

PERSONNEL RECORD UPDATE
306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Date: 22nd Sept. 95

Complete this form and return to Russell A. Strong, Secretary, 306th BG Assoc.,
5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205, to be filed with 306th records.

LAST NAME: BURNS FIRST NAME: Joseph MI: A TITLE: S/Sgt

Street Address: 60310 Palm Casis Ave Telephone: (619) 325-6201

City, State: Palm Springs, CA Zip + 4: 92262

Winter Address: Telephone: (✓)

City, State Zip + 4: _____

Date of birth: 1-6-24 Wife's name: ✓ #c
#gc
#ggc

College(s) attended: Degree(s), & when:

Last employment & job title & retirement date:

Serial #(s): 13113799 Squadron: 367 Specialty:

Date joined 306th: 29th April 1944 If combat, what crew?

Special duties or assignments w/306th: WAIST & TAIL GUNNER ON B-17

No of missions flown: SEVEN Date of last mission: 12 Sept 1944

Date leaving 306th: 12 Sept, 1944 Highest rank/grade w/306th: S/Sgt

Other BAF units served with, and when:

Top service assignment after 306th:

USAF retirement date: Rank/grade:

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the Squadrons or other units serving with the 306th, are sought by the secretary, as many of these do not appear in any collections of materials in National Archives or the Air University.

If you know of others who served with the 306th and who do not appear in the current 306th Directory, please add their names and current/WWII hometowns or other addresses to the back of this sheet so that searches may be implemented to add them to our present 306th roster.

29th Oct - 94

Mr. Knauer:

Rec'd cb
for #23
8/27/94

I was thrilled to receive the Biennial Directory - my first - I bring back a lot of memories - I hope

this small gift will help in some way -

Hope I can make a Reunion - if not Knoxville, make Las Vegas, is so near - Thank you
Joseph A. Burns

The Desert Sun

VALLEY

SATURDAY, November 11, 1995

There may be no dues, BUT

It does take money to keep the 306th Association flying. Those who are able are asked to make an annual contribution to keep everything running smoothly. No one is dropped from the mailing list for non-payment! Your gift is tax deductible.

Please accept my gift to the 306th BG Association: \$

20.00

NAME _____



JOSEPH A BURNS
60310 PALM OASIS AVE
PALM SPRINGS CA 92262

STREET AND NO. _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

(619) 325-6201

306TH UNIT

Send to: Robert N. Houser, Treasurer
306th Bomb Group Association
P.O. Box 13362
Des Moines, IA 50310

23rd Nov 95
Date

Honoring the men who served

DAY TO REMEMBER:

Coachella Valley families experience sorrow and joy as they commemorate loved ones who fought for country.

By DEBORAH SULLIVAN

The Desert Sun

The day commemorates grief and thanks — mourning for lost comrades and family members, and gratefulness for those who returned alive.

Veterans Day this year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the 20th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, and the dedication of the national Korean War Memorial.

As the anniversaries neared, veterans and their families throughout the Coachella Valley remembered the tragedy of war and the elation of its end.

Joyce Brink of Indio, whose father, Ernesto Mayoral, was one of three Puerto Ricans at the D-Day invasion of Normandy, recalled the thrill of seeing her father for the first time in five years when he returned home to Puerto Rico.

"It was a rainy October night and all of a sudden we heard someone holler at the front door, 'I'm home I'm home,' and there was my dad," Brink said. "He said that to be able to come home and know you survived something like (D-Day) is a miracle. And Veterans Day means so much to me because my father came back to us."



Desert Sun photo by Rodrigo Peña

ONE OF THE SURVIVORS: Joe Burns recalls being slapped in the face by a young boy named Peter, to keep him alive in the freezing cold of the "Black Hunger March" across Germany in the winter of 1945. Burns, a 71-year-old Palm Springs resident, was among 8,000 prisoners of war who survived the March; 4,000 of his comrades died. Burns' story is among four featured on page A3. The others:

▶ Lorenzo Thomas of Palm Springs remembers his World War II tour in Italy in the all-black 332 fighter group with pride.

▶ The horrors of war stick with Desert Hot Springs resident Running Deer.

▶ Sam Izenman of Palm Springs captured images of World War II as an Army photographer.

Coverage / A3

CEREMONIES: Today in the valley / A6

TWO FIGHTS: Japanese-Americans fought enemies abroad, then prejudice at home / A13

NOT FORGOTTEN: Quiet hero and men who died in secret WWII disaster honored / A13

Martin David of La Quinta, who celebrates his own 81st birthday today, fought in the Battle of the Bulge. The day the war ended, he helped start a victory parade in Paris from the Red Cross Center to the Arc De Triomphe. He remembered the experience, and his homecoming, in a narrative poem:

*Soon the war was over and
V-Day at hand,*

*We then disbursed, and headed
for our homelands,*

*Where wives, children and
families showing their love,*

*greeted us tenderly and gave
thanks to our Lord above.*

Cathy Penney of Desert Hot Springs lost her father in the Korean War when she was 10 months old and her mother was pregnant with her sister. Lt. Chester Osgood Penney won a purple heart as a platoon leader who was martyred trying to save his wounded and dying troops.

See VETERANS / A6

30th Decmbr, 1994

Dear Russell Strong:

Enclued is negation of my Original crew. On 24th of April 1944 my crew were shot down on their 15th mission I arrived at Thurleigh Base on 25th of April, 44 Gen C.O. told me what happened of course I was in a shock, after only being a week behind them, after I was left in the Manchester, New Hampshire Base Hospital with a very bad Strep throat,

(In the Photo

- BOTTOM ROW: L TO R -
- LT. WALTER R. PETERSON
 - LT. LESLIE W. KING *C*
 - LT CHRIS A. PINKEL *N*
 - LT. EDWARD R. STOROLIS *B*
- TOP ROW: L TO R. S/POTS.
- ANTONIO T. CELLI *RD*
 - " ROGER C. BORTON *Wg*
 - " ARCHIE J. SMITH *RD*
 - " Joseph A. BURNS *Wg*
 - " Roderick H. McALHISTER *Wg*

Bell *bt*

Except me they are on PAGE 51 OF THE 367th COMBAT DIARY.

I was shot down on my 7th MISSION OVER BERLIN, GERMANY ON 12th Sept, 1944 - ON PAGE 90 OF THE 367th COMBAT DIARY AND THEY HAVE MY LAST NAME SPELLED WRONG - DURNS INSTEAD OF BURNS, and another grave mistake is I was the TAIL GUNNER ON THAT MISSION -

(OVER)

COULD YOU PLEASE SEE IF IN
THE NEXT "ECHOES" THIS COULD BE
FIXED. Would appreciate it very much.

Thank You Kindly
Joseph A. Burns.



JOSEPH A BURNS
60310 PALM OASIS AVE
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262-1049

Ph. (619) 325-6201

2500
10
25
11

Dear Russell:
 Sent the negative of this photo of my original
 crew some time ago. I hope to hear from you



Walter K. Peterson Lt.
 Leslie W. King Lt.
 Chris A. Dinkel Lt.
 Edmund W. Storakis Lt.
 Antonio J. Celli - Sgt
 Roger C. Burton - Sgt
 Archie Smith Lt.
 Joseph A. Burns Sr
 Richard H. McArthur Sgt.
 John R. Bell Sgt.

JOSEPH A BURNS
 60310 PALM OASIS AVE
 PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262-1049

Ph. 706-325-6201

306 Bomb Group
 367 " Squadron

I was shot down over Berlin
 12th Sept '44 Tail gunner
 on this mission