

13 January 1986

Dear Bill:

Here is an updated roster. It has most of the mistakes out of it, but they missed three pages of copy out of about 40 in getting the whole thing done. I'll expect to do one minor update before the January issue of Echoes is ready for mailing.

This is produced on a new laser printer. It took two minutes to run the job and every copy is an original. No more smudgy, unreadable carbons. It is much easier to use than the impact-printed rosters.

I'll use this directly for copy for the directory, and that should make that look one heck of a lot better. I think I can have it run the narrow way of the paper, as well, which when single spaced will give us an awful lot of names on a page.

Must get back to work on 306th matters after a rather long hiatus.

All the best,

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and give)
(to Russ Strong at the Las Vegas reunion, or mail to his ad-)
(dress: 5323 cheval Pl., Charlotte, NC 28205)

Date completed

4 NOV 88

LAST NAME: COLLINS

FIRST NAME: W M JR

Title:

Street address: 2973 HEATHERBRAE Telephone: (216) 757 3463

City, state, zip: POLAND, OH 44514

Date of birth: 3 AUG 18

Wife's name: BETTY

College(s) attended: U OF MARYLAND

Degree(s):

Year(s): 2

Last employment & job title:

REPUBLIC STEEL CORP COBOL PROGRAMMER

Year joined 306th Association: 1944

Reunions attended: (by year or location)

1975-1988

Serial #: 101552648

Sqdn: 369

Speciality: ~~SQ~~ SQ ORD OFF.

Date joined 306th: FEB 1944

If combat, what crew?

Special duties or assignments w/306th: 369 TH SQ ORDNANCE

If commissioned w/306th, date & specialty: 15TH LT "

Date departed: SEPT 1945

Highest rank/grade w/306th: 1ST LT

Other 8thAF units served with: —

Top service assignments after 306th: HQS 18TH AF RAMSTEIN GERMANY

USAF retirement date: 31 MAR 1966

Rank/grade: LTC

Most memorable experience w/306th: (use back of sheet, too)

DROPPING LEAFLETS OVER GERMANY MAY 1945

In the continuing search for 306th people, please inform the secretary as to any persons you know from the 306th who are not listed in this directory.

26 February 1992

William M. Collins, an early vice president of the 8th AF Historical Society, died 7 January 1992 at his home in Poland, OH. He was an ordnance officer for the 369th squadron, 306th Bomb Group, during his service with the 8th Air Force, and continued on with the USAF, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1966. Collins was the first treasurer of the 306th Bomb Group Association, serving in that position for nine years.







306th Bomb Group - Thurleigh 8th AF Post Reunion News
27 October 1975

Dear 306 er's:

Well, the Reunion finally came and considering everything, it was a Grand Success. The huge Motel was filled for three days with 8th AF members. No doubt, old acquaintances were renewed and new friends found. Not bad after 30 years.

The 306th BG won first place for Most Representation - 38 members. Altogether, something like 600 attended. We also had the member who traveled the farthest, from the Canal Zone, LTC Ralph O Sheppard.

I took some good color pictures, 14 altogether and now I have to get duplicates, I promised a picture to everyone who sent a contribution when we were getting started. Speaking of pictures, Casey Jones, who is a photographer also took shots and he probably has the best. I suggest you drop him a line at: 60 Darby Rd, Brockton, MA 02402.

Bert Perlmutter and his charming wife brought a masterpiece, a huge 'Fightin - Bitin' reproduction of the famous 369th Mosquito, as seen in fotos, \$60.00 worth, talk about a famous son and dedicated too.

I thought the Memorial Service by the 8th AF Chaplain at seaside was very touching and it made us stop and think of the many comrades who may have been there.

It must have been the fastest three days, because things happened so quickly, everyone tried to get in conversations with all at the convention.

Remember, the Second Reunion will be in England 15-18 Sept 1976. Reservations being handled by 8th AF Historical Society, 7752 Harbour Blvd, Miramar, FL 33023.

The new president Gen Robert Burns will announce the site of the 8th AF reunion in the next few months. At the Board meeting, they suggested various locations, the feeling leaning toward the midwest. I was voted a member of the Board. Please join the 8th AF Historical Society, annual dues \$5.00 payable to: 7752 Harbour Blvd, Miramar, FL 33023.

Best wishes to all.

Bill
W M Collins Jr
2973 Heatherbrae Dr
Poland, OH 44514

L4 April 1976

Dear Wilkie:

Nice to hear from you. I'll add your name to the mailing list if you desire. We had a reunion in Miami and two this year, England and Dayton. If you want to go to either or both, please advise as the mailing list for invitations has been sent out. The 306th was Number One at the Miami Reunion.

