

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and give)
(to Russ Strong at the Las Vegas reunion, or mail to his ad-)
(dress: 5323 cheval Pl., Charlotte, NC 28205)

Date completed

LAST NAME: BAKER FIRST NAME: HOLLIS Title: COL

Street address: 1265 STALLCUP LANE Telephone: (805) 733-4174

City, state, zip:
Lompoc, CA 93436

Date of birth: 3 JAN 1916 Wife's name: ESTHER

College(s) attended: UNIV OF OMAHA Degree(s): BS POLITICAL SCIENCE Year(s):
CHADMAN COLLEGE MA EDUCATION ADMIN.

Last employment & job title:
ALYSEKA PIPELINE SERVICE CO. 1973-1977
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONTRACTOR COORDINATOR

Year joined 306th Association: 1975

Reunions attended: (by year or location) 1979 - 1981 - 1983 - 1984 - 1988

Serial #: 0765590 Sqdn: 423 Speciality: BOMBARDIER

Date joined 306th: JUNE 44 If combat, what crew? WINSTON WOOD
BERKLEY B. PETERSON

Special duties or assignments w/306th: 423RD SQD BOMBARDIER

If commissioned w/306th, date & specialty: N/A

Date departed: 25 FEB 45 Highest rank/grade w/306th: CAPTAIN

Other 8thAF units served with: WWII NONE

Top service assignments after 306th: DIRECTOR MISSILE DIVISION D/C S, OPNS.
HQ SAC.

USAF retirement date: 1 APRIL 1969 Rank/grade: COLONEL

Most memorable experience w/306th: (use back of sheet, too)

ROUTINE TOUR

In the continuing search for 306th people, please inform the secretary as to any persons you know from the 306th who are not listed in the 1988 directory; consult your WWII address book as to hometowns of anyone not listed in the 1988 directory; inform the secretary as to anyone from the 306th whom you know now to be deceased.

The secretary is constantly seeking copies of orders issued at Thurleigh, either by the 306th Bombardment Group, Station 111, the combat squadrons, or other units assigned there. If you have any such orders, please send copies to the secretary.

If your immediate family or other heirs are not interested in your 306th memorabilia, you may wish to place with such materials directions and an address so that it can be mailed to the secretary. Such materials will be included in the 306th collection that will eventually be placed in the Library of the U. S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO.

OVER

Updating the 306th

Name HOLLIS H. BAKER
Street address 1265 STALLCUP LANE
City, state Lompoc CA. Zip 93436-2316
Telephone (805) 733-4174

306th Organization: (If you prefer an organization other than that shown on the label, please indicate _____)

Military Rank: That for regular retired officers is shown as indicated in the 1972 USAF Register. If yours is incorrect or unlisted, please indicate that which is correct:

Rank COL. Regular X Reserve _____

Title: Professional titles are indicated if known. If you would prefer to have one used, please indicate it X

If you would prefer to have no title used, check here ~~X~~

Do you know the present or former location of any 306th people whom you do not find in the current directory? If so, please list them below with last known location. This may be a complete present address, a WWII address, or only a city and a state. We will endeavor to locate such persons as time permits.

✓ LT. COL. CLIFFORD G. PAYTON ^{SR.} 10821069
IRONTON, OHIO WWII

✓ SGT RAYMOND P. HOPKINS 32674634
HOLLISTON, MASS. WWII

✓ PT. CHARLES C. OLENIK 0717488 (NAV.)
DETROIT MICH. WWII

Searching: If you care to assist in searching out information on people in your area, the secretary will be happy to send you his State Lost List. Please check X

Send this form to:

Secretary
306th BG Assoc.
5323 Cheval Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28205

S/SGT EUGENE C. HOVEY SGR. 11094814
HARTFORD CONN. WWII

12/10/76

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Dr. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Russ -
I will look through my meager files when I go home for Xmas but seriously doubt I have the S.O 196 you asked about. I did not keep a diary, did not collect pictures, nor save papers etc from the period. I never planned on staying in the service and had no desire to collect mementos.

Name HOLLIS H. BAKER
Address 1265 STALLCUP LANE, LOMPOC CA 93436
Telephone (805) 733-4174 Date 12 DEC 1976
Occupation MGR. PERS. ADMIN Employer ALYESHA PIPELINE SERVICE CO
Address 1835 So. BRAGAN ST Telephone (907) 265-8483
ANCHORAGE AK 99504

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:
AVIATION CADET TRAINING - KIRTLAND AFB, N. MEX
GUNNERY SCHOOL - KINGMAN AFB ARIZ.
PRE-FLIGHT - SANTA ANA AFB, CALIF

After leaving the 306th:
24 years in THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
93rd Bomb Wing, HQ 3 AIR DIV. HQ SAC, HQ 2 AF, 351 STRAT
MISSILE WG.

306th Record:

Arrival Date MAY 1944 Squadron or other unit 423 B.S.
MOS _____ Combat Status BOMBARDIER
Missions Completed 30
Promotions 1ST LT, CAPTAIN.
Decorations AM 5 olcs DFC 1 olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM
PH 4 Battle Stars PH 4 other _____

PERSONNEL RECORD UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Date: 15 DEC. 1994.

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: BAKER FIRST NAME: Hollis MI: H TITLE: COL.

Street Address: 1265 STALLCUP LN Telephone: (805) 733-4174

City, State Lompoc CA. Zip + 4: 93436 - 2316

Winter Address: SAME Telephone: ()

City, State Zip + 4: - - - - -

Date of birth: 3 JAN 1916 Wife's name: ESTHER #c 1 #gc 1 #ggc

College(s) attended: OMAHA U. NEB Degree(s), & when: BA 1951 CHAPMAN COLLEGE ORANGE CA M.A. PUBLIC ADMIN. 1972

Last employment & job title & retirement date: ALEYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE CO. - CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONTRACT ANCHORAGE AK. COORDINATOR MAY 1977

Serial #(s): 19163768 Squadron: 423rd Specialty: Bomber

0-765590, A044808, 6761A Date joined 306th: JUNE 1944 If combat, what crew? WINSTON W. WOOD

Special duties or assignments w/306th: SLD BOMBARDIER - LEAD CREW BOMBARDIER

No of missions flown: 30 Date of last mission: 2 JAN 45

Date leaving 306th: 20 FEB 1945 Highest rank/grade w/306th: CAPTAIN

Other 8AF units served with, and when: 351 S.M.W. 1964-65

Top service assignment after 306th: S.A. - CINCSAC FOR JSTAF SPECIAL ASST TO COMMANDER SAC FOR JOINT STRATEGIC TGT. PLANNING STAFF USAF retirement date: 31 MAR 1969 Rank/grade: COLONEL

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.

Dreams sparked fears of population boom

THE Wheel of history has turned full circle with fears of a fourth airport for London at the RAE Thurleigh site.

In 1969 Thurleigh was named on a short list of four sites for London's third airport.

Runner

It was selected as a front runner by the Roskill Commission alongside Cublington in Buckinghamshire, and Nuthampstead and Foulness in Essex.

Ironically Stansted was ruled out at an earlier stage — today it has become the capital's third airport.

Thurleigh was considered a 3-1 bet by gamblers from the off. Opponents formed up swiftly and set up the Bedfordshire Airport Resistance Association under the chairmanship of the Hon Hugh Lawson-Johnson.

Official estimates at the time predicted that the new airport would obliterate Keysoe and Keysoe Row, Bletsoe and parts of Risely, Bolnhurst and Thurleigh itself.

The population of North Beds and nearby parts of Mid Beds and Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire would grow by a million by 1980, it was claimed.

Milton Keynes would pale into insignificance alongside the new growth and end up as little more than a village, said a report in the Beds Times dated March 7, 1969.

The Roskill Commission stated that between 45,000 and 65,000 people would be employed at the airport and thousands more would find work in industries and services connected with the airport.

Bedford Rural Council backed BARA's fight with £3,000 in grants and County Hall made resolutions against the airport plan.

Initial reports found that 60 per cent of those directly affected by the Thurleigh plan opposed it while 80 per cent were in opposition at the other front runners.

A poll carried out by the Bedfordshire Times in September 1969 found that out of 500 people questioned 302 were in favour of the airport.

The shock result came on the eve of the public inquiry which was held at the Corn Exchange.

Despite this Thurleigh was eventually rejected by the government on the grounds that it would interfere with military flying and was not in the right place from a regional point of view.

By this stage Stansted had come storming back into the running and eventually got the nod.

Roots go back to record breaking US base

THE airfield at RAE Thurleigh was originally built for RAF Bomber Command in the early 1940s by W&C French Ltd.

The 160 Squadron of the RAF formed at the new base in January 1942 as a 'Liberator' unit. It was despatched to Karachi, India to join the war in the east in February.

Over the next year the runways were extended and more hardstands prepared ready for the arrival of a heavy US bomber group.

Barracks and communal buildings were erected throughout the countryside to the east of

the airfield and to the north of the village of Thurleigh. There were four hangers available for the overhaul of planes — an unusually high number — and the bomb store was hidden away in woodland to the north-west of the airfield.

In September 1942 the Americans arrived, in the shape of the 306th Bomb Group.

Record

They stayed for more than three years — the longest stay of an American combat unit at any British base during World War Two.

Their stay also gave Thurleigh the wartime record for longest continuous use as a combat base.

Between October 1942 and April 1945 342 bombing missions were launched from Thurleigh making it one of the most famous US bases of the war.

King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and the then Princess Elizabeth visited when the Princess named a B-17 the Rose of York.

In June 1957 the base opened as the home of the Royal Aircraft Establishment experimental unit.

Two new runways were built. One, laid in

1951, is two miles long, making it one of the longest in Europe. There are four runways at the site in total.

Few of the wartime buildings remain and today the site hosts a wind tunnel and other test facilities for aircraft and their components.

