

Clyde Bennett

K in Berlin  
airlift

pilot after - W to II

w/ke May

2001 Reunion, Minneapolis, MN

19 September 2001

National Personnel & Records Center  
9700 Page Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Attn: USAAF WWII Records & Berlin Airlift

Dear Sirs:

At the recent reunion of this organization, I heard an interesting story concerning the late Clyde M. Bennett 6942738, and would like to secure more information about him.

Bennett was assigned to the 306th Bomb Group, probably in April 1942 at Wendover, UT, and left the Group when he became a POW 13 Jan 43 on a mission to Lille, France. My source tells me that he was something of a protege of Curtis LeMay, who served with the 306th for a brief period prior to taking command of the 305th Bomb Group.

Now, jump ahead a few years, and in the immediate postwar period Bennett got into pilot training, was commissioned, and is reported to have died in an air crash during the Berlin Air lift, when he was serving as a pilot.

Any information you can turn up on Bennett would be most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong  
Historian

19 September 2001

Reference Desk  
Pittsburgh Public Library  
1201 Woods Run Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-2335

Dear Friends:

At the recent reunion of this organization, I was told about a CLYDE M. BENNETT who served with the organization for some months early in the war. My records indicate that he may have come from or had a connection with Pittsburgh.

He joined the 306th early in 1942, having served in the Army for an extended period prior to the war, as evidenced by the seven-digit enlisted serial number he then held, 6942738.

On 13 Jan 1943 he was missing in action over Lièke, France, on a bombing mission, and became a prisoner of war.

After he was returned to the U. S. in late 1945 or 1946, he entered pilot training, and was later assigned to fly in the Berlin Air Lift. During this period he was killed in a plane crash,

Any assistance you can give me will be greatly appreciated, and I will be happy to pay any copying charges you may incur.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

cc: W. Bruce Thomas

20 September 2001

Air Force History Office  
ASHSO  
200 McChord St, Bldg 24  
Bolling AFB, MD 20332

Dear Sirs:

I am seeking a bibliography of the Berlin Air Lift, if such a thing exists.

More specifically, I am seeking information on a Clyde M. Bennett, who was an early member of this organization and became a POW on 13 Jan 1943 on a mission to Lille, France.

It is my understanding that he entered pilot training after returning to the States and was flying as a pilot in the Berlin Air Lift.

Specific information seems hard to acquire 50 years later, and I am hopeful that you can be of assistance to me. Perhaps, even to the point of a copying a page or two out of books you may have available on your shelves.

My information indicates that he was killed while flying on the Air Lift.

Sincerely yours,

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH**

Main Library and  
Administrative Offices

4400 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080  
Direct Tel 412 622-  
Direct Fax 412 622-  
<http://www.clpgh.org>

Date Oct. 20, 2001

Dear Mr. Strong:

We regret that we could not locate the information that you had requested:

We searched our     Biography Index;     Clipping Files;   x  Death Notice Index, 1786-1913 and/or 1968-present;     Marriage Notice Index, 1786-1910;     City Directories;     Census Indexes;     Newspapers;     Other Sources.

Your check / money order for \$            is enclosed.

A list of local researchers is attached. One of them may be able to assist you for a fee.

For obituary and any other newspaper search, we require an **exact** date. We check only two local newspapers (usually *The Pittsburgh Press* and the *Gazette* unless otherwise stated). When only an approximate date is provided, we will check our available indexes. This search was not successful; we suggest that you either obtain an **exact** date - or that you have your local library order other newspaper titles from the Library of Congress through Interlibrary Loan for you to search in person - or you can hire a local researcher.

It is suggested that you contact one of the agencies listed on the back for further assistance. Or contact the following agency:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Prepayment is required before we can initiate a search.** Our basic fee for 1-5 photocopies is **\$8.75**. Please make your check or money order payable to the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**, % Pennsylvania Department, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080. If we do not locate the information that you are seeking, then we will return your check. If our search generates more than five copies, we will notify you of any additional fees.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Holt  
Head, Pennsylvania Department

LT. I checked our Gazette death index file and our biography file and found no listing for a Clyde M. Bennett. If you could provide an exact date of death I could search further. Enclosed is a list of researchers that may be of further assistance.