*Sincerely,
Bill*

Dear 306'er:

Your name has been added to the 306th mailing list, as a result of your request or at the request of a friend of yours.

We have been working on getting 8th AF personnel together for about a year now and have hundreds of responses. I agreed to be "contact man" for the 306th, as I was the first to reply to a query last spring. We publicized an 8th AF reunion in Miami, FL in October 1975. The 306th won first prize for having the most representation at the reunion, 45 members. The next reunion will be in Dayton, Ohio the week-end of 15-17 October. (1976). You can meet your Buddies and talk over all sorts of subjects. This work is voluntary on my part.

You can keep advised on news by subscribing to the "8th AF News 7752 Harbour Blvd, Miramar, Florida 33023". Cost is \$5.00 per year. This publication will keep you posted on the reunion in England Sept 12-26, 1976 and the reunion in Dayton, October 15-17, 1976. This will include reservation forms for both. We realize that most of 8th AF'ers will go to Dayton, but there will be a big delegation going to England.

Here is an extract from 'Friends of the Eighth', an organization in England, faithful to and grateful for the Eighth:

THE 306th BG LIVES ON by Cyril J Norman (of Bedford, England)

Thurleigh is now part of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, and much altered from the days when B-17's struggled to gain altitude. A number of huts, which served as "home" for aircrew, survived as farm buildings. In inspection, a number of these were found to contain mission lists, gambling debts, home addresses, etc., written on plaster-board walls.

On seeing these I realized here was history which just had to be served. It took two or three years of writing to everyone in the "States" who thought I could help. In the end I contacted Major Genreal Hill who put me in touch with Royal D Frey at the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and then from them on things began to move. Finally with the assistance of the USAF, the panels were removed, packed, and flown to Wright-Patterson where they are to be placed in a reconstructed Nissen hut. The 306th will be represented in the one place they should be.

I would dearly love to see an association from the 306th BG, and best of all, a reunion in Bedford.

Make plans to attend one or both reunions this year.

Also, help us to contact other former members and have them send their name and address, asking to be placed on the mailing list. Self-addressed, stamped envelopes or donation to cover mailing costs, paper etc.

Sincerely,

Bill
William M Collins Jr
2973 Heatherbrae Dr
Poland, Ohio 44514

(216) 757-3463

Dear 306 er's:

The correspondence is starting to roll in again and it looks like there already is a lot of anticipation about getting to the reunions in Dayton and England. If you are on the 306th mailing list, you will get the invitation from 8th AFHS and info about the reunions. Your friends and anyone who wants to go should write to 8th AFHS, 7752 Harbour Blvd, Miramar, FL 33023.

I had a letter from a former member who wanted to know who, from the 306th, went to the Miami reunion. Here is the list as registered:

J Bloom	R Bordner	W Borges	J Brennan	W Carlile
W Casey	J Corcoran	H Cordery	W Collins	H Doles
B Dinabier	W Fehrenhold	W Flanagan	R Folk	B Jefferies
C Jones	H Key	A Krajcik	A LaChasse	J Marciano
J Musial	A Nahabedian	E Odle	P O'Driscoll	E Rapp
H Roth	D Schrack	E Schwab	R Sheppard	D Sheridan
R Sprunger	J Stoner	R Strong	A Walton	H Wein
W Boring	J Buccellato	M Dee	R Holbert	E Howe
B Perlmutter	D Ross	J Stutz	H Winning	L Mikles

There they are and we look forward to a bigger list this year.

I have a request from one of our members. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Richard C. Huebotter or Charles R. Reinartsen please advise Chuck Rapp, 1952 Antietam St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 or myself. Would be appreciated as Chuck is searching for someone in his father's crew.

As many of you know, the Air Force Museum is in Dayton, at the Air Base. There will be a tour going there on Saturday 16 Oct 76, during the reunion. I have a letter from the Curator and he advises that there is no charge for admission and there is plenty of free parking. The Museum itself is worth the trip to Dayton.

I also have a letter from the Dayton Daily News, wanting information about the reunion and it's seven months away. John Woolnough has reserved more than 200 rooms at the Stauffer Moton Inn, brand new, and with the enthusiasm so far, it would be wise to get a reservation in promptly, when invitations go out. There are many other places, but this will be in the central area.