It currently employs 850 people.

Testing

Now the Ministry of Defence is moving its aircraft testing to Boscombe Down and Farnborough.

The wind down at Thurleigh will last at least three years, said an MoD spokesman.

Skeet joins the battle

NORTH Beds MP Sir Trevor Skeet says he is totally opposed to any moves to use the airfield for civil aviation.

He says the people of the villages around Thurleigh do not want the noise and environmental nuisance a large scale airport would bring.

Lives

"Surely the lives of the people of North Beds are more important," he said.

And, remembering the battles of 1969 he said: "We have fought off a third London airport, we don't want another airfield to come in through the back door."

It won't only be the people of North

Beds who are hit by the plans.

Those living along the flight path, towards and beyond St Neots, are also afraid of what might happen next.

Some protestors argue that if the Ministry of Defence no longer has a need for the land it should revert to its rightful owners.

The land was taken to build an airstrip on as part of the defence of the realm under war time orders.

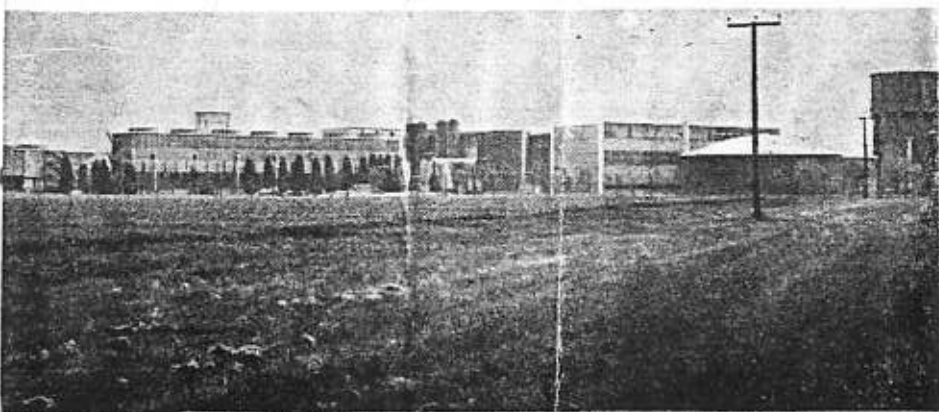
Claim

Now that it is no longer required for defence purposes it should go back to the original owners, they argue.

MoD checks have so far discovered no one with any such claim.



● Sir Trevor Skeet, MP for North Beds, opposes growth at Thurleigh



● To stay: The wind tunnel facility at RAE Thurleigh

8 Oct '83

Bill:

I received the check from Don Spencer after I had mailed the letter to Russ. Hence his name not on the list. You can add him to your list when you send it into Russ.

How about your checking with Russ and insure that an item appears in each issue of our Echoes for the coming year. Maybe we can raise enough to at least get the Richards to Ft Worth.

I expect to see you in Houston so this letter will await your return home!

Best wishes

Haller

5 March 1979

Dear Hollis,

Our Alaska-addressed mail, for you has been returned.
In fact, I think you probably missed our last issue of
Echoes.

Is this a good address? Or, do you have a better one?

Sincerely yours,



**Memorial Funeral Home
& Memorial Park Cemetery**

1217 Bus. Loop 70 W.
Columbia, Missouri 65202
443-3173

*Full Service Funeral Home
Cemetery, Mausoleum and Crematory Facilities*



In Loving Remembrance



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

IN MEMORY

DAVID O. HOWE
1916 - 1992

SERVICES

Memorial Funeral Home Chapel
Friday, November 6, 1992
1:30 P.M.

OFFICIATING

Rev. Marshall Chambers

INTERMENT

Olivet Cemetery
Columbia, Missouri

CASKETBEARERS

Phillip Sublett
Tony Sublett
Albert Sublett
Gene Hammond
Ed Bullard
Dennis Williams



HOLLIS H. BAKER
1265 STALLCUP LN.
LOMPOC, CA 93436

13 Dec 95

Dear Russ:

An item for your obit
column.

Jack Keeley, Ball Turret
Cunner on Winston W,
Wood, crew died 13 Nov
1945 in Las Vegas Nev.

Lung Cancer the killer.

Keeley arrived at Thurleigh
June 44. Completed his
tour as a toggler in
Feb 1945.

Keep up the good work.

Dupe

27-July 1986

Dear Hollis:

Your letter of the 14th July has come along to me from Bill Collins. I had heard rumors of your problems, and am certainly sorry to learn that you are still having problems. We miss you at the reunions.

But I do hope that by mid-winter you will be up and about and healing well.

As to George Sennatt, I do not find his name in my files at all. I don't believe we had a mission up on 30 October 43. Oops, we did have a mission off at 0900, but it was scrubbed. There is no mention of flying in the group history, so nothing happened.

I have a double postcard inquiry form for use in such cases, as I have received a number of names unknown to me. For your information I have a 3x5 card file culled from any records I can find. It contains about 10,000 names, and I think that probably covers 98% of the men in the 306th. But, I still come across a new name every so often, and the postcard has helped me identify several people who ought to have been in the file.

I'll be waiting for Sennatt's reply.

Regardless of the reply, we'll be happy to put him on the Echoes mailing list, as we do have a number who were not a part of the 306th.

All the best to you, Hollis, and we all hope for a speedy recovery on your part.

20 October 1987

Dear Hollis:

In answer to your letter of 7 October, you have raised a number of good points. However, it is apparent that you were not present at the annual reunion, when the Board of Directors formally recognized a Memorial Committee, which is charged with the care and enhancement of the three memorials which the 306th has in place at the present time: Thurleigh, USAF Academy and Wright-Patterson AFB.

They presently have \$3,000 in their bank account.

I think that at this time you ought to be in touch with Bill Flanagan at Tucson, who is chairman of the committee, and to voice your very legitimate concerns. It would seem to me that arrangements ought to be made by the committee, working with the Richards and others in England, to see that the site there is regularly cared for.

Perhaps the RAE people could be persuaded to see that the grass is mowed, and trimmed, and that the area is regularly "policed." Or, perhaps a resident of Thurleigh could be engaged to undertake such work on a regular basis.

As to printing your material in Echoes, it arrived after I had completed the October issue, and such matters as the creation of a committee really must come before the Board of Directors, now that our organization is more formally constituted.

Hope that your physical problems are slowly coming around, and that we will see you in person at Las Vegas.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

cc: Reginald Robinson

PS: Full minutes of various Reunion business appear in the October Echoes.

7
10/20/87

Hollis H. Baker
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, CA 93436

Dear Hollis:

Thank you for your letter of 9 October, 87. It was good hearing from you.

First, Hollis, it is apparent that you were not at the 306th Reunion in DC, when several Key decisions were made regarding the Memorial, future directions of the Group and Financial Matters. May I try to recall some of the salient points.

1. The officers and Board of Directors requested, and received majority approval from the members in attendance to divert $\frac{1}{2}$ of the remaining memorial/museum account into the 306th BG general fund. This amounted to about \$3400, and I gave Don Ross the check at our business meeting. This leaves Bill Flanagan, Memorial Treasurer with about the same amount (\$3400) in the Memorial fund.

2. Any monies remaining in the Group Treasury when the Group is no longer able to functionie hold reunions, sustain membership, or be a viable group of Bona Fide 306th BG Veterans; is to be turned over to the US Air Force Academy for their special programs.

3. I requested, and received assurance that no further transfers of money would be made from the memorial fund, and this is reflected in the minutes. Further, this money is to be used solely for the upkeep and maintenance of the 306th Memorial at Thurleigh. The present memorial fund officers(Flanagan, Roberts primarily)are charged with administering the fund for the good of the Group. Additionally, Flanagan and myself were asked to present some type of proposal at the 88 reunion in Las Vegas for memorial maintainence after such time as we are no longer to do so. To this end, we are contacting FOTE personnel for some suggestions. Bill is drafting a letter in this regard. Hopefully, interest in the present account will be sufficient for this maintenance, if not, we will spend the principal. If necessary, we will appeal for added funds from the group.

Hollis, I support your efforts in keeping our memorial a fitting and lasting tribute to the Group. To this end, Bill and I have worked hard to get the initial erection, subsequent benches and supported Gordon Richards on the attempt to secure the flag pole. If there are further needs, Bill and I have not been made aware of them. We stand ready to assist in supporting any bona fide maintenance or beautification project. As members of the 306th and Memorial Officers, we must review all proposals and make decisions which we feel are in the best interests of the 306th BG. In this regard, it is my opinion that all monies programmed or generated in the name of the 306th BG must be managed by personalI so designated by our Officers and Board. As a tax exempt organization our funds are accountable in the State in which we are chartered. While I appreciate all the efforts of Gordon and Connie, I feel that all monies must be managed by designated 306th members. When the time comes for a change in Memorial personnel, we should rightly turn over all funds and

Responsibilities to the newly elected or
Designated Personnel

Sincerely
George Robert

cy to
Stromy
Flanagan

Russ:

I am sure you received a copy of Hollis' letter and proposal, which he asked me to answer also. I could have written much more on this matter, but decided to limit my response to specifics. I speak for myself, but feel that I have some support from Bill and a majority of the 306th Personnel.

George

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14 July '86

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a check for \$25.00, to help pay for the new directory. This will help for some who cannot afford to help. I have been trying for three years to get George M. Sennett on ex 306 or to sign up. Since his name is not in the roster I assume he has not joined the 8th AFAB. So, I sent in a check for him today and asked Aida to sign him up.

