

## Finding information regarding a veteran at 306bg.us (updated 1/4/2018)

**If you do not know if your vet of interest served in the 306<sup>th</sup>:** consult list of known 306<sup>th</sup> vets in Ed-Research/archives

**Start with Search Options:** (a tab on home page) is currently a limited tool as many thousands of docs and Pics are NOT indexed. All Russell Strong index cards (8,000+) of known to him vets are indexed as well as his correspondence files with vets. About ½ of mission reports and Missing Air Crew reports as well as hundreds of obits and special orders are indexed. Search results may suggest other spellings as WWII clerks & indexers make mistakes.

**Navigate to Ed-Research/archives/Russell Strong Card File** Take note of:

period of Thurleigh service; position or job title; squadron; if a flyer: pilot &/or plane name & crew member names. Pay attention to when he reported, and any info about the crew he reported with, or if he was downed during the war, to the pilot's name, which is usually in parentheses after the date / mission of the downing. If the image shows the back side of the card, be aware that has any personal information that Russell Strong gathered from the vet post-war; that usually came from correspondence or a biography form completed at an annual 306<sup>th</sup> reunion.

**Correspondence File.** Not all 306th men's names have a Correspondence File. However, any man's name (even if he did not live thru the war) can be mentioned in another's Correspondence File – including helpful correspondence decades later with Russell Strong, possibly talking about where a fellow crew mate or 306th buddy came into the war from, or where he lived post-war. Thus, check for a **Correspondence File** in the name of (1) the vet in question, **AND (2) EVERY crew-mate you can identify.**

**Try to Identify fellow crew members of your veteran of interest by looking in Card File AND:**

(1) Ed-Research/Photo Albums from WWII/**Air Crew Photos:** which are filed only by pilot surnames. Some of the Air Crew photos were taken before a crew reached England, during their stateside crew training. Thus even if a pilot died on his first mission from Thurleigh, when the crew he brought over was NOT flying with him, you can see on the photo's label, all the men who came over together. Check the Correspondence File for all those men's names.

(2) Ed-Research/archives/**Orders, Special:** In many of the Special Orders are lists of entire crews of men reporting in. We do not have all of the Special Orders, but we have a lot of them. If you find crews listed, for whom we have no Air Crew photo, these can give you the names of crew-mates to check in the Correspondence File.

(3) Ed-Research/archives/**Squadron Diaries** can help you identify the crew members and the friends of a man. Check dates on/around the time a man's Card says he reported to Thurleigh, SOME (not all) Squadron Diaries listed the men reporting to Thurleigh.

**Echoes:** Review the index of 1975-2000 echoes, there is a link on the Echoes page. All *Echoes* are on-line. Early issues have many lists of 306th men either as: (1) Found / Directories, for men having been found stateside & how to contact them -- thus giving you places to check re a man. (2) "Still looking for" - often indicating where the man had come from, pre-war. Be aware not all 306th men were ever found by long time secretary Russell Strong.

**Obituaries:** There is a link to a list of **All men who died DURING 306th service in WWII at the TOP of the page.** Please check your name of interest against that list; many of those men are buried in American Cemeteries abroad, or their names are listed on the Walls of the Missing at those cemeteries. If his name is listed there, be aware that the American Cemetery abroad (OR the US State to which his remains were sent) for MOST of these names are listed in 2 issues of the 306<sup>th</sup> Echoes newsletters: October 1997, and January 1998. "Combat Deaths" listing is concluded in that second issue, and that issue also contains a smaller listing of Other Deaths while abroad. [Be aware *the Echoes* listing of those cemeteries can have some errors; checking online at the WWII Memorial Registry and/or at FindAGrave.com should also be done for any man who died abroad.]