

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

Name Percy E. Belinger
Address 220 N. E. Edinhurst-Bartlesville, Okla. 74003
Telephone 918-333-0592 Date 9-18-78
Occupation _____ Employer _____
Address _____ Telephone _____

Service Record: Serial No(s) 18054499

Before joining the 306th:

After leaving the 306th:

306th Record:

Arrival Date _____ Squadron or other unit _____

MOS _____ Combat Status _____

Missions Completed _____

Promotions _____

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH Battle Stars _____ other _____

(OVER)

Name Percy G. Balingier Address 220 N. E. Elmhurst
Bartlesville, Okla. 74003
Telephone 918-333-0592

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot Lt. Gaston Plane # and Name B-19
Mission Date 11-18-1942 Target LaPalice France
Cause of loss: AA fire Fighter attack Other, explain Palece

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can: *I'm not sure of the spelling.*

See Back of Page

How and where did you leave plane?

What happened when you got on the ground?

Did you meet any of your crew mates?

How were you treated, if captured? *Very well as P.O.W.S
no harsh or inhumane treatment.
~~was~~ was not made to work.*

Any additional details, reminiscences, letters, or documents of these events would be appreciated. If you do send such materials, I will copy them and put them back in the mail to you within 24 hours.

Mr. Russell A. Strong.

Attached is a photostatic copy
of a letter with some snap shots
imprinted on it that I received
from Mr. Ben H. Phelper -
2133 S. Harvard B.
Los Angeles 7, California.

I received this in 1946. I regret
to say I did not order the book
or snap shots. I have no idea
if Mr. Phelper is still living at this
address or not. I thought you might
be interested in the letter & the pictures.

If you should find out where he is,
& if the book & snap shots are
for sale I would like very much
know.

Percy G. Belinger
220 N. E. Elmhurst
Bartlesville, Okla. 7400

Kriegs Memoirs

by Ben H. Phelps

The first book to come out of Stalag 17B, Austria.



There is a book
that will keep you
interested from
cover to cover.

A book for every-
one. It will give
you something to
think about.

you something to



The printer has "finally" delivered a number of books and now you are able to buy, without delay in delivery. My supply is limited tho and if you want a copy - do not wait! Order now and avoid the rush!



The scenes begin in Stalag XVIII B and follows the Army Air Force prisoners on their march over the Austrian mountains to Branau, in Bavaria where "Der Fuehrer" was born.

Ends with a picture of a group of boys watching the American tanks across the river, mop up and take a small village.

The pictures in the book are clearer than these on the folder and contains over three hundred snapshots. Some are indistinct because they were quite old before being developed.

Others are not as wonderful as they could be because the picture was taken under the nose of the Jerry's.

A short story tells the tale of the pictures and gives





a few details of the life we led.

The price of each copy is \$15.00. You may order C. O. D. or send the money. The price may seem high, but

remember - these pictures were taken at the risk of life and would not be worth much if I had lost. Also this book will make it possible for me to finish the one I am working on now and you will



receive it at a much reduced price even though it will cost more to publish and will be a more detailed story of P. O. W. life.



I am illustrating it from beginning to end with free hand drawing. What Breigie Men.

pictures do not tell, this book will!
At a later date you will receive a pamphlet telling more about it, so until then, drop me a line:—



Ben H. Phelpes
2133 S. Harvard B.
Los Angeles 7, Calif.

I have sets of snaps made up in groups of 100 for \$8⁰⁰ a set.

When you find pictures you want, drop me a line.

The snaps in this pamphlet are not in the book, the folder will fit very nicely inside the cover so "keep this." Good luck to you!



Some way the pilot got the fire put out & the plane flying better. He told us to throw everything we could out of the plane to lighten it. We did as instructed ammunition etc. He descended as low as he could & still fly safely. We were off the coast of France & near Brest when some German fighter planes spotted us. We were just sitting ducks so after about 2 passes at us he hit the water with the plane. We all got out in the life boats & a French fishing boat picked us up. In a few minutes a German air sea rescue boat came & took us off of it & we were German P.O.W.s. About the 1st year as a P.O.W. I was moved from one camp to another. Frankfurt Germany, Sagan Germany, Barth, Mooseburg (old Bavaria) and about the last year & a half at Stalag Luft 17B - Krems Austria. ~~Some time~~ Some time around the 1st part of April we were moved out of Stalag Luft 17B in groups of about 500 & was out on a road march either 14 or 17 days. At the end of the march we were put in a place where the

timber had been cleared out. No shelter except what we could make by stretching blankets (we had carried with us) upon branches & making lean to's. This was on the high side of the Inn's River near Branau in Bavaria. We were here a few days when the American's came in & liberated us. They moved us into an old factory where we did have shelter. May 8th 1945 they moved us in trucks down to an air port & flew us back into France. I arrived back in the U.S.A. June 9th 1945 & was discharged October 7th 1945.

I hope this hasn't been boring to you & hope you can make it all out. I suffered a stroke February 14th 1971 & don't write as good as I once did & sometimes leave out a word or two. Hope you can get what information you need out of this. If I can be of any further help just let me know.

Percy S. Belinger
2207 N. E. Almhurst
Bartlesville, Okla. 74003

Mr. Wm. M. Collins

Dear Sir.

Inclosed is my check for
\$ 20.00 to help in the production
& mailing of the 306th Echoes.

If you have or can get
the address of William H. Forester
Please send it to me. He was
on Captain John L. Ryans
Crew in the 367th Squadron
as listed in the January 1980
issue of the 306th Echoes.

Inclosed is a stamped &
addressed envelope for your reply.

Thank you very much, Keep up
the good work. Percy B. Belinger
Ex P.O.W.