I would appreciate it if you would also start him on the 2nd list. His address is:

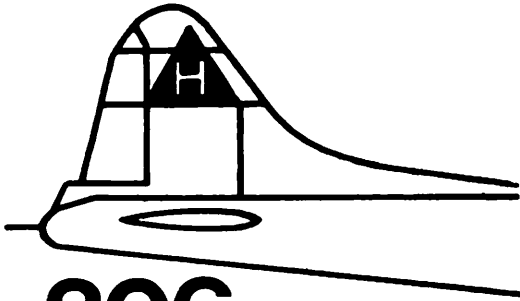
GEORGE M. SENNATT.
6449 BAYARD
LONG BEACH, CA. 90815

I will miss the reunion again this year as the left leg had to have surgery again 20 June. Will be in a wheel chair until 1 Dec. Cannot put any weight at all on left leg. This is the second bone graft and metal implant on the left leg since I fell off the ladder last fall. Right leg seems to be OK since last surgery 16 May.

Keep up the good work, maybe George will join us when my gift enrollment runs out.

George was shot down 30 Oct 1943 on I believe his 14th mission. He feels he wouldn't know any one!! I told him hell he knows me (and that is one more than I knew at the first reunion I attended).

Take care!! We are ageing gracefully.
Dolles



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

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

Russell A. Strong
Rt. 1, Turnpike Road
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352

5 March 1979

Dear Hollis,

Our Alaska-addressed mail, for you has been returned.
In fact, I think you probably missed our last issue of
Echoes.

Is this a good address? Or, do you have a better one?

Sincerely yours,

Current and permanent address —

HOLLIS H. BAKER
1265 STALLCUP LANE
LOMPOC CALIF 93436

PHONE (805) 733-4174

ALWAYS FIRST

FIRST OVER GERMANY

Col USAF (Ret)

While in the service used to see Bill ~~Roper~~
Rader, Rip Riordan, Frank Young, John Chalfont,
James S. Sutton, Don Ross, James Cheney, Calhoun (Pop)
Other personal data: Grending, Norm, Nilsbach, Walt
Coons and several other 306th veterans
fairly often, fished and hunted with Frank
Armstrong, Curtis Lemay and Claud Putnam while
at SAC Hqs 1950-54 & 1965-1969.

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?)

I did not feel any particular elation,
thrill or terror in flying combat. It was
just a chore that needed doing.

I flew lead bombardier on twenty five
of my thirty combat missions. Also
served as Squadron bombardier, never
had any problems. Only one mission wherein
we sustained major battle damage.
Nothing heroic done or witnessed.

I have maintained contact with the
officers on the crew I went to the ETO with.
We get together now & then.

The copilot Cliff Peyton & I were the
only career officers on our crew. We stayed
in after the war. Cliff retired as an Lt. Col.
I retired from SAC Hqs, Director of Missile
Operations, 31 March 1969, as Colonel.

Hollis H. Baker
Phone: (805) 733-4174

1265 Stallcup Lane

Lompoc, California 93436

15 November 1979

Dear Bill -

It was a pure pleasure to be in Phoenix at the 5th Annual Reunion. Although I did not have a chance to chat with you I was delighted to have the opportunity to say hello.

I brought a copy of your list of missing 306th personnel home with me and will try to locate some of our former comrades in arms. Unhappily my first effort here in Lompoc was rather sad.

In checking for Frank C. Vieira through the local phone company I located his living relatives. His younger brother George informed me that Frank died in a Los Angeles Veterans Hospital in March 1948. Frank was injured in a ground accident in London in 1943-44, spent a year in a hospital in

FRANK C. VIEIRA DECEASED

England before being invalided to the States.
Frank never recovered, in fact never
was able to leave the hospital for a visit
home prior to his death.

If it is at all possible, in addition
to publishing the names of the newly found
living 306th of members, how about
testing Frank's death in the Feb 80 issue
of the 306th Echo's.

Incidentally I would appreciate having
a current roster of the living 306th alumni.
I understand you have compiled one. Whatever
the cost I will gladly forward you a
check if you will mail me a roster. If you
prefer let me know the cost and I will
send a check along in payment.

I look forward to seeing you in
Albany or some future reunion.
Here's for better attendance from the 306th
at future "Alumabes".

Sincerely
Hollis H. Baker

Hollis H. Baker

Phone: (805) 733-4174

1265 Stallcup Lane

Lompoc, California 93436

27 Feb 1982

Dear Bill:

It is that time again so here is a check to help defray the costs of mailing the 306th Echoes.

Also, just in case I did not advise you earlier here is the address of another 423rd Squadron gunner, whom I recently located. Add him to your roster:

Clifford R. Wolfhope
Salix, Pa 15452
P.O. Box 134.

ON LIST

Bill are there any plans to put out a new 306th Roster? I will be glad to pay a fair share of the cost for such an item. I also believe many others would contribute if you asked them through an item in the Echoes.

Keep the paper rolling!!
Hope all is well with you.

Best wishes always,
Hollis

Hollis H. Baker

Phone: (805) 733-4174

1265 Stallcup Lane

Lompoc, California 93436

Dear Russ:

6 January 1982

I saw this item in the local paper, thought you might be interested in a small blurb on the subject in the next issue of the 306th Echoes.

The editor of the Record is a navy veteran so keeps us pretty well posted on veterans affairs. I have seen nothing on this item in the Los Angeles or Santa Barbara County papers.

I have also passed a copy to John Westrough for possible use.

Keep up the good work.

Best wishes always,

Hollis

Hollis H. Baker

Phone: (805) 733-4174

1265 Stallcup Lane

Lompoc, California 93436

10 June 1980.

Dear Bill -

Reference your "Who's Who" in the April Echoes, the enclosed Squadron Order provides the information on my take-over as 423rd Squadron Bombardier.

You will note that I relieved Capt Norman Niersbach (NIERSBACH). I in turn was relieved by Lt Dimter. He was a substitute for the man I had selected for the position. Unfortunately "Doc" my approved choice was shot down while I was still in the unit awaiting reassignment. I do not know the date Dimter relieved me. Doc was to have taken over 15 February 1945.

I have not seen or heard from Norm Niersbach since September 1950. I believe he made a career of the service but am not sure.

Keep the good word coming!

Best Wishes,

Hollis

Office 201 file

423RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Squadron Commander
United States Forces

APO # 557,
15 October 1944.

SQUADRON ORDER)

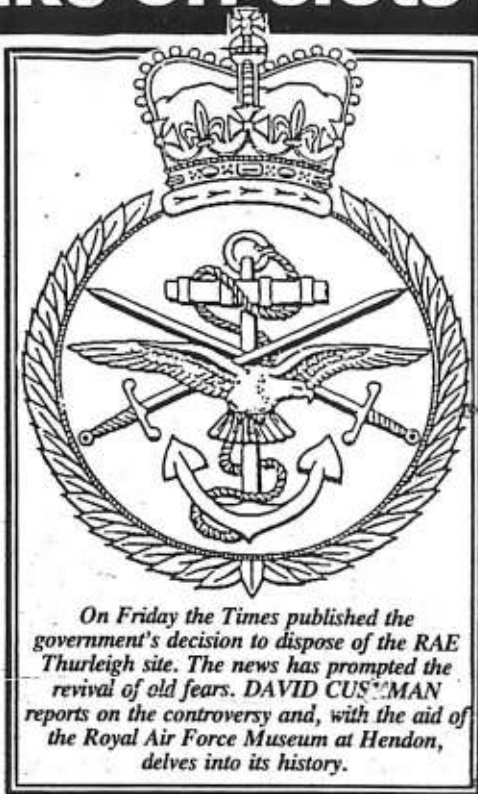
NUMBER 39)

1. 1st Lt. Hollis H. Baker, O-765590, AC, 423rd Bomb Sq (H),
306th Bomb Gp (H), is hereby designated Squadron Bombardier vice Capt.
Norman G. Niersbach, O-670216, rel'd, effective 1 October 1944.

By order of the Squadron Commander:

PHIL C. KEATT,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Airport to become London's fourth?



History set to repeat itself

already thinking along these lines, he says. Plans for an extra London airport at Thurleigh are nothing new. In the late 1960s the search for London's third airport focused on the site prompting the formation of the Bedfordshire Airport Resistance Association to fight the plan. Public pressure won the day. Mr Green is hoping EAR will be as successful in the 1990s. The organisation is planning to set up a consortium to buy the site itself, rip up the runway, plant most of the site with new forest, set up camping

