

P.S. Hope the enclosure helps -
--- maybe in England Fall 1980 - if so will plan to
look up Commander Rigg - I've a sabbatical leave coming up.
If in Oneonta or passing through look me up! ~~W.B.~~



STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
ONEONTA, NEW YORK 13820

12/29/79

Russell A. Stroug
Historian, 306 H

Following your telephone call I've tried
to reconstruct the names of my orig-
inal crew and those of the crew I
was shot down with.

Ship which never reached England was stranded in Bathurst, Africa
"Hubba Hubba" was stripped to provide parts for other
B-17's coming ~~down~~ through. I don't know name if any - or number
of ship we took out to England.

Original Crew, 367th Sqdn

1st Lt. C. E. Fischer	Pilot	Texas
2nd Lt. David T. Farrell Jr.	Co-pilot	California
" " George V. Briou	Bombardier	?
" " Vincent(?) Spaduzzi	Navigator	Miami, Fla

T/Sgt Glenn Blakemore	A/E	
" " Francis D. Bowles	R/Op	Wolfeboro, N.H.
S/Sgt Clinton C. Collins	Tail Gunner	Chicago, Ill
S/Sgt John R. Chapman	Ball Gunner	Richardson, Tex



STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
ONEONTA, NEW YORK 13820

My recall of crew I was shot down with
is worse

Pilot Flesch?

Co-Pilot ?

Bomb ?

Nav. ?

T/sgt. George Houellamp A/E
" " F.D. Bowles R/O
S/sgt ? Hyman T/gun
S/sgt "~~Chapman~~" Smith B/turret
Clyde

Houellamp
Smith
Collins
Chapman
Bowles

all were in Stalag 7-A
&
Stalag Luft 11B together

If interested I have a news clipping of the Apr.
^{Autwerp} 5th raid from a Boston paper - can't identify any
306th mentions in it. Also have ~~2~~ letters from American
Embassy and ^{Gen.} Ira Eaker to my mother after I
was captured, and a poor copy of general order
re my air medal.

In addition I have pictures taken in Brazil
of our first plane when we were forced down at
Camocim and some of the crew, Fischer, Chapman,
Brion & Collins in one and Farrell & Blakemore in
the other eating in a Camocim restaurant.

Wong Bowles

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- Complete items 1, 2, 3, and 4 on the reverse.
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- Endorse article "Return Receipt Requested" adjacent to number.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE
USE, \$300

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TO



Russell A. Sears

(Name of Sender)

2044 HILLSDALE

(No. and Street, Apt., Suite, P.O. Box or R.D. No.)

KALAMAZOO, MI 49007

(City, State, and ZIP Code)

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1. Show to whom, date and address of delivery.
 2. Restricted Delivery.

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Dr. Bowes

4. Type of Service:

- Registered Insured
 Certified COD
 Express Mail

Article Number

2826

Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE DELIVERED.

5. Signature - Addressee

X

6. Signature - Agent

X

7. Date of Delivery

8. Addressee's Address (ONLY if requested and fee paid)

Dr. Bowes

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

Don't recall anything significant about this

(Francis D.)
 Name Francis D. Douglas Bonales
 Address 37 Belmont Circle S. (Queens, N.Y. 11382)
 Telephone 607-432-7489 Date 9/9/78
 Occupation Professor of Education Employer State University of New York
 Address Etzella Hall Telephone 607-431-3194
Queens, N.Y. 11382

Service Record: Serial No(s) 11036064

Before joining the 306th:

2wks Ft Devens, Mass
 6wks Jefferson Barracks, Mo.
 22wks Scott Field, Ill. 22wks W/ Medic School Switley Hall Almogordo, N.M.
Two Months FUP!
Salisbury, Fla. 1st Phase Training
Two Months Almogordo Army Air Base, 2nd Phase
Army Air Base Salinas, Kansas

After leaving the 306th:

6wks Stalag VIII - A Woodsburg, Germany
 18wks Stalag Luft 11-B Heens, Austria
 2wks Suffolk County Army Air Base, Westhampton Beach, LI
2wks 3rd Phase

306th Record:

Arrival Date Jan. 1943 Squadron or other unit 367th
 MOS Radio Operator, Gunner Combat Status ??? wearing not clear
 Missions Completed FIVE

Promotions

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH Battle Stars other

Other personal data:

Don't recall anything significant right now

Description of Air Missions:

(What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your role? What heroics did you witness? What events were there of which you have special knowledge?)

Renault Factory

mostly marshaling yards, ~~motor vehicle~~ factories etc. made 1st ~~8th~~ Air Force raid in Germany

(Vege sack) made 1st 100 plane raid by 8th Air Force (in Belgium)

Bombed Le Havre, Paris, Rotterdam and Antwerp.

Number of dry runs because of cloud cover.