If you know anyone who wants to be on the mailing list, have them send a stamped, self-addressed envelope, letter-size to me & they can call at the number listed.

At the reunion in Miami, some of the members want to organize an 306th Bomb Group Historical Society. We will discuss this in Dayton and possibly form an Organization. Point being, be prepared to nominate and elect officials. Other organizations are doing it and none can match the 306th in accomplishments. We're looking for a President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board members.

Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

Bill
William M Collins Jr
2973 Heatherbrae Dr
Poland, Ohio 44514

(216) 7573463

306th again had the largest contingent at the Second Stateside reunion at Dayton during the week-end 15-17 October 1976. We had 84 former 306 ers plus wives and friends. There were 816 at the banquet on Saturday.

Casey Jones took some excellent pictures. He is offering an 8 x 10 color photo of the pictures he took after the general meeting on Saturday. He has each Squadron plus the Group. For orders, specify picture(s) and send \$3.00 for each print to: Casey Jones, 60 Darby Rd, Brockton MASS 02402. His phone number is (617) 587 5885.

Also, if anyone wants the series of pictures that were displayed in the Hospitality room, send \$7.50 to Bill Collins or Jack Grimm.

Next reunion will be St Louis - 7-9 October 1977. England trip will be in August 77, only 250 seats available. If you plan to go to England, suggest you make \$100.00 deposit now for each seat. For info write: Reunion Services, PO Box 4738, Hollywood, FL 33023. Dates - 23 Aug-7 Sept.

The Directory is the contribution of Chuck Rapp, Pittsburgh, PA who spent many long hours putting it together, thanks Chuck. We hope you may find an address or two that will bring someone together for chit-chat or camaraderie. Since we are adding new names almost daily, the list must be supplemented. Add the following:

Dr Orlie Parker	Rt 3 Box 608	Blythville, ARK 72315
William H Gentle	PO Box 112	Douglas, WY 82633
Gunn Loveland	1406 Myrtle Ave	Ashtabula, OH 44004
Ed Dostie	19 Jones Ave	Kittery, MAINE 03904
Dr Dennis Sharkey Jr	570 N Michael St	St Marys, PA 15857
Winston W Burroughs	Rt 1 Box 244	Waldorf, MD 20601
Robert H Reck	807 Washington St	Nendota, IL 61342
Robert E Crane	PO Box 21	Portland, CONN 06480
Edward M Murphy	706 San Pablo NE	Albuquerque, NM 87108
E A Bill Williams	4206 Oakcrest	Enid, OK 73701
William R Cain	275 Jesselyn Ln	Woodside, CA 94062
Thomas E Stillson	618 32nd St	South Bend, IN 46615
Robert P Ashwood	250 Conover Rd	Hightstown, NJ 08520
Nolan D Hardin	Leisure World	De Bary, FL 32713
Edward H Tutun	1114 Av of Americas,	Grace Plaza, NY, NY 10036
M/G James S Cheney	630 Cinnamon Ct	Satellite Beach, FL 32937 (Ad Ch)
Lawrence Dammert	365 Catherine NE	Port Charlotte, FL 33950
Rudolph Skalak	3309 Indian Rock Rd	Mt Mesa, Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Who was at Dayton? Col GL Robinson plus: R Ashwood, R Argo, H Balawajder, J Bloom, E Blucher, R Bordner, W Borges, W Boring, C Bremer, Cathy Brennan, W Burroughs, W Carlile, W Colantoni, W Collins, J Corcoran, W Churchman, A Dickholtz, E Dinsbier, H Doles, E Dostie, W Fahrenhold, C Fisher, J Gaydosh, R Graham, J Grimm, C Hayen, W Hifler, H Hodges, R Holbert, W Houlihan, H Hutchinson, W Hull, J Inman, Keith Jackson, P James, B Jefferies, C Jones, Knight, W Koons, J Kostal, A Krajcik, A LaChasse, C Lamb, R Lavery, E Leahy, W Leggett, J Lengan, J Lee, G Loveland, J MacPherson, J Marciano, D Michael, C Mullins, J Mynatt, R McGill, L Northcott, D Norman, E Odle, W Pilat, A Resser, G Robinson, H Roeder, F Rector, D Ross, H Roth, D Sharkey, D Schrack, E Schwab, D Sebastien, T Shuller, R Shultz, E Smartt, M H Smith-CMH, G Stahl, R Starzynski, J Stoner, R Sprunger, R Tripp, D Upchurch, C Vondrachek, A Walton, A Wiehe, R Williams, C Wilson, G Wortham.