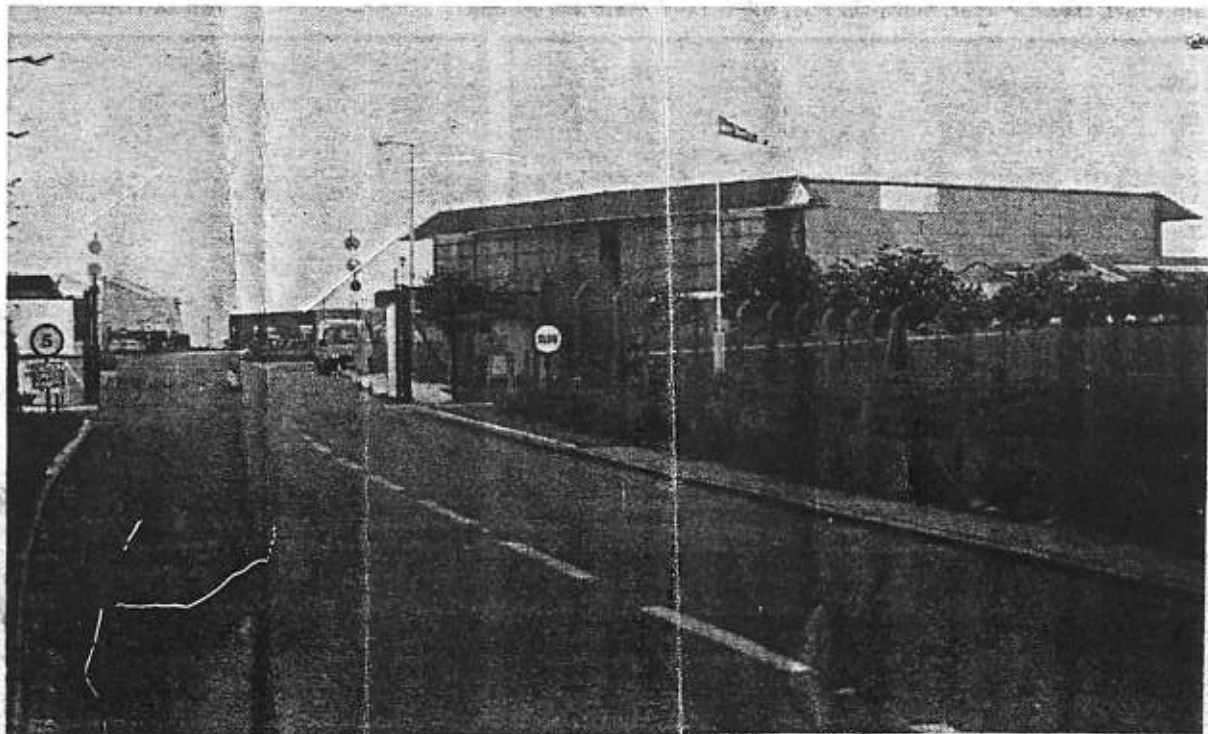
sites for youth organisations, and set aside a small area for local industry. The industrial complex would be based where buildings are currently sited and would be aimed at replacing those jobs which would be lost with the closure of RAE Thurleigh. A golf course is also being considered. A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said he had not heard of fourth-airport plans for Thurleigh but confirmed that the authority was looking for extra capacity. He said it would be up to the Department of Transport to decide where that was to be found. An MoD spokesman said plans for Thurleigh would not take shape without full consultation with councils and local people. "At the end of the day the planning authority determines how it can be used," he added.

RAE Thurleigh will become London's fourth airport now that the Ministry of Defence has finished with it. That is the nightmare scenario being depicted by Environment At Risk spokesman Bernard Green. The air industry needs more take-off and landing slots and Mr Green, EAR's village co-ordinator in Sharnbrook, believes freight flights could be taken away from Heathrow and Stansted and shifted to Thurleigh. That would ease the pressure on passenger flights at those airports and make Thurleigh a fourth major airport. And he says his fears are not just pie in the sky. There are strong rumours circulating within the industry that the Civil Aviation Authority is

Freight take-over is three years away

RUMOURS that freight giant United Parcel Service is about to start flying from Thurleigh have been allayed by Ministry of Defence chiefs — for the time being. An MoD spokesman said it would be at least three years before RAE Thurleigh is fully closed and that there would be no increase in traffic in that period. Deal If any deal was to be struck with UPS it could not come into effect until the end of that period. In November last year there was speculation that UPS would make Thurleigh its major European base. The MoD spokesman said: "It is going to be a number of years before Thurleigh is actually closed down. The only conclusion we have come to is that Thurleigh is available for commercial

flights — freight rather than passengers." Dee Barlow, who coordinates North Beds village action for EAR against expansion plans for Thurleigh, said she believed last Thursday's government statement meant the MoD was not even considering her group's plans. "I know they must try to get the best deal for the taxpayer but if they don't even look at our option how can they know?" She believes the MoD is only interested in selling Thurleigh as an air facility. She shared Mr Green's concerns saying: "I can see Thurleigh becoming a 24-hour, seven-day a week operation." EAR was not against the MoD or flying at Thurleigh but it did object to any escalation from its current use, she added. American firm Lockheed is also thought to be in the chase for the airfield.



What next?: RAE Thurleigh is due for a shake-up

18 Feb '92

Dear Russ:

Woodie asked me to send this material to you. He is wintering in Texas so does not have an Echoes there from which to obtain your address.

I did not see the article in the Echoes which prompted this mailing.

I flew with several pilots and in many different airplanes so can not much help in identifying any plane.

I did, at one time, have a picture of "Our Baby" which clearly showed the aircraft manufacturers number. I loaned it out to a model maker who was supposed to return it but never did.

As lead bombardier I flew in several radar equipped planes. In the early days of my tour I believe the planes with radar were brought in from other units. I am not sure when we (the 306th) received radar equipped planes into the unit.

New subject: where did you get Clinch's address (you issued) I wrote him in Van Nuys and the letter was returned unknown at this address. Tried to get a phone number for Clinch and none listed.

Will have a friend check out the address.

Bob

Ans.
2/24/92

13 Dec 92

Russ -

Gift for your ol'it Column,
Dave was the navigator on
Our crew (Winston Wood) arrived
at Thurleigh late June 44,

Dave's passing leaves five
alive and five dead of the
original crew.

Hope we don't get too many
of this sort of notice this year,
we are all vulnerable,

Have a lovely holiday
season.

Bert & John

Hollis

P.S.

423rd Sqd

13 October 1984

Dear Bill:

Please add to our 306th member list
the name of:

ADD:

FR Bill Malloygi
1135 A Thompson
Dulandale Ca. 91201

He will be an associate of the 8th AFHS.
I met Bill at our reunion, he brought
John McKee, an original crew member
of the 306th to the reunion. It seems John
was injured during combat and cannot
drive. Bill takes him to various Veterans
affairs.

I wondered why John McKee hasn't
enrolled Bill. I assume John is on your
list.

new subject, My son Gary hasn't been
receiving his Echoes. How about checking. His
address is:

GARY P. BAKER
6469 BAYARD 90815
LONG BEACH CA ~~90815~~

FILE 1274

See you in Ft Worth,

Stollis

10 Sept 1984

Dear Bill:

I sent in an 8th AFHS membership form on Tony SCHEMBRI, Saturday 8 Sept 84. Tony was in the 451 Strategic Wing, 8th AF in 1962-70 (Vietnam era). The 451 Bomb Group (WW II was not an 8th unit). However I asked Ms Hage to assign Tony to the 306th Bomb Group. So please put him on distribution for the 306th Schoes.

ADD:
FR

TONY SCHEMBRI
4136 POINT HOLLOW LANE
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22033.

Tony and his wife Kathy are 8th AFIB-17 buffs as a result of seeing the CBS film on Our Memorial Redication in 1982. They copied the CBS program and have shown it to dozens of school groups and civic organizations.

The Schembris visited Thurligh and the Richards this summer. They heard from the Richards about my efforts to finance the Richards journey to our reunion at Ft. Worth. Their interest was great enough to elicit a check for \$500⁰⁰. Tony wrote me to use the check to pay the Richards air fare from Ft. Worth to Los Angeles as the Richards wanted

to visit me after the reunion, Tony also advised if there was any money left over after paying for the tickets to spend it on the Richards! all of which I shall do.

I think this generosity from a Nonc 306th member warrants a note of appreciation and I shall ask Russ to so acknowledge in the next issue of the Echoes.

Apparently the Richards told Tony I was picking up the tab for their fare from Ft Worth to Los Angeles and he decided to help out, what a wonderful and generous gesture resulting from viewing a TV program which I never expected to see aired.

I have written Tony and advised him of our reunions in Los Angeles & Ft Worth and invited him to drop in at either or both if his schedule will permit, I would sure like to meet the two of them.

Please get him on our roster and mailing list for the Echoes.

Keep up the good work, I will see you in Los Angeles and at Ft Worth,
Best Wishes

Challis

10 Sept 91

Dear Russ:

Do not know how well you are in touch with activities around the old air patch or even have an interest. However, I have been meaning to send these clippings along for several months just for info.

I was in England in 1950 trying to assist SAC in getting Thurleigh for a SAC base. The community erupted as the base had been abandoned since 1945. We (SAC) settled for Milldenhall, Sculthorpe and Lakenheath which we could share with the RAF. Eventually we kicked the RAF out.

Was also in England in 1969 when the Airport Authority reactivated Thurleigh as it is today. Wow the population was even more increased than in '50. I guess the RAE taking over was preferable to its use as a commercial airport.

The folks in Bedford are as hostile to airplanes as the locals in Santa Barbara County are to missiles. Me, I love controversy.
Stay in there
Hall's

(over)

P.S.

Remind the 92 reunion
Committee that Ralph Franklin
must have advance list of
attendees that want to visit
the old air patch in order
that he may obtain RIFE
Clearance.

Boyer

1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc Ca 93436
1 August 1991

Dear Russ:

Reference July 1991, Vol. 16 No. 3, issue of the 306th Echoes, page 6, item "Some nagging Questions concerning men of the 306th". As regards Clifford S. Payton Jr., I can shed the light on Cliff.

Clifford S. Payton, was not a first pilot. Cliff was co-pilot on the Wallace W. Wood crew. The Wood crew of which I was the bombardier, was transferred to Thurlough per Special Order 189, Hq AAF Station 112, dated 7 July 1944, APO 639.

We arrived at Thurlough about 6 PM 9 July 1944. We almost missed Chon is why I remember the time.

Due to a mixup in scheduling I was awakened to fly as a navigator about 2 AM the morning of the 10th. I protested to no avail. I flew three missions before the mess was straightened out. The last to Munich with Pletcher. I flew my fourth mission with Wood, his first also to Munich.

Cliff Payton never flew a combat mission. Cliff was scheduled as co-

pilot on a mission to Peenemunde
on 18 July 1944.

The pilot decided to take his
crew to Sweden before reaching
the I.P.

I did not hear the radio transmission
but was told the pilot called the
306th Group leader and 'Chevily'
told him "see you after the war".

Like so many fellows that opted
for Sweden or Switzerland I am
sure this one had a "good" reason.

I liked Cliff and hope you can locate
him. Also sure would like to find
Charles J. Olenik, an excellent
navigator, good friend and drinking
buddy.

Enjoy the 3 Aces, keep up the
good work.

Oh yes, I sent you copies of the above
referenced order plus others I had of
the unit.

