

Feb. 22, 1988

Dear Mr. Wallace:

I was in the 423rd at Thurliegh during the period you indicated.

I am on the mailing list of the Echo...and brought up to date on the activities involving the 306th BG.

Our crew has stayed intouch...we have had reunions of our crew until the last couple of years when we lost 3 members to death... some were ill....so we haven't had any for a while.....we still write...and phone each other often.

All of our crew members are receiving the Echo and in tune with the activities.

I am not aware of the two you named...

I thank you for writing me, but feel we on the 505 are in tune with the 306 activities

My address for your info.
3209 Dover Dr.
Plano, Texas 75075

I am retired and anticipate we will be moving some time during 1988...I will advise the association of my address.

Kind regards,

C M Comstock



*P.S. will keep working,
Dick Wallace*

The original crew of B-17 #297505 of the 423rd Squadron, 306th Bomb Group met in Dallas, Texas September 29, 1977 for a reunion. (Incidentally, #297505 was one of the very few B-17's to accomplish over 100 bombing missions.)

We had a crew picture made in Rapid City, S.D. in 1943 and had another made in Paris, Texas during the reunion. The 1977 picture was taken in the same order as the one in 1973. The crew:

Front Row:

Robert K. Welter, Pilot
Theodore Hallock, Bombardier
Ed. F. West, Navigator
Taylor Leedy, Co-Pilot

Back Row:

Ivan McCoppin, Waist Gunner
C. Mitt Comstock, Ball Turret Gunner
James V. Poston, Radio Operator
Audrey Klepper, Waist Gunner
Carl. O. Metz, Tail Gunner
George J. Peterson, Engineer

We rendezvoused on Thursday evening, September 29th, 1977 after 34 years. It was the first reunion for the crew. Our pilot, Bob Welter, took a roll call. At this time we each took the opportunity to "up date" each other on what had occurred to each of us in the past 34 years. As we called the roll, two were absent. Ted Hallock who could not attend and George Peterson, who is deceased. We enjoyed a Texas Bar-B-Que and a TSCO (that's a Texas Steak Cook Out!) and a picnic in Paris, Texas where we visited the B-17 shown in the picture. This is a privately owned plane, normally in flying condition, but an engine was out and we didn't get to fly in it as was planned. (This air craft is in service and is rented to movie makers, its last picture was McArthur.)

It was a real experience to get together as a unit again, and remarkable the kindred feeling that we share after such a relatively short time together originally and 34 years of separation.

We are from many walks of life, from as many places in our country as there are numbers of us. We come from Boston to Albany, Oregon, St. Cloud, Florida to Syracuse, New York. We are carpenter, mortician, freeze dried food broker, state senator, and include an 18 wheel driver! All this makes for the kind of crew we are - a great one! We talked of the 423rd Bomb Squadron of the 306th - to which we were attached. We reviewed the merits we received, Purple Hearts, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medals and one Silver Star. Years separated us, but our being together for the short time concluded - if we had to do it over, we'd choose to do it together'!.! We will meet again in 1979 in Colorado - until then we'll depend on the mail and telephone to stay in touch - and to share our lives with each other.

Bill: If you desire any more information
Please Call Me Collect - 214-422 6460
Sure appreciate what all you are doing with
the Publication.

M.

Enclosed is another group of James E. Abbott's
306th - 423 Sqd.

Able Mable Crew — 306th BG 473 SQD.

- 4 -

ADDRESSES AS OF DEC. 1976.

Robert D. Beres, Bombardier (Bob)
687 White Pond Drive
Akron, Ohio 44320
~~1211~~ (216) 864-1662 (May not be current phone)

Fred Blum, Waist runner (Freddie)
Box 292
Howells, Nebraska 68641

Philip Brourman, Radio Operator (Fitz)
2289 Elmhill Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15221
(412) 731-5665

Ragnar L. Carlson (Jack, or now called Swede)
Pilot
Address unknown

Charles W. Kester (Dusty) Tail Gunner
Box 153
Beverly Shores, Indiana 46301
(219) 872-4063 (may not be current Phone)

Anthony Mariani (Tony) Waist Gunner
12 Manchester Road
Eastchester, New York 10709
(914) 779-5361 (May not be current phone)

William H. Morgan (Bill) Flight Engineer
P.O. Box 741
Norton, Virginia 24273

Nicholas Orlando (Nick) Ball Turret Gunner
482 Oakland Ave
Cedarhurst, New York 11516

Salvatore Soscia (Sal) Navigator
10041 Corrigan Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Kenneth Yess (Ken) Co-Pilot
17612 Tradvate Ave
Cleveland, Ohio 44111
(216) 251-5243

E III S
SENT
7 Nov 77

B-1:
MITT
COMSTOCK
OCT '77



 THE SANTA FE TRAIL TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Ted Halleck -----Bombardier
 2445 N. W. Irving St.
 Portland, Oregon

Audrey Klepper ----- Waist Gunner
 1303 Caldwell
 Goodland, Kansas 67735

Taylor Leedy -----Co-Pilot
 3085 S. E. Grand Prairie Rd.
 Albany, Oregon 97321

Carl Metz -----Tail Gunner
 1515 Wisconsin St.
 St. Cloud, Fla. 32769

Ivan McCoppin-----Waist Gunner
 Lake Contrary Rt. #6
 St. Joseph, Mo. 64504

J. V. Poston-----Radio Operator
 1458 Brook Valley Lane
 Dallas, Texas 75232

Bob Welter -----Pilot
 201 Kimry Moor
 Fayetteville, New York 13066

E. F. West-----Navigator
 70 Kent Street
 W. Quincy, Mass. 02169

and C. Mitt Comstock-----Ball Turret Gunner
 3209 Dover Dr.
 Plano, Texas 75075

Please forgive me, Mr. Collins. I promised Mitt I would send you
 this list and promptly forgot it. Hope it isn't too late to be of
 benefit to you.

J. Comstock



October 17, 1977
3209 Dover Dr.,
Plano, Texas 75075

Dear Bill:

None of the enclosed must be returned. We hope you can take the pictures, the agenda and the comments and make something you can use for "The Echoes."

Most of us are dues paying subscribers, I think, but in case someone doesn't send you anything, here is a \$25.00 check to cover some of the cost. We appreciate the work you are doing for all of us. It is wonderful for someone to draw all this together for us to share in.

Thank you.

Regards,



Mitt Comstock

Talked to Mitt 8 Nov 77.
Asked for addresses.

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