I flew radio, waste gunner and together (nose guns)

We lost bombardier from Original crew Lt. (Hubbal) Bryan on arrival at 367th.

They took him off truck where we sat on our luggage - he never returned! So we never flew as a crew.

I have a scrap book of stateside clippings a cousin kept and other stuff and Ben Phelps's Kriegle memories Barker-Pauling Co. Aurora, Ill 1946 about

Add additional pages, if necessary

Stalog 17

Oneonta, N.Y.

Name F. Douglas Bowles Address 37 Belmont Circle S.
Telephone 607 432-7489

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot Lt Rudolph Flesch Plane # and Name ?
Mission Date Apr. 5, 1943 Target Antwerp, Belgium
Cause of loss: AA fire Fighter attack Other, explain

Think flak knocked us out of formation, fighters finished us off

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can:

Recall flame in one engine, plane went into steep dive pinning me to floor. I finally was able to get up when plane leveled off. A Red nosed(?) Fw 190 sat off our horizontal stabilizer on the port side. I fired ^{radio room gun} several bursts at the fighter - no effect. I turned to jump out bomb bay - plane made ^{firing} a pass striking me in rear and fragments striking bombs in bay. Saw I couldn't get out between bombs (1000lb) and turned to go out the waist.

How and where did you leave plane?

Through waist door after helping tail gunner ^{Hymak(?)} fasten his chest straps - he jumped first ^{his} leg straps were not fastened

What happened when you got on the ground?

I buried skete under plowed dirt - crawled in a drainage ditch - saw a bayonet started crawling toward it. ^{Clipped} Smith waist gunner was walking upright to bayonet. A shot whistled over my head and I was captured along with him

Did you meet any of your crew mates?

Yes - Pilot a waist gunner at flak battery barracks

How were you treated, if captured?

Good at capture & in Antwerp hospital.

^{hair at Dulag Luft}
Bad at Stalag VIII A
Fair to Good at Stalag Luft II-B

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.

Boules

wounded at base of spine
loop in Outwarp
fragments

State University College
Oneonta, New York 13820
Fitzelle Hall 513
431-3194

DATE:

1/9/82

TO:

Russell Strong

FROM:

F. Douglas Bowles
Professor of Education

SUBJECT:

Int Over Germany

Please send copy to my home address
listed below.

F D BOWLES
37 S BELMONT CIR
ONEONTA NY 13820

Names I now think I recall - too late for
list of names on Apr 5 1943 are George
"Hovey" Hovekamp AE. (?) Hyman T/G. (?)
Metzger (Gunner) and 'Chipper' Smith W/G.
Had a nice note from Herb Paul

in England. My wife says that
Hyman had landed on ground safely.

Had an interesting contact with a Babbo
from my barracks in P.O.W. camp. He
sent me ^{my} original I.D. file card from
Stalag Luft 17. He got my name from
306th Echoes. He's trying to locate
a Harry Goldstein ASN 32 783 032

Have a good year!
Doug Bowles

→ new address →

F. Douglas Bowles
Mirror Lake
New Hampshire 03853

Oct. 18, 1985

Russell A. Stroug
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, mi 49007

Dear Russell

On 6/2/85 I sent
a manuscript Piknic by
registered mail along
with my questionnaire

On 8/12/85 I called
your home phone and you
indicated you had not yet
examined the manuscript.

Would you please make
a copy and return the orig-
inal to me. I sincerely
hope you are well. I never
inquired when I phoned.

(over)

F. Douglas Bowles

P.S.

Could you notify
the Echoes of my new
address. I'll donate
the cost of the registered
mail to your research.

Doug B.

24 October 1985

Dear Doug:

Sorry to have been so dilatory on this manuscript. Then, when I got your note and went to extract it from the files I couldn't find this.

I didn't quite reach the panic button, but my arm was extended. And as I thought through the problem I located it, and so am sending it along to you.

I have received several such pieces, but my trouble is that I can't seem to muster the time to really getting down to work on this project. I am not sure that snow flying around the eaves will help either, but perhaps it may.

Thanks for your help and your forbearance.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

May 8, 1986
Winnipeg, N.H.
03853

Russell A. Strong, Editor
306th Echoes
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, mi 49007

Dear Russell

What an eerie feeling when I spotted the feature on "Mission Erla". How much I had forgotten! Much I never knew. Lt. Fischer, a Spaduzzi and Sgt. Compton all members of our original crew that had been so close but never got to fly as a combat unit. (We lost Lt. Bryan our bombardier, the morning we arrived at the 306.)

Just before your feature I had responded to two letters from Rely A. the warstel historian who had first written in Dec. 1984. For some reason I didn't ^{for a while} reply earlier. Hope he gets a copy of this issue.

By the way I'm enclosing my donation to keep the paper 'in flight'!