Best Wishes Always

G/Hollis

12 NOV 88

Russ:

I think I have already sent you copies of all the orders etc issued concerning myself and crew while assigned at Thurleigh. I did not keep a complete set of orders as I had no plans for staying in the service. My 301 file is incomplete but I will send it along to you if my son does not want it. He will be up for Thanksgiving at which time I shall discuss the matter with him.

Now to finding 306th people. Again I may have mentioned this fellow before, however her goes.

Captain Norman G. NIERSPACK 0670215 (306th)
Sqd Comdr 423rd Sqd. I believe Norm retired as Lt Col / Col and was last living in Colorado Springs Colo.

Here are a list of pilots I flew missions with as a navigator or bombardier before our crew started flying as a unit (Winston Wood)

"Torchy" Fossum Harold

NEDDO Wm

"BAT" MORGAN Wm

PLECHER Donald

WINENT (NOT SURE OF SPELLING)

All of the 423rd Sqd.

JOHN W. FRAZER JR ("SAKE THE SNAKE")

may know the real (first) names of some of these fellows so he flew his tour with them. John is still working in Germany I believe. You have his address in case you want to contact him. Sorry I can be of no further help.

Best Wishes
Folles

HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL USAF (RET.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, CA 93436 • Tel. (805) 733-4174

21 Mar. 88

Dear Russ:

Re your card, enclosed: The current address for Mr (Col) Theodore (Ted) Marinis is 4174 Club House Road 8010 Lompoc Ca 93436.

Ted is a good friend of mine, but not the least interested in the 8th AF or the 306th Assoc.

Jack Murphy & Forrest Stewart & I are all working on him to get interested to no avail. He does enjoy the Echoes.

Ted spends half of the year in Palm Springs but the above is his primary address.

I talked to George Robinson last week. He assures me he will attend the Las Vegas Reunion. I have so advised Ed Hennessy.

Best Wishes

Hollis'

HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL USAF (RET.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, CA 93436 • Tel. (805) 733-4174

Mr Russell Strong
3041 Hilldale
Kalamazoo, Mi 49007

Dear Russ:

Received my Echoes today. Enjoyed the listing of the pilots. Saw many familiar names but conspicuous by its absence was the name of Will. A. MacDonald the copilot who joined our crew after Clifford Peyton our first copilot was taken to Sweden on his first mission. He flew with a crew that was about finished and enroute to the target decided Sweden was preferable to combat. Cliff did not object very strenuously.

You have Cliff listed as Pilot. He came over as Co pilot with our crew (Winston Wallace Wood).

If you hear from either Cliff Peyton or Will A. I sure would like to get in touch with them and try to get them to the Reunion at Las Vegas.

Keep up the good work.

(over)

Holler
Baker

P.S.

I have tried the Air Force Personnel Center twice. My letters were forwarded but no answer. Maybe Will & Cliff are trying to tell me something !!

VB

HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL USAF (RET.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, CA 93436 • Tel. (805) 733-4174

3 Nov '87

Dear Russ:

Thanks for your letter of 20 October:
Shortly after writing you I had a long phone
conversation with Ed Hennessy. He brought
me up to date on the reunion activities and
gave me essentially the same info on the
Memorial fund as your letter. Thank
goodness the organization is now committed
formally to look after the memorial.

You need take no further action on my
letter and request unless you feel it could
be used to advantage to raise funds for
the memorial project.

If the letter can serve a purpose you
have my permission to edit it as you see
fit. I think my friends and I will turn the
money we have collected over to the Richards
to help defray the cost of entertaining the
many 306th people that have used their

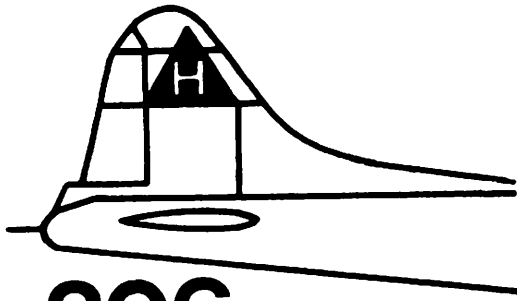
HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL USAF (RET.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, CA 93436 • Tel. (805) 733-4174

hospitality, some without even a "thank
you".

If we can't agree on this item will
probably send the money on to Bill
& Suzanne now that I know his address.

Look forward to seeing you in Las
Vegas. Will have a report on the Memorial
then to several of the Calif. 306th troops
are going to England in August.

My son and my grand daughter have
both visited the Memorial at Thurlough
and the Cemetery at Maddingly. They
visit both places on each trip they
make to England. I wonder how many
306th people go to England and never
return to Thurlough and don't even know
about Maddingly? Keep up the good work -
as ever
Hollis



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

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

President
Reginald L. Robinson
4009 Ranier Court
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Vice President
William F. Houllhan
39470 Tyler Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Secretary
Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Treasurer
C. Dale Briscoe
11025 Whisper Valley
San Antonio, TX 78230

Directors
John R. Grimm
5085 Morelawn Ct., Apt. B
Centerville, OH 45429

G. Keith Jackson
14515 Briar Hills Pkwy.
Suite 100
Houston, TX 77077

Robert P. Riordan
6805 Santa Maria Lane
Dallas, TX 75214

Robert J. Starzynski
5253 North Long Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630

Past Presidents
Ralph E. Bordner
131 East Autumn Lane
East Peoria, IL 61611

John L. Ryan
218 Wells Dr., NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Donald R. Ross
P.O. Box 307
Omaha, NE 68101

1988 Reunion Co-Chairmen
Edward J. Hennessy
2013 Plaza del Padre
Las Vegas, NV 89102

G. Barney Rawlings
2617 Mason Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89102

1988 Annual Reunion
30 October-3 November
Las Vegas, NV

October 20, 1987

Hollis H. Baker, Col. USAF (Ret.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, CA 93436

Dear Hollis,

Your letter arrived while I was holding court in St. Louis last week. We missed seeing you at the D.C. reunion. It was the biggest one yet.

I have suggested that Reg Robinson call you concerning your suggestions regarding the 306th Memorial at Thurleigh. We have made arrangements with Bill Flannagan and his Memorial Fund Committee to take care of further maintenance at the site. I enclose a report of that Committee on how the money has been spent so far. Please note that the benches were paid for by the Committee.

At the reunion, the Memorial Fund Committee turned over one-half of the balance of the Museum Fund to our Association for our general use. The balance of \$3,447.80 has been retained by the Memorial Fund Committee for purposes of maintenance of the site.

There will be a full report of this in the issue of Echoes due out next week. Before we proceed further with a separate trust fund, I hope you will read this report in ECHOES and talk to Bill Flannagan (602-749-8776). His new address is P. O. Box 17327, Tucson, AZ 85731.

If you want to talk further about this, please call me. My office number is 402-221-4647 and my home number is 402-391-9744.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Ross

Enc.

P.S. I enclose a brochure on next year's reunion.



Russ / FYI



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

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

October 19, 1987

President
Donald R. Ross
9936 Essex Street
Omaha, NE 68114

Vice President
William F. Houlihan
39470 Tyler Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Secretary
Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Treasurer
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Gerald D. Rotter
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Robert J. Starzynski
5253 North Long Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630

Past Presidents
Ralph E. Bordner
131 East Autumn Lane
East Peoria, IL 61611

John L. Ryan
218 Wells Dr., NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Col. Hollis H. Baker
1265 Stallings Ln.
Lompac, CA. 93436

Dear Hollis,

I came home from a convention in Houston and found your letter about the Memorial. If my memory serves me I believe this subject came up in Crystal City and funds were dedicated to the upkeep of the Memorial.

I agree in principal with the concept of bringing in associates and children but my practical nature suggests that perpetuating the organization could be difficult without a substantial treasury and without a dues structure. We remain a non-dues organization and it was only this year that the concept of setting revenue goals for the reunions was accepted.

The other problem - which must have a solution - is that a nonprofit organization is constrained by that status. We can only generate funds to sustain our operation. It seems logical that a budgeted amount to maintain the Memorial would be perfectly legal - perhaps even an interest earning account to defray this expense in perpetuity.

I was not aware of resistance of associates nor of any unnatural pride in Wendover roots. My observation - as one of those from Wendover - was that the original air crews had a special affinity because they started as a total group. The first year was terrible, as you know. The statistics are in the book on page 292. This sort of thing does create a bond between survivors. As for myself, I have never had any problems with late arrivals, except for the fact that they were kind of late - my squadron was down to 3 crews before we got any replacements. This certainly did not generate any ill will towards the replacements - we greeted them with open arms. Ask Dave Wheeler about his reception.

Col. Hollis H. Baker
Page 2

The only negative impression I ever had about the organization was that it seemed, for a while, to be heavily weighted towards P.O.W.'s. I began to wonder if there was a place for survivors. It seemed pretty apparent to me that the final victory related better to survivors than P.O.W.'s, but the fact remains that neither category should set the tone or become the reason for the existence of the organization. Nor, obviously, should Wendover provide more than a common denominator for some of the group.

We were all in that war together and after 45 years none of the details make any difference. Nevertheless, people who share a particular experience are bound to seek each other out and the association should just provide the meeting place.

I think more emphasis on fun and things of mutual interest is the way to go. My impression is that everybody is loosening up and enjoying the reunion experience. The next one will be organized in such a way that there should be no gripes about lack of organization or lack of communication. Our only problem will be with the functional illiterates or the chronic crabs who turn up in any gathering. I can assure you that the game plan has been perfected far beyond anything in the past. However, after 40 years in the tour business I know that some people get meaner as they get older and that the most experienced and expert travel operator can expect gratuitous advice from the rankest amateur. That's life.

Cordially,

Edward J. Hennessy
EJH/ccp

BCC Robinson, Strong, Briscoe

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER 157)

29 April 1945

AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600.45, 22 September 1943, as amended and pursuant to authority contained in letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, File 200.6, 23 September 1944, subject, "Awards and Decorations," the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following named Officers.