LOCAL AGENCIES THAT MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU FURTHER:

Allegheny County Register of Wills Office  
City-County Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Wills (1788-Present): 412-350-4183  
Marriage Records (1885-Present):  
412-350-4177  
Birth and Death Records (1870-1905):  
412-350-4188

Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds Office  
County Office Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Deeds (1788-Present): 412-350-4226

Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Division of Vital Records  
P. O. Box 1528  
New Castle, PA 16103  
Birth and Death Records (1906-Present)

Beaver County Courthouse  
Beaver, PA 15009  
724-728-5700

Butler County Courthouse  
336 South Main Street  
Butler, PA 16001  
724-285-4731

Washington County Courthouse  
100 West Beau Street  
Washington, PA 15301  
724-228-6700

Westmoreland County Courthouse  
301 Courthouse Square  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-830-3000

Archives Service Center  
Archives of Industrial Society  
University of Pittsburgh  
400 North Lexington Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-244-7090

McKeesport Heritage Center  
1832 Aboretum Drive  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
412-678-1832  
*McKeesport Daily News* (begins 1884- )

Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History  
Center  
Library and Archives Division  
1212 Smallman Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-454-6364

NOTES:

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society is not able to do research for individuals beyond looking up basic information in indexes, histories, genealogies or other printed materials. We can answer general questions concerning research in this area. The following members have indicated willingness to do further research for a fee. WPGS does not recommend or endorse any of the researchers nor does it accept any responsibility for their work. Send a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) when you contact them for availability and fees.

Jerry Boscia  
6224 Springhouse Place  
Bridgeville PA 15017-3517  
e-mail: [ditster@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ditster@worldnet.att.net)

Library and courthouse research in all western PA and eastern OH counties.  
Italian family research

G. Jean Gregord, CGRS  
123 Kiefer Drive  
Pittsburgh PA 5241-1335  
e-mail: [GJGregord@juno.com](mailto:GJGregord@juno.com)

Allegheny, Butler and other western Pennsylvania counties

Suzanne M. Johnston  
4413 Birchwood Lane  
Allison Park PA 15101-1305  
e-mail: [suej@nauticom.net](mailto:suej@nauticom.net)

Allegheny, Butler and other western Pennsylvania counties

Jean Morris  
Box 8530  
Pittsburgh PA 15220-0530  
e-mail: [morrisjean@juno.com](mailto:morrisjean@juno.com)

Library and courthouse research in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland Counties  
Lecturer, teacher, conducts workshops

Diane Ragan  
24 Carmel Court  
Pittsburgh PA 15221-3618  
e-mail: [mdragan@juno.com](mailto:mdragan@juno.com)

Allegheny, Washington and Westmoreland Counties National Archives, DAR and Library of Congress

Revised April, 1999



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC



Air Force History Support Office/HO  
200 McChord Street Box 94  
Bolling Air Force Base DC 20332-111

28 September 2001

Russell A. Strong  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte NC 28205

Dear Russell,

The Missing Aircrew Report (MACR #15502) for the B-17, tail number 41-24471, includes a list of crew members in which a S/Sgt Clyde M. Bennett is named. Copies are enclosed.

The MACR indicates that the aircraft was lost to enemy anti-aircraft fire and was involved in a mid-air collision on a bombing mission against the railroad yards at Lille. Unfortunately, and uncharacteristically, there is not further information in the file. Except, as you will see, for a clerical note that Bennett was (RMC, returned to military control). There are indications that the only crew members who didn't return were Sgt Charles R. Tipton who was killed in action, and S/Sgt MacMahon who was imprisoned at Dulag Luft, Oberursel.

Bennett was not included in the list of fatalities (75 men) involved in the Berlin Airlift when the memorial was dedicated at Tempelhof Air Base, Berlin on 10 July 1951.