P.S. Sgt. O'Brien I'd met in Dedham, ma. pub after the war

Sincerely
Wong Bowles

Reply
5/11/86

Please correct my ²¹²⁰
address by deleting
~~37 Belmont Circle S.~~
(that's from my old
address)

(over)
new address

F. J. Bowles

F. Douglas Powell
Mirror Lake N. H.
03853

State University College
Oneonta, New York 13820
Fitzelle Hall 513
431-3194

F. Douglas Bowles
Mirror Lake
New Hampshire 03853

DATE:

6/2/85

TO:

Russell Strong

FROM:

F. Douglas Bowles

Professor of Education (Retired)

SUBJECT:

Enclosures

Manuscript for Echoes publication only.
I wish to reserve all other rights!
I'm now retired as of June 1.
Use New Hampshire address for
summer tel (603) 569 4583. Could it
research some info all my POW
stuff is packed hence quest

works on dates etc.

Doug Bowles

11/7/88

Russell,

Tho't this item
about my w/sgt stripes
might be of interest.
Unfortunately I cut off
my picture in copying it.

Received a note
from an 8th Air Force
buff stating he had
my address from Bub's
records. He had part of
my old address in N.Y.
State. I'm enclosing an
address label w/ current
address.

Doug Bowles

P.S.
Enjoy Echoes!

(over)

Dr. F. Douglas Bowles
Mirror Lake
New Hampshire 03851

P.O. Box 66

Don't know if I told you
of my correspondence with
A Rely ^{of} ~~at~~ ^{hostel, Belgium} - who is researching
Kola works mission, Apr.
5. I sent him your write
up, in the Echoes, of
the mission.

Long



~~STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE~~
~~ONEONTA, NEW YORK 13820~~

Editor: Re "Other 306th men" Oct issue

There had to be a S/Sgt
John L. Chapman 367th, on the
Gripsholm. His face was paralyzed
on one side. (Clarence Fischer's original crew)

I was hospitalized with
Roland Magee, ^{you listed} in Antwerp, Belgium
with his eye gone.

Wong Bowles
367th.

22 November 1989

Dear Dugg:

Your note on John Chapman came along to me, and according to my records the middle initial is R.

But that's an insignificant detail. He had been wounded on the mission of 6 Mar 43 at St. Nazaire, flying with John Ryan. The crew bailed out, the co-pilot was shot on the ground by Germans, and Ryan evaded capture.

I'll make a note in the next Echoes about Chapman.

I appreciate your interest.

Sincerely yours,



367th, 368th, 369th, 423rd Squadrons, and service organizations
Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England - September 1942-April 1945

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

Secretary/Historian
Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205
704/568-0153

10 February 1993

Author
First Over Germany
Command and Staff
Officers, 8th Air
Force, 1942-45
Editor
306th Echoes
306th Directory

Dear 306'er:

In reviewing the February mailing list of the 8th AF Historical Society, I noted that the address listed for you there is as shown on the envelope in which this letter is being mailed to you. As it differs from that carried on the 306th computer listing, I need some help:

Is this merely a winter address, and I should retain the listing I know have, as shown below? yes

Dr F Douglas Bowles
PO Box 66
Mirror Lake, NH 03853-9713

Do you want the April issue mailed to the 8th AF listed address and then return to the regular listing? yes

Did you receiving the January issue of Echoes? no

Or, is this a new listing that I should put in the computer for regular usage? no

An addressed reply envelope is included for your use, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

none included!

Russ enclosed is a piece I think you could use for the Apr. issue of the Echoes. I can be reached at 805-684-0653

Second Mission to Erla*

by
F. Douglas Bowles
367 Bmb Sqdn.

On Jan 16 three former 8th Air Force flyers returned to Antwerp. Two were members of the famed 367th Squadron; 1st Lt. Joseph Consolmagno, Navigator and T/Sgt F. Douglas Bowles, Radio Operator. The third flyer was Lt. James O'Brien, 44th Bmb Grp, who piloted a liberator on Apr. 5th.

Consolmagno and Bowles were shot down and captured on ~~the 1st~~ mission to Erla,

* Echoes Apr. '86
SA pr. '43 mission to Erla pp 4-6

with Lt. C. E. Fischer, ^{Lawrence} Bowles' original pilot.

Another ^{Belgian} ~~second~~ author, Jean Dillen ^{second} who is preparing his book for publication in Sept, also hosted the flyers.

→ There is an eerie feeling standing next to a building your group bombed. Your emotions are in turmoil as you recount your last mission for television, but this time Cousomalquo and Bowles were at ground zero - and their mission was complete.

#30

Marnie Bowles wife
of Doug Bowles T/PO
367 Sqn. 306 Grp
died Apr 15. She
was co-editor with
her husband of the
Diary of W. H. L. POW's
published 1990.



Dr. F. Bowles
2 Laurel Cir.
Wolfeboro, NH 03894