.....
HOLLIS H. BAKER, O-765590, Captain, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while serving as Bombardier of a B-17 airplane and bombardment formations on bombing missions over Germany and German occupied countries, from 11 July 1944 to 14 January 1945. Throughout these operations Captain Baker evinced outstanding ability and a meticulous attention to detail, contributing materially to the extensive damage inflicted upon vital enemy installations. On one occasion an accurate burst of antiaircraft fire rendered him unconscious and sprayed plume glass over his face and eyes. Upon regaining consciousness Captain Baker expertly dropped the bombs on the designated target. On all the missions in which he participated, this officer served with distinction. The courage, coolness and devotion to duty displayed by Captain Baker on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from California.

.....
BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BRAMAN:

FRED C. SLAZER
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Deputy Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

WILLIAM F. JOHNSON, JR.
Lieut. Colonel, A.G.D.
Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

E. F. Cunningham, Jr.
E. F. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
1st Lt, Air Corps

C
GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 101)

RESTRICTED

1st Air Division,
557.3 February 1945.

EXTRACT

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, File 200.6, 23 September 1944, subject, "Awards and Decorations", an CAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded for wear with the AIR MEDAL previously awarded to the following-named Officers and Enlisted Men, organizations as indicated, Army Air Forces, United States Army.

Citation: For meritorious achievement while participating in sustained bomber combat operations over Germany and German occupied countries. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these Officers and Enlisted Men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

306th Bombardment Group

HOLLIS H. BAKER, O-765590, Captain. Los Angeles, Calif.

By command of Brigadier General TURNER:

BARTLETT BEAMAN,
Brigadier General, U.S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.,
Lieut. Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE COPY:

Harold G. Taylor 1577 A.C.

HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL USAF (RET.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, CA 93436 • Tel. (805) 733-4174

15 Dec '87

Dear Russ:

I checked the enclosed list against all the info I have plus a faulty memory and could find nothing to aid in identifying the position in which those folks flew. Sorry about that.

I do not have a complete DoI file as I disposed of most of my orders when I was sent to the Discharge Center at the end of the war. While there I was recalled to Duke Field for 90 days to aid on investigation and somehow the 90 days stretched into 26 years.

Robert Charles Dinter replaced me as Sgt (423) Bombardier. I have no copies of the orders.

Hope what I have enclosed will help you somewhat.

Have a good holiday season and a better year ahead.

Hollis

RESTRICTED

EXTRACT

1st Bombardment Division,
557, 30 July 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 209)

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, File 200.6, 1 June 1944, subject, "Awards and Decorations", the AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following-named Officers and Enlisted Men, organizations as indicated, Army Air Forces, United States Army.

Citation: For exceptionally meritorious achievement while participating in sustained bomber combat operations over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these Officers and Enlisted Men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

306th Bombardment Group (H)

HOLLIS H. BAKER, O-765590, 2nd Lt. Los Angeles, California.

By command of Major General WILLIAMS:

BARTLETT BEAMAN,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.,
Lieut. Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

EXTRACT

1st Bombardment Division,
557, 7 September 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 312)

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, File 200.6, 4 August 1944, subject, "Awards and Decorations", an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded, for wear with the AIR MEDAL previously awarded, to the following-named Officers and Enlisted Men, organizations as indicated, Army Air Forces, United States Army.

Citation: For meritorious achievement while participating in sustained bomber combat operations over Germany and German occupied countries. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these Officers and Enlisted Men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

306th Bombardment Group (H)

HOLLIS H. BAKER, O-765590, 2nd Lt. Los Angeles, California.

By command of Major General WILLIAMS:

BARTLETT BEAMAN,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.,
Lieut. Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

RESTRICTED

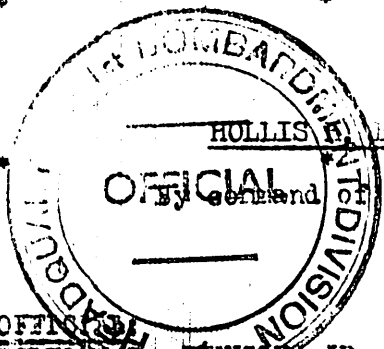
EXTRACT

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Citation: For meritorious achievement while participating in sustained bomber combat operations over Germany and German occupied countries. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these Officers and Enlisted Men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

306th Bombardment Group (H).

HOLLIS H. BAKER, O-765590, 1st Lt. Los Angeles, California.



By command of Major General WILLIAMS:

BARTLETT BEAMAN,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.,
Lieut. Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

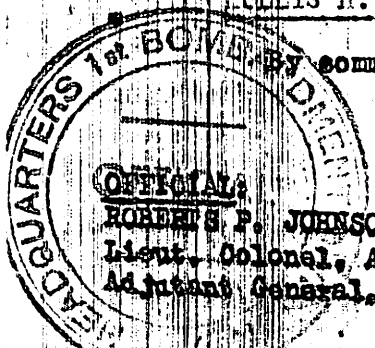
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Citation: For meritorious achievement while participating in sustained bomber combat operations over Germany and German occupied countries. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these Officers and Enlisted Men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

306th Bombardment Group (H)

HOLLIS H. BAKER, O-765590, 1st Lt. Los Angeles, California.



ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.,
Lieut. Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

By command of Brigadier General TURNER:

BARTLETT BEAMAN,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

RESTRICTED

RETURNEES TO THE ZONE OF THE INTERIOR

1. BAKER, HOLLIS H. Capt. (B) O-765590 423rd Bomb Sq., 306th Bomb Gp. (H).
(NAME) (RANK) (ASN) (FLIGHT RATING) (ORG-LAST)

2. REASON FOR RETURN TO THE ZONE OF THE INTERIOR: (If because of complete operational tour, so state with date. If case of operational fatigue, give date, diagnosis made, and details. If not operational fatigue, so state)

Completed 30 Operational missions, 29 January, 1945.

3. FLIGHT STATUS: (Here explain and include statement whether or not on flying status. If not, explain fully). On flying status.

4. DATE OF LAST FLIGHT: 29 January, 1945.

5. MEDICAL BOARD FINDINGS: (If individual has appeared before a medical board, give findings and date when findings were reached).

This officer has never appeared before a Medical Board.

6. In what state is it desired to spend leave or furlough? California

7. MEDICAL HISTORY SUMMARY: (Here include all instances of hospitalization, removal from flying status, etc., with dates, diagnosis, LOD, and disposition).

This officer has never been grounded or hospitalized.

Eugene La Vie Lt Col
(SIGNATURE OF COMMANDING OFFICER)

Henry Datzig/s.
(SIGNATURE OF FLIGHT SURGEON)

HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL USAF (RET.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, CA 93436 • Tel. (805) 733-4174

7 October 1987

Mr. Russell Strong
2041 Hillisdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Russ:

I would be most appreciative if you will publish the enclosed letter in the next issue of The Echoes.


Personally, I feel the 306th Bomb Group Association should have instigated this action concurrent with the erection and dedication of the memorial. You may want to start such action using the funds on hand which were contributed for the defunct museum.

Another thing, you should be using your influence to encourage members to interest their children and grandchildren in our organization, else it will die with us.

I know there are narrow minded people in our organization that resent late arrivals, associate members, regardless of ilk, Friends of the Eighth and anyone that thinks the 306th History was not made at Wendover.

If you choose not to publish the letter, please let me know by calling collect (805) 733-4174.

Sincerely,


Hollis H. Baker

HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL USAF (RET.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, CA 93436 • Tel. (805) 733-4174

306th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL

Several members of the 306th Bomb Group Association, recently returned from trips to Thurleigh, have contacted me to lament the lack of care evident in the upkeep of our 306th Memorial. George Gransie, an associate member, assisted by Gordon and Connie Richards of Bedford, Friends of the Eighth (FOTE) did a thorough "police" job of the monument and surrounding area the week of 28 September.

The RAF Group Captain commanding Thurleigh, confided to George that Gordon and Connie Richards quite frequently drive over to clean up the area. They do this particularly when they know or anticipate visits from ex-306 members.

This action is a labor of love and dedication from two friends of the 306th. This dedication is not only unrewarded but completely unrecognized by all 306th members, except those who choose to visit the memorial, hence this letter to The Echoes.

A group of we members have joined to establish a 306th Bomb Group Veterans Association Fund. This fund will be used to insure the monument is maintained as a fitting memorial to those members of the 306th Bomb Group who gave their lives for their country and a gentle reminder of those of us who survived of our good fortune. God alone made the decision as to whom the Memorial would be dedicated and those to dedicate.

This fund will insure the upkeep of the Memorial and to assure placement of floral decorations on appropriate occasions. To soothe the ruffled feathers of any Anglophobe's (Annal personalities to which I personally say "screw em") we are not using the 306th Bomb Group Association name for the account although I feel this should be an Association project.

We have a London Barrister (lawyer to the unwashed) Friend of the Eighth, donating his time and talent at no cost to our cause. He will handle all legal problems with the Crown.

The account has been funded by my associates and will be operating in Bedford with Gordon and Connie Richards as trustees by the time this appears in The Echoes.

Now for the meat of the matter, we need two things: 1) Volunteers to serve as trustees of the fund in association with the Richards; 2) Donations to keep the account viable. We would like to obtain enough to use only the interest to defray expenses.

To all you fellows that attended the memorial dedication, I respectfully suggest you consider ear marking a few bucks for the fund and send it along when we have the paperwork completed. To those who have never been back to Thurleigh, you should go, it is a heart warming experience and besides, it is where most of us left our youth and became men. We will take your money also when the time is ripe.

To all those dozens of 306th folks that have enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Richards, how about it, don't you feel you can spare a small donation? Keep us in mind.