Good luck,

  
Leslie S. Jackson  
Major USAF retired  
Volunteer

Enclosure: MACR 15502 pages



~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
 WAR DEPARTMENT  
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location: England Command or Air Force 8th AF  
 GROUP 306th Bomb (H); SQUADRON 369th Bomb (H) DETACHMENT
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure England; Course \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intended Destination Lille RR yards; Type of Mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_
4. GIVE: (a) Date 13 Jan 43 Time 1432 Hours; and Location of Last known whereabouts of missing aircraft 4 Km Northeast of Lille  
 (b) Specify whether (X) Last sighted; ( ) last contacted by radio; ( ) Forced down; (Seen to Crash; or ( ) Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF (Check only one: ( ) Enemy Aircraft; (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other Circumstances as follows and mid-air collision
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B 17-F; AAF Serial No. 43-24471 (From Gar Rec)
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series \_\_\_\_\_; AAF Serial No. (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)  
 (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X  
 or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10  
 (Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. <del>XXXX</del>	Jacknick, Frank	1st Lt	0-25938
2. <del>XXXX</del>	Johnston, James A	Capt	0-406692
3.	Jones, Shadrick E	1st Lt	0-726031
4.	Dugger, Doyle L	Capt	0-137912
5.	Bennett, Clyde M	S/Sgt	6 942 738
6.	Stevenson, Robert L	T/Sgt	15 082 151
7.	Morrison, John P	S/Sgt	6 566 605
8.	Zdabylak, Fred J	Sgt	36 321 915
9.	Tipton, Charles R	Sgt	20 346 830
10.	McMahon, Thomas	Sgt	12 041 471
11.			

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Plane located at Marcq En Baroeul, Lille France.

*Amman*

WD, Hq AAF, Washington, Missin: Air Crew Report.

Name in Full (Last name first)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.						
2.						
3.						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used \_\_\_\_\_; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVEN NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Report \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

*Amman*

R 848  
CREW LIST

1st Lt. Jack Jackniok  
Returned to United States

Home Address:  
5045 So. California  
Chicago, Illinois

Capt. James A. Johnston  
Killed in action

Mrs. Marshall B. Johnston (Mother)  
1103 Choctaw Avenue  
Chickasha, Oklahoma

1st Lt. Shedrick E. Jones  
Returned to United States

Mrs. Ollie M. Jones (Wife)  
201 Rochambeau  
San Antonio, Texas

Capt. Doyle L. Dugger  
Killed in action

Mrs. Elisabeth S. Dugger (Wife)  
Bloomfield, Indiana

S/Sgt. Clyde M. Bennett  
Returned to United States

Miss Ruth M. Bennett (Sister)  
217 Joyce Terrace Hazelwood  
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

T/Sgt. Robert L. Stevenson  
Returned to United States

Mrs. Sattie B. Stevenson (Mother)  
Kirklin, Indiana

S/Sgt. John P. Morrison  
Returned to United States

Mr. John T. Morrison (Father)  
1623 1/2 Niagara Street  
Niagara Falls, New York

Sgt. Fred J. Zdoblak  
Returned to United States

(Address unavailable)

Sgt. Charles R. Tipton  
Killed in action

Mrs. Harriet W. Tipton (Mother)  
324 East 22nd Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Sgt. Thomas McMahon  
Returned to United States

Mr. & Mrs. James J. McMahon (Parents)  
112-36 207th Street  
Saint Albans, New York

*Original & Trans.*

*AV 122/43*

CASUALTY NO.

*Per. Effects - 4136-*

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 13 Jan 1943 at 1432 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Tourcoing, 5 km NE of Lille

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Fortress II

REPORTING OFFICE: Command Airfield Area Brussels  
2 Jun 43

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CREW

SURNAME, AND MacMAHON  
FIRST NAME: Thomas D

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: S/Sgt

SERIAL NUMBER: 12041471

CAPTURED: 24 Apr 43 at WOUNDED:

Brussels by Security Post, Belgium

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

2 Jun to Dulag Luft, Oberursel

DEAD:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS: Nationality: U.S.A.

