

May 11 - 88

Dear Russell,

I'm sorry for the delay in answering your query. I finally found some documents that I can send you excerpt photo-copies of. I do not have orders promoting me to Master-Sgt. so I am sending along other documents to substantiate the fact.

On arrival in Thurleigh I was Assistant Crew Chief to Henry Balawajder. A short time later I was given a ship to crew. I served as Crew-Chief with a Tech-Sgt rating, until I was made Master-Sgt. & Line Chief. The rating was contingent on accepting the position of Line-Chief.

In looking over your list of Master-Sgts. I find you

11

are pretty much on target, except for a few corrections. I would not know people who were connected with Ordnance, Communications or Operations. My memory would serve only those connected with Engineering in the 423rd Squadron.

Henry S. Balawajder went from Crew-Chief to Flight Chief

Bergeron Walter went from Crew-Chief to Line Chief

Elmo Tonks went from Line-Chief to Flight Chief

The rest of the men, to the best of my memory, remain as you list them.

I replaced Elmo Tonks as Line-Chief according to documented dates on March 22, 1943.

III

I'm sorry this is all the help I can be to you. I realize I should have kept a Diary while in Thurleigh, but there was really no time. We were too busy doing.

One more thing. I understand that Henry S. Balawyder is now deceased. You could check on that.

I still hope to make it to one of the reunions. I would enjoy seeing the old Buddies.

Best Regards

Walter H. Bergeron

RESTRICTED

Bryson

HEADQUARTERS 1ST BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 557

9 July 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 160)

AWARDS OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 23 September 1943, as amended and pursuant to authority contained in letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, File 200.6, 4 July 1944, subject, "Awards and Decorations," the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to the following-named Officer and Enlisted Men.

FRANK S. KAMKOWSKI, O-431668, Major, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious achievement as Engineering Officer of a heavy bombardment Squadron in connection with aerial operations against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations during February 1943. Entered military service from Alabama.

IRVING L. STILTZ, 19000667, Master Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious achievement as Flight Chief of heavy bombardment aircraft in connection with aerial operations against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations from 4 November 1943 to 30 June 1944. Entered military service from California.

GERALD G. MC DEVIET, 11016071, Master Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious achievement as Line Chief of heavy bombardment aircraft in connection with aerial operations against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations from 4 November 1943 to 30 June 1944. Entered military service from Vermont.

MAE M. KOTULA, 37030304, Master Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious achievement as Flight Chief of heavy bombardment aircraft in connection with aerial operations against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations from 4 November 1943 to 30 June 1944. Entered military service from Minnesota.

HARRY A. SIMONS, 19000666, Master Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious achievement as Flight Chief of heavy bombardment aircraft in connection with aerial operations against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations from 4 November 1943 to 30 June 1944. Entered military service from California.

WALTER H. BERGERON, 11036053, Master Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious achievement as Line Chief of heavy bombardment aircraft in connection with aerial operations against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations from 22 March 1943 to 15 May 1944. Entered military service from New Hampshire.

WILLIAM F. CAVANESS, 18057048, Master Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious achievement as Chief of the Tire Change Section of a heavy bombardment Group in connection with aerial operations against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations from 1 June 1943 to 1 June 1944. Entered military service from Texas.

RESTRICTED

Master Sergeant WALTER H. BERGERON, for meritorious achievement as line chief of a heavy bombardment squadron for a period of 22 March, 1943 to 19 May, 1944. During this period Sgt Bergeron has vigorously performed his duties as line chief, setting an admirable example to the remainder of the maintenance personnel of his squadron. His ability to instill a sense of responsibility and assuredness in his crew chiefs and flight chiefs is equalled by his own zeal to get out and work with his subordinates. During the initial period of high altitude, daylight, precision bombing, pilots complained that either No. 2 or No. 3 engine supercharger regulator caused lagging or erratic manifold pressure on practically every mission. This condition prohibited the pilot from maintaining proper formation. Sgt Bergeron devoted his full attention to devising a method to flush out the oil system of the regulator. After much time and effort he improvised from spare airplane parts, a device for flushing out the oil lines leading to the supercharger regulator. This device cleans the oil sludge in the lines and regulator, thereby lessening the possibility of oil congealing at altitude where temperatures are extremely low; it provides an easy check on the proper functioning of the regulator and other parts of the supercharger system and flushes out any water vapor in the regulator's oil system, reducing the possibility of freezing. This device has proved highly satisfactory for preparation for high altitude missions and has contributed materially to the success of many vital bombing missions. This is a good example of Sgt Bergeron's technical skill, resourcefulness and devotion to duty. Sgt Bergeron's achievements and ingenuity have earned for him the highest respect from both the ground and the flying personnel. His actions during his entire assignment as a line chief have reflected the highest credit both on himself and on the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