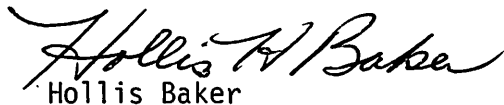
To those who must receive a material reward in return (pride not enough?) Mr. Tony Schembri has dozens of video tapes on WW II and the "Mighty Eighth." Tony has a professional associate who will reproduce any video tape he has which you may desire for a contribution to this fund. Tony may be contacted at:

Mr. Tony Schembri
4136 Point Hollow Lane
Fairfax, VA 22033
Phone: (703) 378-7716

Tony is an associate member of the 8th AFHS by virtue of his wife Kathy. Her uncle was an original member of the 385th Bomb Group who did not survive the war. Tony adopted the 306th after viewing the CBS program on our memorial dedication. He and Kathy have contributed more than a thousand dollars to our fund. We should make them members of our group.

To those members of the 306th Bomb Group Association who agree with our purpose keep your check books handy and your pen poised. I will get the word to the Echoes as to where to send your donation when the Barrister speaks.

Thank you for your indulgence,


Hollis Baker

1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, California 93436
October 1983

Mr. Russell Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Russell:

I hope to see you in Houston next week. Just in case you cannot make the 8th reunion I am sending this request to you for help.

First, I would appreciate very much if you will take the time to compose an article for a future issue of the Echoes, urging our membership to contribute funds for bringing our British Associates to a future reunion.

Secondly, how about running the following letter to our membership in the next issue of Echoes. This will give you some time for preparation of your article and I hope keep the subject alive.

Dear Fellow 306th Members:


If you missed the 306th Bomb Group Memorial Dedication at Thurleigh in October '82 and the September '83 Group Reunion at Omaha, you are twice unfortunate. Both events were truly memorable, emotional and successful occasions.

At the Omaha Reunion it was proposed by several members, previously attending the 306th Memorial Dedication, that a fund be established to assist our 306th Group British Associates in attending our future reunions. These members felt it would be especially appropriate to invite Gordon and Connie Richards to Ft. Worth as our unit guests. Such an invitation would be a small measure of our appreciation for the Richards' valient efforts, the dedication of purpose and the giving of time and self to insure our Memorial Dedication was the very best.

Several generous contributions were received that evening. So you fellows out there, how about digging down and join, PARLEY SMALL, MATTHEW RADNOFSKY, RAY FIELDS, HAROLD BROWN, RUSSELL HOUGHTON, KEN HERBSTER, HORACE CORIGLIANO and the fellows sending their money direct to Bill Collins, in our effort to get the Richards, Mills, Normans, Franklins, and John Hadfield to the U.S. of A. for one of our bang up reunions.

Keep those checks and money orders rolling in. We need your help.

Bill Collins will give you a periodic status report of our fund raising efforts. Thanks.


Hollis H. Baker
423rd Squad.

Hollis H. Baker
Phone: (805) 733-4174

1265 Stallecup Lane

Lompoc, California 93436

30 Oct 81

Dear Bill:

Nice to see you at the reunion. It is always a pleasure to chat with fellows that shared a common experience in the great Air Battles of WWII.

I stumbled on to this character while in St. Paul and signed him up for the 8th AFHS. He had never heard of the 8AFHS or knew that the 306th had an Assoc. You had already folded up the hospitality room when I had Aida sign him up. I was hoping to get some back issues of the Echoes for him.

If you have any back issues will you be so kind as to send him copies, also put him on distribution for future issues. His name should be coming thru from Aida but I will jump the gun on her.

ADD: Mr. Dale W. Dysinger (DYSINGER)
15613 N. LUND RD.
EDEN PRAIRIE, ~~MN~~ MN 55344

Dale was radar officer in the 423rd SQD.
He arrived just before I departed.

I believe I have sent you these names before.
However here they are again for our locator file.
Some address I do not have maybe some of our
people can help in locating the current address.

1) DAVID O. HOWE current address
ADD 111 MONTEREY ST. 423RD (SQD) NAVIGATOR 12
TERRE HAUTE, ~~IND.~~ ^{IN} 47801

2) JACK NEELY CURRENT ADDRESS
ADD 5676 E CAREY AVE 423RD BALL TURRET GUNNER
LAS VEGAS, ~~NEV~~ ^{NV} 89110

3) ~~JOHN L. GARRETT~~ CURRENT ADDRESS
ON LIST 3546 E. YALE ST 423RD RADIO OPER.
PHOENIX, ARIZ 85008

4) WILL A. MACDONALD 423RD PILOT
ADDRESS UNKNOWN Erie, PA

5) CLIFFORD R. WOLFHOPE CURRENT ADDRESS UNKNOWN
SALIX PA 423RD WAIST GUNNER
814/487-5187 ¹⁹⁵² Box 134

6) ~~JAMES~~ RAYMOND P. HOPKINS 423RD WAIST GUNNER
HAMPTON VA.
✓ CURRENT ADDRESS UNKNOWN
304/

7) CLIFFORD G. PAYTON JR 423RD COPILOT
CURRENT ADDRESS UNKNOWN.

8) EUGENE C. HOVEY CURRENT ADDRESS UNKNOWN
HARTFORD, CONN, 203/

Keep up the good work. See you in Cincinnati.
Hollis

Hollis H. Baker

Phone: (805) 733-4174

1265 Stallcup Lane

Lompoc, California 93436

17 February 1983

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is my Annual Contribution
for your mailing efforts.

Sorry I missed you Tuesday night,
Guess you were bowling or hot hopping,
I am getting too old for these activities!

I do hope you have a few extra copies
of the Echoes you can send along. I have
a few fish on the line that currently are
not interested in the 8 AFHS or the 386th VSGP
just want to forget. That I cannot
understand!!

Only sad note in the Echo's was the notice
on Jim Sutton's passing. We were thrown
together on several occasions after the war.
I always liked and respected Jim. Sorry to
read of his death.

See you in Omaha in Sept.

Best wishes always!

Hollis

24 Oct 83

Dear Bill,

Just a note to let you know
I enjoyed seeing you at Houston,
Also to forward another check
I received in the mail,

Please try to get Russ Strong
to give all these yellows credit
for their contributions. I sure
hope we can get enough to
get Gordon & Connie to Ft Worth.
If we get enough contributors as
generous as Earl you've we
will do ok.

I think we will get some
more after Russ prints on
item or two about the fund
raising in the Echoes.

Keep up the good work,
I will pay all checks I get, forwarding
to you.

Best wishes always

Hollis

100⁰⁰ YOU'RE FOTE FUND

Russell Strong

From: "William Houlihan" <whoulihan@twmi.rr.com>
To: "Russell/June Strong" <Russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net>
Cc: "Thurman/Joan Shuller" <tshuller@sbcglobal.net>; "Anthony J Conroy" <AJConroy@aol.com>; "Nena Leary" <nena@leary.org>; "Marty Lenaghan" <MCL1224@yahoo.com>; "Hugh Phelan" <hphelan@cei.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2004 8:48 AM
Subject: Fw: Hollis Baker 1916-2004

----- Original Message -----

From: [Bearpaw4](#)
To: [wm houlihan](#)
Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2004 11:59 PM
Subject: Hollis Baker 1916-2004

Need to report that my friend and just about everybody's in the 306th BG lost another great man in the passing of Hollis Baker on January 12, 2004 from the complications of cancer. He had a great career in the 306th as lead bombardier for the 423rd Sqn during his time at Thurleigh. He stayed in the service until retirement as Colonel. His second career was as an executive in Alaska on the pipe line and finally retired a second time to Lompoc, Ca where he lived with his wonderful wife, Esther. He was friend to every 306ther who stopped by his home. I will sorely miss him. My wife and I stopped by his home in Lompoc, on our way home from a long trip last year, and he not only made us welcomed, but insisted we stay overnight. Since his condition at that time was not severe, we did and had a wonderful time together, just the four of us. He did that over the many years I knew him. Intelligent, friendly, articulate, Hollis Baker, the man. All who knew him will miss him.

Bill you might drop Esther a note when you get the time. You take care of yourself and Ruth.
With Affection,

Shel

Russell Strong

From: "William Houlihan" <whoulihan@twmi.rr.com>
To: "Russell/June Strong" <Russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net>
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2004 11:31 AM
Subject: Fw: Our mutual sorry, Hollis Baker

----- Original Message -----

From: [Bearpaw4](#)
To: [wm houlihan](#)
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2004 8:32 PM
Subject: Our mutual sorry, Hollis Baker

Dear Bill:

I spoke with Esther Baker about 30 minutes ago. She is doing badly as any loving spouse who just lost her loved one. Sorting through the emotions the following issues are: The Baker's do have eMail and you can reach her at : EBaker329@aol.com . She asked me to get her the newspaper for the 8th AF. Turns out to be the Echoes. She said she sent a 2nd note to inquire where to notify them so his obit appears for all who knew him would be informed. The note said Hollis put it in the file to ask me so she could follow up. I put that part away by telling her through you, Russ Strong probably knows by now. Probably be best if you or Russ inquires by Phone or eMail for the particulars. The funeral is scheduled for Jan 31. The county wants an autopsy since he died at home without attending doctor. He was on a morphine drip so he had no pain. She told me he died in his sleep during the night. Said he had a good dinner and went to bed early, just never woke again. Esther is usually a very bright articulate woman and while she is presently suffering quietly, she could use, in my humble opinion some support from the many friends from the 306thBG.

I called and left word on the answ/machine for Em Christianson. Esther told me she sent a note to Em as she did me informing of his death. I can't find Lucky Kaye's address and phone # at the moment. It will turn up when I don't need it. I will assume Em will tell Lucky and I mentioned that in my message to her.

Esther has two sisters living within driving distance and her granddaughter lives in Bakesfield, some hours away and they have rallied around her. Their only son, Gary, lives in Georgia and in the same week lost not only his father, Hollis, but his wife and so he is staying in Georgia doing what he must.

