

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

Name Rex C. Barber
Address 2252 South, 1000 West, Syracuse, Utah 84041
Telephone 825-5613 Date 3/3/78
Occupation Deputy Job Corps Center Director Employer Mickel Corp.
Address Clearfield, Utah 84016 Telephone 773-1433

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th: Basic Training, Keester AFB, Miss
Clerical School, Ft Logan, Colorado

Joined 306th in wandover, Utah, April 1, 1972

After leaving the 306th: Officer Candidate School, Miami Beach, Fla.
CBI - Oct 44 - Jan 46

306th Record:

Arrival Date April 1, 1972 Squadron or other unit 309th
MOS Sgt Sgt Major Combat Status None
Missions Completed 1
Promotions Private to MSgt
Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM
PH Battle Stars other

Marvin Clarence Barker

Marvin C. Barker, 87, died at home after an extended illness on June 10, 2005, surrounded by his family. Marvin was born

September 3, 1918, in North Ogden, Utah, to goodly parents, Clarence and Myrtle Barker. He served an LDS Mission in Hawaii at the time Pearl Harbor was bombed. He is a veteran of World War II,



Marvin served in the Army Air Corps (now Air Force) as a ball turret gunner on the B-17 flying fortress. He married Maurine Strong in August 25, 1949 in the SLC Temple. They had four children. He worked on the family farm and owned and operated Quality Dairy in North Ogden with his brother for 45 years. Marvin worked and retired from the Weber School District. After 35 happy years of marriage, Maurine passed away on August 22, 1985 and he took over the contract operating the old North Ogden Post Office. He married Ramona Poulson Cook on July 23, 1994 in North Ogden and embraced her family. Marvin loved to ride four-wheelers, travel, watch sports and attend grandchildren's activities. His work ethic was strong. He was still hauling hay in his 80's and helping others with his tractor work. Marvin was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and diligently served in many callings and positions, including an Elder in the North Ogden Mission in his 60's and 70's. His testimony of the Gospel was sure and complete.

Surviving are his wife Ramona in North Ogden; his and Maurine's children, Virginia Stanley Burwell (Dennis), Morgan, UT; Bruce C. Barker, Key Largo, FL; Brent Marvin Barker (Linda), Mukilteo, WA; and Julie Farr (Dennis) North Ogden, UT; 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Phyllis VanWagenen, Provo, UT, and Elaine Lowder, Walnut Creek, CA.

Marvin also leaves behind Ramona's five children, Cathy (Dennis) Parley (Parley), Pleasant View, UT; Cindy Bronson (Tracy), North Ogden, UT; Carl (Lynette) Barker, Auckland, New Zealand; Shauna (Shauna) Cook, Hooper, UT; Melinda (Dan) Kerns, North Ogden, UT; 19 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Marvin was preceded in death by his first wife, Maurine; his parents, brothers Wayne, Verle and James, and sisters, Jetta, Lorene and Melba.

31 January 1979

Mr. Rex C. Barber
2252w S. 1000 West
Syracuse, UT 84041

Dear Rex:

Thanks for the loan of the enclosed materials. I made copies of them for my files, and thus am returning these to you.

On checking through the 369th roster, I found 29 names that I did not have in my card file of about 9000 names, so my list keeps on growing.

I figure there must be several more such rosters hiding someplace, and I hope others find them.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

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31 January 1986

Mr. Rex Baxher
2252 South 1000 West
Syracuse, UT 84041

Dear Rex:

Bob Crane kindly sent along to me your Christmas opus, indicating he thought it would be good copy for the Echoes. I concur with his opinion, and would like to ask your permission to use it in the April issue.

I think it speaks to a lot of people about the values to be gained from attending a reunion, and we hope to have a record crowd at Dayton next September.

If you are agreeable, I would like to borrow the original art which you used for the cover and run it in Echoes. It will reproduce much better than the copy which I have.

Let me hear from you as I will want to get the material into type before too long, and get it on its way.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION

The third reunion of the 306th in Colorado Springs was such an outstanding event in my life that I have been trying to express my feelings in writing since returning to Zion (Utah). I would like to share these feelings with you at this special time of the year.

I have been to a lot of similar gatherings over the years - Lions Club conventions, family reunions, high school reunions, to name a few. Some I enjoyed. Some I went to out of a sense of duty or because my sweet wife insisted. Most of them I just tolerated. I suppose, to some degree, I viewed the 306th Reunion in the same light - with a great deal of skepticism. Many questions ran through my mind as I pondered my decision about attending. I guess foremost of my concerns were "how would I be accepted?" "Who would be there who would be glad to see me?" "Would I be one of the group - or looked upon as an outsider - an interloper, since I had not been to any of the previous events?" I realize now that these concerns were foundless; however, in all truthfulness, at the time they were very real.

What made the event special? I have talked to guys who have been to similar functions - no "Big Deal." Other men I have discussed the subject with tell me that their outfits have never had a reunion. Several said "even if they had one, I wouldn't go." After a great deal of thought I have concluded that there are several items which made the 306th Reunion special.

First and most important, all of us were very proud to be part of the 369th Bomb Squadron - from the lowest private to Col. Terry and Col. Riordan, our C.O.'s. No matter how small our contribution to its success, we still thrill at the mention of its accomplishments. I can still remember how Major Stanko, Jack Wood and I used to "sweat out" the return of "our" planes. We rejoiced in their return and wept when they were lost. I know this same attitude prevailed among the other "ground pounders" as well as with the combat crews. The Reunion made me realize that even after 42 years, I still had a very strong feeling for the 369th, as I had as a kid of 22. It had dimmed a little over the years, but the trip to Colorado Springs certainly served to revive it.

I think also that the conditions under which we developed our relationships were very special. After all, our living accommodations weren't the best. The Nissen Huts, the coal stoves and the food were not the greatest. The English beer, the shortage of spirits and a lack of transportation didn't help our dispositions. Yet we still received a lot of enjoyment out of some little things - the "bull sessions," Black Jack games, squadron parties and an "occasional" pass to Bedford, London or Nottingham. Of course, some of the lucky ones (no names mentioned) had sweet little English lassies to console them when their morale was down.

As many of you know, after I left England I went to O.C.S. and then to China. I spent approximately 18 months with a Service Group, nearly as long as my tour with the 369th. Yet the relationships with the members of that group and the feelings we had about our unit did not compare to the way I felt about old "Fightin Bitin."

It was great seeing you all again. My thanks to each of you and your wives for your display of friendship and for the truly warm welcome you gave my wife and me. It was great to relive some of the experiences we had in England, many of which I had nearly forgotten until one of you reminded me.

It was good to see Jack Wood and his beautiful wife Patricia again as well as our old boss "Tiger" Terry. What a wonderful guy and what a fine leader. I only wish Major Stanko could have been there - he would have loved it. Terry had some inappropriate name for us like "The Unholy Trio" (Stanko, Wood and Barber.)

The only one of the group I had seen prior to the Reunion was my old pass buddy, Hankey. It was great to see him again. If Griffin could have been there, it would have been complete. Maybe we can get him to Dayton.

As Hankey said several times, we saw more of Harnois at the Reunion than we did all of the time we were in England. It made me feel great when his sweet wife Marge said that I was one of the reasons Artie came to Colorado Springs. I still can't understand why all of the pictures I have of him show him with a cup of "mild and bitters."

I think we all owe a lot to four guys for helping keep the Reunion alive. I am referring to Harold Lightbown, Peter Pappas, Wilson Elliott and old Bob Crane. Their dedication to this cause and the extra effort they have made to get others interested, including me, are commendable. My special thanks to Crane for the cap. As yet I have not received the bill.

I'll always remember seeing Jim Furay across the hotel lobby and the instant recognition we both displayed. And at last I know what part of Idaho Eddie Perin comes from. I've looked all over the southern part of that state for him. I didn't have that problem with Jack Hartung - I think we all remember that he hails from Hondo, wherever that is. No problem recognizing that little feller.

Another guy whom I had no problem in recognizing was Everett Daniel. Except for the hair, he looks just like he did when he was doing Hankey's work for him. Same goes for old Goodwill, except that he still has all of his hair and very little gray. That Grecian Formula does wonders.

Another one who is minus a little hair is Frank Potter; however, I knew him immediately. Louie Damaso has put on a little weight as have some of the rest of us. Harold Thornam and J. C. Thorn looked as fit as they did 42 years ago.

It was also good to see Tony Santoro. His crew was always one of my favorites. My thanks also to Orville Karstaedt for helping make me feel welcome and for remembering some of the few good things I might have done.

In conclusion, thanks to all of you and your wives for helping Delsa and me have one of the greatest three days of our "young" lives. Merry Xmas and God bless you.

See you at Dayton.

FROM THE DESK OF REX C. BARBER

Russell

Here is the original which I used for
the cover.

Also the original letter.

Hope it works out

Thanks

for

2 February 1989

Rex C. Barber
2252 South 1000 West
Syracuse, UT 84041

Dear Rex:

Writing for myself, and for Don Ross and Reg Robinson, let me express our thanks and appreciation for your recent gift to the 306th BG Project Fund.

Your concern for the Association as evidenced by your gift is much appreciated, and you will be hearing further from us on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

William F. Houlihan
President

Amount received: \$100.00

From the Desk of
REX C. BARBER

Dear Russ,

I have reviewed the package as you requested. I think it looks great. My only questions are:

1. Do we have an estimated cost for the entire trip?
2. Will hotel costs be included in the total package?
3. Where will the planes leave from?

See you in Pittsburgh

Luck

Ry

Russell A. Strong, Secretary
306th Bomb Group Association
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Barber, Rex *

369

Sgt Major

Arrival Promotion Departed Death
to M/Sgt

42-04-01

43-02-01

44-10-00

30

Marital Status: MARRIED Wife's Name: DE/SA

If you have a copy of the order promoting you to Master or to First Sergeant, I would very much like to receive a copy of such, as these are difficult to find. While I have some orders prior to 1 Dec 43, I need more. I do have all orders issued after the above date. I have a group picture of 367th Masters, but have never seen one from another squadron. Have you?

Sorry NO orders. NO picture
Rex

Rex C. Barber
11/17/19 ~ 12/20/02



SYRACUSE - Rex C. Barber, age 83, passed away Friday, December 20, 2002 in Layton from complications of congestive heart failure.

He was born Nov. 17, 1919 in Syracuse, UT a son of Clyde C. and Mattie Walker Barber. Rex will be remembered by many people as a loving father and grandfather, a great friend, hunting buddy, advisor, and confidante. He was particularly close to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he was the fundamental mentor in their lives.

He married Delsa Thurgood in Syracuse Aug. 13, 1946. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.

He graduated from Davis High School and attended Weber State College and University of Utah. Rex served as a 1st Lt. with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and the Korean War. He served in England, where his bomb group flew the first mission over Germany. He later served in China. After the war he worked at the Clearfield Naval Supply Depot and Hill Air Force Base, where one of his first assignments was to build a base golf course. He built this course, one of the finest in Utah, using volunteer labor and minimal funding.

He retired from the Clearfield Naval Supply Depot and Hill Air Force Base. He later retired as a vice president of Management Training Corp. He served on the Syracuse City Council and was mayor for eight years. He also operated Barber Tax Service for nearly 50 years, serving over 400 clients.

He was an avid sports fan and in his younger years, played baseball every chance he had. He especially enjoyed hunting and fishing. Every year for over 50 years, a group, including his sons and grandsons, went to Montana for the "opening," a tradition which lives on in his name. Probably his favorite outdoor sport was pheasant hunting. Even at age 82 he bagged a couple of roosters at his favorite spot in Idaho.

In 1960 he took up golfing which he enjoyed. For many years he sponsored the famous and popular Barber Invitational. He and his wife also enjoyed bowling and were on a league at the local bowling alley.

Rex was a former member of the Syracuse Lions Club and served as president. He was an active member of the Syracuse LDS 3rd Ward and served in many positions.

He is survived by his loving wife, Delsa of Syracuse; two sons, Kim (Sherril) Barber, Cody, WY, Brad (Tina) Barber, Salt Lake City; five grandchildren, Dani (Scott) Birch, Syracuse, Brandon (Michelle), Mika Barber, both of Salt Lake City, Jesse (Robyn) Barber, Winton-Salem, NC, Justin (Lisa) Barber, Laramie, WY; seven great-grandchildren, Dillon Birch, Jarin Birch, Dalton Hughes, Canyon Barber, Brighton Forsgren, Jaidyn Barber, Zayne Barber; two sisters, Irene (Henry) Holland, Rupert, ID, Shirley (Dick) Egan, Syracuse; one sister-in-law, Mavis Barber, Bountiful; and brother-in-law, Kent (Trudy) Thurgood, St. George. He was preceded in death by one brother, J. Vaughn Barber.