Prisoner wore civilian clothing.

After his capture by Secret Military Police, prisoner was needed for evidence of (who gave) aid to the enemy.

6-3224.A7(6)

47 8114

## Angaben über Gefangennahme oder Bergung von feindlichen Luftwaffenangehörigen

Meldung wird erstattet durch:

Dienststelle: Kdo. Flugl. Ber. Brüssel

Ort: Brüssel

Zeit: 2.6.1943.

Verteiler:

I.g. Kdo. Belgien-Nordfrankreich, Ic

Dulag Luft, Oberursel

Kdo. Fl. H. Ber.

B e t r.: Abschuss

Notlandung

Absturz

einer Fortress II

bei Tourcoing, 5 km NW Lille

am 15.2.1943

um 14 Uhr. 32.

### Personalien des Angehörigen der feindlichen Luftwaffe

Familienname („Surname“)

McC Nohon

Vornamen („Christian Names“)

Thomas Daniel

Dienstrang („Rank“)

Staff Sergeant

Erkennungsmummer („Service Number“)

12041471

Nationalität U.S.A.

(RAF, RCAF, RNZAF, RAAF, Pole, Rhodesier usw. — USA Air Corps)

### Angaben bei Gefangennahme

Zeitpunkt der Gefangennahme 24.4.43

Genaue Ortsangabe der Gefangennahme Brüssel

Gefangennahme erfolgte durch Abwehrstelle  
Belgien

Der Gefangene trug ~~Uniform~~  
Zivilkleidung

Etwaige Unterstellung unter Dienststellen der GFP oder  
des SD zur Ermittlung der Feindbegünstigung

Lazarett-!-berung: -----

Zeitpunkt der Überführung zum Dulag Luft, Oberursel

2.6.1943.

Sonstige Angaben (Fluchtversuch, Besonderheiten im Ver-  
halten des Kgl. usw.):

Der Gefangene wurde nach seiner  
Festnahme durch die GFP. zur Klä-  
rung der Feindbegünstigung benö-  
tigt.

### Angaben bei Bergung von Toten

Zeitpunkt der Auffindung

Ort der Auffindung

Zustand der Leiche

Beschriftung der Erkennungsmarke

Wodurch wurden die Personalien des Toten festgestellt?

Funktionsabzeichen:

Ort und Zeitpunkt der Beisetzung (Grablage):





## National Personnel Records Center

Military Personnel Records 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100

June 3, 2002

Russell Strong  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205

**RE:           Veteran's Name: Bennett, Clyde M.**  
**SSN/SN: 006942738**  
**Case Reference Number: 2001-272-1193**

Thank you for contacting the National Personnel Records Center. The record needed to answer your inquiry is not in our files. If the record were here on July 12, 1973, it would have been in the area that suffered the most damage in the fire on that date and may have been destroyed. The fire destroyed the major portion of records of Army military personnel for the period 1912 through 1959, and records of Air Force personnel with surnames Hubbard through Z for the period 1947 through 1963

In working to fulfill your request, we noted that your inquiry did not include the signed consent of the individual whose record is involved and must be returned without action. The Privacy Act of 1974 provides for the release of information only with the written consent (signature) of the individual to whom the record pertains. If the person is legally incompetent, the legal guardian must sign the release. (The legal representative or guardian should furnish a copy of the court appointment.) If the individual is deceased we must have the written consent of the next of kin. The next of kin is defined as: **unremarried widow or widower, son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister.**

We have made every effort to assist you within the constraints of our resources. If you have any questions or comments regarding this response, you can reach me by phone at (314) 538-2273 or by mail at the address shown in the letterhead above, ATTN: NRPM5, Room 2315. Ensure you include the Case Reference Number listed above. All new requests for information or documents, or requests that pertain to other veterans, must be made in writing to the address shown in the letterhead above. Our web site also includes pertinent phone numbers and a request form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Holman".

DELPHINE HOLMAN  
Archives Technician