Even though Hollis has been ill with this cancer for some years, it is still a shock to Esther to find herself alone and she did cry while talking to me. Being a strong woman, she ceased but I can tell by her voice that she was still crying. All this is still very fresh in my mind after 11 years of being a caregiver to Gloria whom I knew was terminal, but it was a shock to be alone after the last went about their business after the funeral. Esther still has a funeral to go through. It will be a tough next 2 weeks for her not to mention what is coming afterwards. She promised to call me if she thinks I could help in anyway. I told her both Rita and I would either fly or drive down depending how long she would want us to be there. If you or Russ communicate with her tell her the 306th has provisions to welcome the widows and family members at the reunions. She knows Em C and I told Esther that Em shows up at every reunion since Chris passed on. I am trying to keep her from feeling isolated.

I am certain Russ can write a fitting tribute to Hollis's time with the 306th and beyond.

Regarding your moments with the H/O prez, sound familiar. You and Ed H can compare experiences with the battle with the elite who think once elected, are God. Locally, snow doesn't last long but it does stay in the battlement of mountains that encircle the city of Reno. My son who live in Incline Village at 7500 feet, has his own snow blower to clear the path to the street. But he lives in his own home along with about 6 or 8 other homes, all of which have their own snow blowers. Maybe you are better off of having someone do it for you instead of being out there in the bitter cold. My son says it is good exercise. How could that be? He fires up the Honda and just walks behind it controlling the gadgets that throw high or low...

Since all I have is King Noah, I would like to see the day where he comes to Reno to go fly fishing or some sort of activity that I can participate in, but he would have to be 8 or older to try that, and that day is more than 5 years away and I shall be 85 by then and who knows if I will even be here. I think I will have a drink of something to ease the negativism floating through my mind. You take care of Ruth and the family as they look to you to do.

1/19/04



Col. Hollis H. Baker
1265 Stallcup Ln.
Lompoc, CA 93436-2316

Dear Mr. Heuser

Enclosed is a check for \$25.00 to help the Echoes program.

I have asked Russ Stroy to add the name of a New Zealand friend, Life member of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society to our Echoes distribution list.

The name is:

S. BRYCE GREGORY

69 PLEASANT ROAD

AUCKLAND 7, NEW ZEALAND.

Between the two of you, Bryce should have no trouble receiving his own copy of the 306th Echoes. I have been sending him mine for years.

Thank You for your help

Hollis Baker

Rec'd \$25 ck

RmH



Col. Hollis H. Baker
1265 Stallcup Ln.
Lompoc, CA 93436-2316

28 April 2001

Dear Russ:

I have recently enrolled a friend of mine from Auckland New Zealand as a life member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society.

I have been sending Bryce my 306th Echoes which he enjoys very much.

I would very much appreciate your signing Bryce on as an Associate of our 306th Organization.

I would also like to see him on the distribution list for the 306th Echoes. If you have a copy of the Jan 2001 issue laying about would appreciate that being his first issue.

The Kimiti is:

S. BRYCE GREGORY

69A PLEASANT ROAD

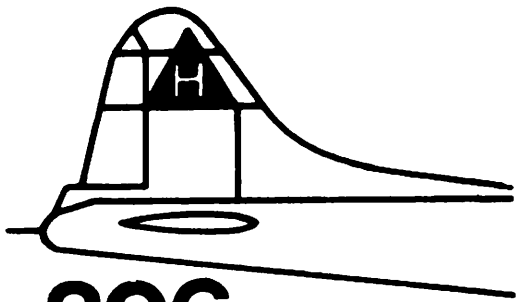
AUCKLAND 7, NEW ZEALAND

PH. 011-649-818-7455.

I have mailed a check for \$25⁰⁰ to Mr Houser to help the program.

Thank you for your help

Sincerely,
Hollis Baker



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

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

Historian

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

27 July 1986

Author

First Over Germany

Editor

306th Echoes

Dear Hollis:

Your letter of the 14th July has come along to me from Bill Collins. I had heard rumors of your problems, and am certainly sorry to learn that you are still having problems. We miss you at the reunions.

But I do hope that by mid-winter you will be up and about and healing well.

As to George Sennatt, I do not find his name in my files at all. I don't believe we had a mission up on 30 October 43. Oops, we did have a mission off at 0900, but it was scrubbed. There is no mention of flying in the group history, so nothing happened.

I have a double postcard inquiry form for use in such cases, as I have received a number of names unknown to me. For your information I have a 3x5 card file culled from any records I can find. It contains about 10,000 names, and I think that probably covers 98% of the men in the 306th. But, I still come across a new name every so often, and the postcard has helped me identify several people who ought to have been in the file.

I'll be waiting for Sennatt's reply.

Regardless of the reply, we'll be happy to put him on the Echoes mailing list, as we do have a number who were not a part of the 306th.

All the best to you, Hollis, and we all hope for a speedy recovery on your part.

2 Aug '86

Dear Russ:

You are right, I contacted George, on receipt of your letter, George advised I was wrong about the unit as he was confused when we first met. He was actually assigned to the 390th. It is all straightened out and he is now in the 8th AFHS also 390th unit roster.

Sorry about that!

Keep up the good work -

Faller

PS, Have advised Bill Collins of above.

103

HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL., USAF (Ret.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, California 93436 • (805) 733-4174

Mr. Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillisdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Dear Russ:

I think our members need to know about this young couple. If you agree would appreciate you inserting the following in the next issue of Echoes.

Dear 306'ers:

I want to share a letter with you which I recently received.

September 9, 1984

Dear Hollis:

Enclosed please find our check for \$500.00, to purchase airline tickets for Gordon and Connie Richards from Ft. Worth to Los Angeles, and to help offset expenses you may incur showing Connie and Gordon a good time on their visit. We want them to have a marvelous visit to California.

We know the amount is small compared to the generosity and kindness they have extended to us and countless others visiting them in Bedford. But it is our small way to thank them for an unforgettable trip to Bedford and making us feel so comfortable with their warm friendship.

Fondly,
Kathy and Tony Schembri

I had to know more about this generous couple. A telephone call disclosed they watched the CBS Program of the 306th Memorial Dedication. Went to Bedford to see the Memorial, met the Richards, found out about our effort to bring the Richards to Ft. Worth, presto, a most generous donation.

Kathy is the niece of Lt. Percival, now deceased, an early member of the 306th Group at Thurleigh. Tony was in the 451 Strategic Wing 8 AF in the Vietnam fracas.

I took the liberty of signing Tony up as an 8 AFHS member. I have also asked Bill Collins to add his name to the 306th roster. We need young friends if the organization is to survive.


Hollis Baker

HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL., USAF (Ret.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, California 93436 • (805) 733-4174

14 March 1984

Dear Bill:

Here is a check to help keep the Echoes going to those on our mailing list. Dave Wheeler of Wheeler Cadillac in Yuba City ^{Calif.} assured me he would send in a check for \$150.00 to help get Connie & Gordon over here for the Ft Worth reunion. Has Dave sent you the money? Had about jogging his memory by suggesting he write an article for our next issue on the subject. Dave was at the Memorial Dedication.

Third item you have my son's name and address wrong in our current issue. I signed him up as an associate last fall. His correct name and address:

FILE GARY P. BAKER
6469 BAYARD ST.
LONG BEACH, CA. 93436

See you in Ft Worth and probably in Los Angeles

Best Wishes

Hollis

P.S. Will you be re-registering the Richards?

4 Dec 1983

HOLLIS H. BAKER, COL., USAF (Ret.)
1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, California 93436 • (805) 733-4174

Dear Bill:

I am enclosing another check for our Campaign to get the Richards to our '84 reunion in Ft Worth. I sure hope you are getting contributions as I am not doing too good.

I have written several people at the dedication ceremony, who were not at Omahas asking for their help. I suggested they send a contribution direct to you. Hope they do!!

Who was responsible for getting the names of our Squadron members in the reunion picture to us? My first picture arrived totally damaged beyond use. Requested another and it arrived promptly. In good shape & might add, would sure like to have the request gallery line-up to go with the pictures.

I hope Russ runs an article in every issue of the "Echoes" about our fund drive. I sure would like to have enough by July 1st to assure air fare at least.

I have a nice holiday and keep up the good work. Especially our drive to get money for our British friends!
Best Wishes
Hollis

1265 Stallcup Lane
Lompoc, California 93436
October 1983

Mr. Russell Strong
2041 Hillisdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Russell:

I hope to see you in Houston next week. Just in case you cannot make the 8th reunion I am sending this request to you for help.

First, I would appreciate very much if you will take the time to compose an article for a future issue of the Echoes, urging our membership to contribute funds for bringing our British Associates to a future reunion.

Secondly, how about running the following letter to our membership in the next issue of Echoes. This will give you some time for preparation of your article and I hope keep the subject alive.

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At the Omaha Reunion it was proposed by several members, previously attending the 306th Memorial Dedication, that a fund be established to assist our 306th Group British Associates in attending our future reunions. These members felt it would be especially appropriate to invite Gordon and Connie Richards to Ft. Worth as our unit guests. Such an invitation would be a small measure of our appreciation for the Richard's valient efforts, the dedication of purpose and the giving of time and self to insure our Memorial Dedication was the very best.

Several generous contributions were received that evening. So you fellows out there, how about digging down and join, PARLEY SMALL, MATTHEW RADNOFSKY, RAY FIELDS, HAROLD BROWN, RUSSELL HOUGHTON, KEN HERBSTER, HORACE CORIGLIANO and the fellows sending their money direct to Bill Collins, in our effort to get the Richards, Mills, Normans, Franklins, and John Hadfield to the U.S. of A. for one of our bang up reunions.

Keep those checks and money orders rolling in. We need your help.

Bill Collins will give you a periodic status report of our fund raising efforts. Thanks.

Hollis H. Baker
423rd Squad.