COPY FILE

ARMY SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL BERGERON, WALTER H	ARMY SERIAL NUMBER 11036053 M/SGT	GRADE	DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 2 Jan 42	SEX M	DATE OF BIRTH 19 Nov 14
PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES (Street and Number - City - County - State) 5 SPRING ST NEWMARKET, N. H.					

HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED 12	LAST YEAR OF ATTENDANCE 1933	HIGHEST DEGREE RECEIVED HS Dip	MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY Academic	NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED Newmarket H.S. Newmarket, N.H.
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COURSE		NO. HRS.	COURSE		NO. HRS.	COURSE		NO. HRS.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SERVICE SCHOOL	COURSE	WKS. OR HRS.	RATING	ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM			
				INSTITUTION WHERE ENROLLED	CURRICULUM AND TERM (COURSE OF TRAINING PURSUED)	NO. OF WEEKS	GRADUATED YES NO
-	-	-	-				

MAIN OCCUPATION (TITLE) ROUNDING MACHINE OPERATOR		SECONDARY OCCUPATION (TITLE)	
JOB SUMMARY <p>Operated rounding machine in shoe factory. Set sole of shoe in place and operated machine to trim off the sole and conform it to the pattern size. Serviced and cleaned machine.</p>		JOB SUMMARY	
NO. OF YEARS	LAST DATE OF EMPLOYMENT	NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER	
5	Jan 42	Rockingham Shoe Co Newmarket, N.H.	

MILITARY SPECIALTIES									
YEARS	MONTHS	GRADE	PRINCIPAL DUTY	ASSIGNMENTS		GRADE	PRINCIPAL DUTY	ARMY CODE NO.	
				ARMY CODE NO.	YEARS				
-	3	Pvt	Basic Tng AC	521					
1	6	T/Sgt	Air & Eng Mech	747					
2	-	M/Sgt	Airplane Line Chief	750					

SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATION AND CIVILIAN CONVERSIONS (Shown by title)

AIRPLANE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN:
Was line chief responsible for the repair and maintenance of squadron of 4 Engine bombers in combat zone. Supervised the inspection, cleaning, maintenance and repair of airplanes. Checked damage to plane and assigned mechanics to repair it. Knows AAF terms and technical orders.

SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATION AND CIVILIAN CONVERSIONS (Shown by title)

* THIS INFORMATION BASED ON SOLDIER'S STATEMENT. (Indicate by * any items not supported by military records)

DATE OF SEPARATION 13 Oct 45	SIGNATURE OF SOLDIER <i>Walter H. Bergeron</i>	SIGNATURE OF SEPARATION CLASSIFICATION OFFICER <i>Henry A. Labacz</i>
		HENRY A. LABACZ 1ST LT AUS

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Materiel Officer
United States Forces

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APO 557,
17 August, 1944.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

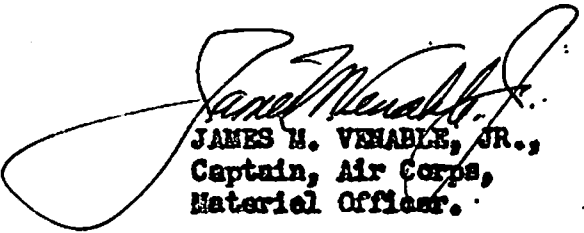
TO : Commanding Officer, 423rd Bombardment Squadron (H), 306th Bombardment Group (H), APO 557, U. S. Army.

1. It is the desire of this office to commend Master Sergeant WALTER H. BERGERON, 11036053, upon his splendid performance of duties, as line chief of the 423rd Bombardment Squadron (H). It has been the privilege of the writer to note the capable and efficient manner in which he has conducted himself and his work during the period for which he has served in that capacity. That he is thoroughly familiar with every phase of his work cannot be questioned.

