephone. Again, thanks!

Then in the recent issue of "Echoes" I noticed the name of Hazel Stewart Kane, wife of Robert D. Stewart, pilot of Ted's ship. She was listed as "306th Family." I have also been in contact with Stewart's family this year.

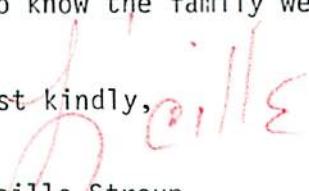
I'm enclosing a check and would you please send Standlee a copy of *First . . .* His address is: James F. Standlee, Route 1, Box 1447, Golden, MO 65658-369.

I will be writing later for another copy to give to an Oklahoma library - if there any copies left.

Just as a matter of curiosity, I wonder why Ted's name was spelled "Strine" in my book. That is the way it is pronounced, but not the correct spelling. Interesting. Only those who know the family well are aware of that.

Most kindly,

LS:

  
Lucille Streun  
4613 Lunow Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73135  
405/672-8393

This is what  
my husband wrote

This is my copy of the orders  
of 8th AF ground maintenance  
personnel from the 8th to the  
20th AF by the way of Lincoln  
Neb AF Base early in 1944. We  
were flown by air from Prestwich  
Scotland to La Guardia fld N.Y  
& by train to Lincoln for  
reassignment to the 20th AF. I was  
assigned to the 19th B Sq as  
inspector on Guam for the rest  
of the war  
Herbert McVicar



HEADQUARTERS  
306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
AIR ECHELON

Westover Field, Mass.  
August 28, 1942.

SPECIAL ORDERS)  
NUMBER 12)

E X T R A C T

1. Pursuant to the authority contained in AR 615-5 and upon the recommendation of the Squadron Commander, the following men, all of the 367th Squadron, are promoted to grades as indicated, effective August 28, 1942

*	*	*	*
T/Sgt.	Herbert L. McVicar	6660482	To M/Sgt
*	*	*	*

By order of COLONEL OVERACKER:

/s/ Watts S. Humphreys,  
/t/ WATTS S. HUMPHREYS,  
Major Air Corps  
Adjutant Air Echelon

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

*J. A. Lakotta*  
J. A. LAKOTTA,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Personnel Officer.

7 May 1995

Dear Lucille:

I have no objections to the uses you made of First Over Germany materials in your story.

I'm sure it has been an interesting exercise for you. I have made a few minor corrections in, especially early, which I don't think you will find difficult to deal with.

If I may be so bold, I would make a couple of comments about the story, in the event you are looking to possible publication.

I think the story needs considerable tightening up, as it seems to meander at a very slow pace, although I realize that in reality it was mostly covered at a very slow pace. If you are to submit it to anyone, you don't want them to say "Ho-Hum" while reading it.

it

But, on the other hand, if/is largely for your own benefit, then the pace has little to do with it

Now, to shift gears. Over the past couple of years I have had some correspondence with Lillian Stewart, the sister of Ken's pilot, Robert Stewart. She has been searching for information and answers, as you have been, and perhaps she is someone you might like to contact: 3762 E Fitzsimmons Rd., Oak Creek, WI 53154/ 414/762-5133.

You probably have quite a bit in common over this one incident which has had such a tremendous impact on your lives over the past 50 years.

I am sorry I can't be more helpful. In the past week I have responded to the turmoil of another widow who lost her husband 1 May 43 in a very similar way, and for whom there is no more information than you have been able to find.

Sincerely yours,

May 2, 1995

Russell A. Strong  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205

Dear Mr. Strong -

Appreciate very much being added to the 306th mailing list so promptly for information, and also all of your work. I've done a bit of writing and understand the time and effort involved.

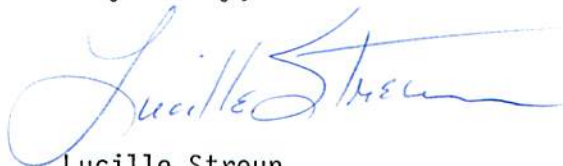
I wrote earlier and asked your permission to use quotations from *First Over* . . . which you generously gave, but I'm sending a copy of that part of my manuscript that pertains to you for your approval. If it is unacceptable to you in any way, I'll make deletions or changes.

What I've written is purely provential I reckon, but truthful. Writing certainly opens one up, doesn't it? But it is a very sweet story, and one that I wanted to write.

Everything I've included really happened, but some names have been changed (including my own). "Ted" isn't a made-up name. He really was called Ted by those close to him. And I really am quoting from his letters . . .

Will be looking forward (I think) to hearing from you.

Very kindly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucille Streun". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Lucille Streun  
4613 Lunow Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73135

LS:

Enclosure

November 8, 1994

Mr. Russell A. Strong  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205-4937

Dear Mr. Strong,

I'm writing to inquire about First Over Germany. Is it still possible to buy a copy? If so, I would appreciate information.

My husband, 2nd Lt. Kenneth H. Streun, was assigned to the 369th Bomb Squadron, 306th Bomb Group, and perished January 1, 1945 returning from a mission over Germany. He is mentioned on page 298 of your book.

I would also like your permission to use that page, and other references in your book for an autobiographical piece I'm working on about those war years, and circumstances about his tragedy.

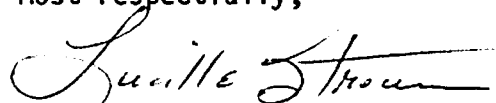
Do you have any information available about the dependents of that flight crew?

I was very impressed with your fine book. You must have spent years researching it. Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for information about my husband's tragedy I never knew before. It means so much to me. You're to be commended.

If it is permitted, I'd like very much to be on the mailing list for the newsletter, and would appreciate information about that also.

Again, thanks to much for your wonderful book, and any material you can share.

Most respectfully,



Lucille Streun  
4613 Lunow Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73135

LS: