

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to  
Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval  
Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

Date completed June 6, 1991

LAST NAME: BEHRENS FIRST NAME: ERNEST H TITLE:

Street address: 1736 EAST GARY ST Telephone: (602) 835-6412

City, state, zip: ME SA, ARIZONA 85203

Date of Birth: JULY 4, 1910 Wife's name: GLADYS SCRIVEN BEHRENS (DEC)

College(s) attended: STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HOBOKEN N.J. Degree(s): M.E. Year(s): 1932

Last employment and job title:  
RALPH M ARSONSCO (4 YEARS) MECHANICAL ENGINEER  
AMPLEX CORP (1 YEAR) RELIABILITY ENGINEER  
HOLMES & HARRISON NUCLEAR & RELIABILITY ENGINEER

Reunions attended: (by year or location)  
NONE

Serial #: AO 301556 Squadron: 369<sup>TH</sup> Specialty: (ORDNANCE)

Date joined 306th: UN ORIGIN OF 306<sup>TH</sup> If combat, what crew: GROUND OFFICER ORDNANCE

Special duties or assignments w/306th: ORDNANCE

Number of missions flown: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of last mission: \_\_\_\_\_

Date left 306th: APPROX 1937 Highest rank/grade with 306th: 1ST LT

Other 8th AF units served with: \_\_\_\_\_

Top service assignments after 306th: \_\_\_\_\_

USAF retirement date: APPROX 1952 Rank/grade: MAJ USAF (RET)

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units, will be welcomed by the secretary.

369<sup>TH</sup> SQ 306<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GR  
If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search further for them.

2630 Grand Summit Road  
Torrance, California 90505  
November 1, 1982

Dear Russel,

Received you letter of October 24th. At present, I expect to be home on the afternoon of the 12th of November or the morning of the 13th, Saturday. However, just to be sure, please give me give me a ring at 325-1411 before 10 AM of the day of your visit.

I will be very happy to see you and to give you what information may be of interest to you. I am not sure just now whether my 201 file will be available as I will have to hunt it up out of a couple of trunks but hope that will not be a problem. The file as I recall did not have a great deal of information of use to you. Since I worked for Ordnance and Armament for three years in England and Scotland during the war years and spent my time also with the 306th Bomb Squadron at Wendover, Utah, before leaving the U.S., I can tell you some things that might be of interest to you from my experience while serving as Ordnance Officer for the 369th Bomb Squadron. For example, activities in the bomb storage area, loading and fuzing bombs in the B-17s, some near fatal accidents, some safety dilemmas trying to follow orders etc. and a 650 mile trip to The Firth of Moray in Northern Scotland, while leading 57 prime moving vehicles, most of which had well loaded trailers. If this or other chit chat is not of interest to you, I will try to answer any questions that may be more pertinent to your wants.

With best wishes to all members of the 306th Bomb Squadron, as ever,

Yours truly,

  
Ernest H. Behrens (Ed)

P.S I am now 72 years old and a victim of a non contagious nose cancer for the past 5 years.

November 1, 1952  
Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN 37402

Dear Russell,

I received your letter of October 24th. At present, I expect to be home on the afternoon of the 15th of November. I will give you a ring at 5:30-5:45 before 10:00 of the day of your visit.

I will be very busy so see you and so give you - what information may be of interest to you. I am not sure how much of 501 file will be available as I will have out of a couple of things but how that will not be a problem as I really did not have a good deal of information in that line. I worked for Columbia and

1 mi S on Hawthorne

Pacific Coast Hwy

Crenshaw Blvd

Parasol red.

turn rt for PCH on Crenshaw

1 mi up to Crest Rd 2 blocks,

Turn rt at big house on hill

go 2 blocks & turn left on Grand Summit

10a.111

17 November 1982

Dear Ernest:

I want to thank you for the time you gave me last Saturday.

The things you told me help me to expand my background on the 306th, so that I can hopefully do a better job on the Echoes in the future.

I have found almost everyone in the 306th to have been helpful, and for the interviewer, interesting people. It is nice to add your name to this group.

All in all I had a good trip to California. The meetings I went to attend went off well, and the interviews I had set up were also of considerable interest and well worth the time spent.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely yours,

11/92  
2<sup>nd</sup> Torrance, CA, home

Ernest Behrens  
369th

Reserve officer, Ord, grad of Stevens Inst  
mechanical eng.

long days at Waudover, as nothing  
had been done.

lake at Gold Hill, UT, 50 miles away  
when men went swimming,  
driving home on r.r. roadway, saw to  
15' gap. There were r.r. stringers, 8" x 8", 8" below surface  
& truck just fitted on the. Got across safely.

369 Ord., worked with armament people.  
Bomb storage. Dangerous work.

Always a few bombs which were expiring.  
Needed to be cleaned up, if leaking badly.  
taken by planes & dumped at sea.

50 cal ammunition stored by ord. + then  
put in bins. Defective ord had to be discarded.  
Sensitives dynamite was stored there.

Trained men in handling of fuses.  
Needed to gain confidence.

loading fused bombs, one fell, shearing off  
fuse striker exposed, one more bump &  
it would have gone off.

Tried loading without fuses, & then putting  
fuses in later.

Someone objected, Doman said it had to be done as to orders. Finally orders were that it could be done other way.

To be court martialed. One of ordnance commanders, perhaps a general, came to visit & observe methods. loaded plan for him. He ordered all bombs to be loaded that way.

Took bomb trucks & trailers to Scotland. Once there, set up a bomb dump at air base there. Idea was to enable B-17s to fly north, pick up bombs, & then to fly mission against German navy & against Norway. GAT ran reconnaissance missions overhead to inspect work. Up there for 3 mos.

left 306th after abt  $3\frac{1}{2}$  yrs. w/another bomb group. Lt Nichols threw out, after not getting job he wanted.