2. In addition to his being an experienced mechanic, Sergeant BERGERON is an able instructor. He has gone out of his way and worked far beyond normal duty hours, in order to be of every possible assistance to his men. The zeal and integrity with which he has at all times applied himself has, no doubt, been an inspiration to all maintenance personnel serving under him. Thus, it is felt that he is, in no small measure, responsible for the high standard of aircraft maintenance prevalent in his organization during the past several months, which fact is evidenced by records maintained in this office.

3. The respect and cooperation which Sergeant BERGERON commands in his department is apparent, and the cooperation which his department has always shown this office is highly commendable.

4. It is requested that this letter be made a part of his 201 file.


JAMES M. VENABLE, JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Materiel Officer.

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL BERGERON WALTER H		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 11 036 033		3. GRADE M/SGT	4. AER OR SERVICE AC	5. COMPONENT AUS
6. ORGANIZATION 71st Station Complement Sqdn (SP)		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 15 Oct 45		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION Separation Center Ft Devens Mass		
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 5 Spring St Newmarket N H				10. DATE OF BIRTH 19 Nov 14		11. PLACE OF BIRTH Newmarket N H
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT See 9				13. COLOR EYES grey	14. COLOR HAIR brown	15. HEIGHT 5'5"
16. RACE X	17. MARRIAGE STATUS X	18. MARITAL STATUS SINGLE	19. U.S. CITIZEN X	20. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Rounding Machine Operator		

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION		23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 2 Jan 42		24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 2 Jan 42		25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Manchester N H	
SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA	26. REGISTERED NO	27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO.		28. COUNTY AND STATE		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE See 9	
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Airplane Maintenance Tech 750				31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (I.e., Infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) UNKNOWN			
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS Air Offensive Europe Normandy Northern France Rhineland Ardennes Central Europe							
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS Bronze Star Medal GO 160 Hq 1 BD 44 Good Conduct Medal European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon Distinguished Unit Badge WDCO #50 44							
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION None							
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES				36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN			
SMALLPOX	TYPHOID	TETANUS	OTHER (specify) Cho 12 Aug 45 Typ 4 May 45	DATE OF DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	DATE OF ARRIVAL	
2 Mar 44	6 Mar 42	2 Mar 44		5 Sep 42	Eur Afr Mid E T	11 Sep 42	
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE			38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD	17 Sep 45	U S	26 Sep 45	
CONTINENTAL SERVICE		FOREIGN SERVICE					
YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS		
0	8	20	3	0	22		
39. PRIOR SERVICE None							
40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION Conv of the Gov't AR 615-365 RR 1-1 Demobilization							
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED None				42. EDUCATION (Years) 8			

RECORDED
The Adjutant General's Office
Concord, New Hampshire


Date **JUL 29 1946**

PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES		44. MUSTERING OUT PAY		45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS		46. TRAVEL PAY		47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER	
YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	TOTAL	THIS PAYMENT	3/21	\$ 5.25	You 10/22	Oct 45	336.20

INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-DAY PERIOD THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL Lapse. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.											
48. KIND OF INSURANCE		49. HOW PAID		50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance		51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50)		52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH		53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO	
Stat. Serv.	U.S. Civil	None	Allotment	Direct to V. A.	30 Sep 45	31 Oct 45	\$ 6.90	X	2	Continue	Continue Only

54. 	RIGHT THUMB PRINT	55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified above) Issued Lapel Button ASR Score (2 Sep 45) 107	APPLICATION FOR READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCE PUBLIC LAW #348 1952 THROUGH <i>Newmarket</i> STATE <i>N.H.</i> DATE <i>Jan 11-1946</i>
56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <i>Walter H. Bergeron</i>		57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization) <i>Henry A. Labacz 1st Lt AUS</i>	

Newmarket N.H.
2/11/91

Mr Russell G. Strong

This is to inform you that
my brother Walter H. Bergeron. Sene
Chief of the 423rd Sgt. 306th Bomb Group
passed away Jan 11 1991 at the Veterans
Hospital in Manchester N.H. he was 76

He entered the service Jan 2 1942
and joined the 306th in June of 1942
He stayed with the group till his
discharge in Sept 1945

Yours Truly
Edward Bergeron
Rd. 2 South Main St
Newmarket N.H. 03857