

Dear Russ: You may - understandably
enough - feel the enclosed is too long to
publish in its entirety. However, if
you could just put in a little blurb,
acknowledging Ralph's kindness to me,
and expressing my gratitude to him, I
know he'd appreciate it. Many thanks.

Al

Mutual Savings Central Fund, Inc.

50 CONGRESS STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
617-42-7560



ALBERT A. CONRAD, JR.
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

January 4, 1979

Col. William M. Collins, Jr.
2973 Heatherbrae Drive
Poland, Ohio 44514

Dear Colonel Collins:

In response to the appeal in your annual report, I'm enclosing my check for \$10.

If I ever contributed it was a long time ago, so I probably owe some back "dues." If I don't, the extra can make up for a non-payment or two on the part of someone else.

I read "Where's the Luftwaffe?" with a good deal of interest, particularly the inserts about the first two Schweinfurt raids. I knew Major Raper quite well, and was the duty officer in the control tower at Thurleigh on 17 August, 1943.

By 14 October I had moved to First Air Division HQ at Brampton, but my then good friend John Mazanek, of the 369th was, I believe, the lead navigator for the combat wing--perhaps even for all of 1st Division.

If my memory--which isn't as good as it used to be--serves me right the 41st Combat Wing led the mission, the 306th Group led the Wing and the 369th Squadron led the Group.

As I recall, 180 B17s from 1st Division were dispatched to Schweinfurt that day. Of these 60 never found their formations due to the weather and returned early, while another 60 failed to return at all.

There was a lot of speculation at that point that daylight bombing would have to be abandoned.

In February of 1944 my sister's oldest boy, who was a navigator at Podington, went down over Holland on still another Schweinfurt raid, and was never found.

I haven't, by the way, seen John Mazanek's name in any of your lists. The last I knew he was living in Amsterdam, New York, although that was a long time ago.

Col. William M. Collins, Jr.

January 4, 1979

Another whose name I haven't seen is Gerald F. Thomas who was a pilot in the 369th and who became a controller at 1st AD HQ after he'd finished his tour at Thurleigh. We were quite close friends, but he went home to Fresno, California, in December, 1945, to build houses while I stayed here, and we eventually lost touch with one another.

I'd like to make some of the reunions and will someday, but right now am still paying tuition bills for the youngest of my six children (after also paying them for the other five).

In the meantime, thanks for keeping me on the mailing list.

With best regards.

Very truly yours,



Albert A. Conrad, Jr.

P.S. By way of background, I was in pilot training in the Class of 43B, but washed out in Primary along with a large percentage of my class because there weren't enough Basic schools to go around. Eighty of us from the Southeast Training Center were sent in December, 1942, to the Royal Air Force School of Flying Control and in May, 1943 became F/C officers in 8th AF.

Mutual Savings Central Fund, Inc.

30 CONGRESS STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
617-742-7569



ALBERT A. CONRAD, JR.
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

March 21, 1979

Mr. Russell A. Strong
Rte. 1, Turnpike Road
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352

Dear Russ:

I have your letter of March 15th and certainly want to help, but am going to have to wait a month or so to do so.

The period since January 1st has been a little rougher than similar periods in past years due to the rising cost of heating oil and the new Social Security rates--not to mention an increasing tuition rate for my final student-child.

However, I ought to be out of the woods by May or June and could contribute \$100. by then, if that isn't too late to help you.

At any rate, I'll mark my copy of this letter for follow-up in late May, and be in touch with you then.

In the meantime I hope you have better immediate luck with some of your other correspondents than you've had with me.

Incidentally, somewhere at home I have all (I believe) of the Flying Control Logs from what eventually became First Air Division HQ; sub rosa, of course. I also have a picture of the sortie board from the Ops Room there.

I'll see if I can dig them out and if they contain anything with specific reference to the 306th. My only problem is that we've moved twice in recent years from a larger house to a smaller one without throwing anything out.

As a result I have boxes (all unlabelled) that I'll have to go through.

Very truly yours,


Albert A. Conrad, Jr.

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

Name ALBERT A. CONRAY, JR.
Address 3 BRIDGE PATH CIRCLE, DOVER, MASS. 02030
Home Phone 617-785-1928 Date JUNE 12, 1979
Occupation EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT (BANK-
ING RELATED ORGANIZATION) Employer MUTUAL SAVINGS CENTRAL FUND, INC.
Address 60 CONGRESS ST., BOSTON, MASS 02109 Bus. Phone 617-742-7560
Serial No(s) 02044329
(COMMISSIONED OVERSEAS)

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

- 5/42 - PRE-FLIGHT PILOT TRAINING, MAXWELL FIELD
 - 8/42 - PRIMARY TRAINING, ARCADIA, FLA. WASHED OUT
 - 9/42 - HQ SQ. MAXWELL, FIELD (ARMS PROCUREMENT), CORPORAL
 - 12/42 - PRECOURSE TRAINING *RAF SCHOOL OF FLYING CONTROL
 - 1/43 - RAF SCHOOL OF FLYING CONTROL (TOP OF CLASS), BRIDGEFORTH (RECEIVED COMMISSION)
 - 3/43 - POST COURSE TRAINING, RAF WADDINGTON
- After leaving the 306th:
- 9/43 - 8/44 - FLYING CONTROL OFFICER (EVENTUALLY SENIOR FCO)
1ST AIR DIVISION H.Q., BRAMPON, PARK.
 - 11/27/44 - HONORABLY DISCHARGED, FORT DIX, AFTER 3MO OF STAGING (OR WAITING)
AT ARCONBURY AND SNEETON HEATH IN ENGLAND

306th Record

Arrival date at Thurleigh O/A 5/1/43
Squadron or other unit(s) HQ
MOS # 2159 Specialty FLYING CONTROL OFFICER
Missions Completed (and date of last) NONE
Promotions ALL PROMOTIONS MADE AT 1AD HQ; 1ST LT 9/43?; CAPTAIN⁽¹⁾
Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM PH Battle Stars

(On unusual DFCs, and Silver Stars and above would like to see a copy of the citation)

* AT RAF FELWELL

(1) 9/44; RECOMMENDATION FOR PROMOTION TO MAJOR WAS AT 8AFHQ ON VE DAY WHEN ALL PROMOTIONS WERE FROZEN, SO I NEVER MADE IT.

Other personal data:

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?)

Add additional pages, if necessary

'92 Directory Is Coming (from page 1)

pounded by the explosion of FAX machines and other devices demanding many more phone numbers in metropolitan areas.

So, both of these essential services have been playing "upset the fruit basket," and it raises hob with everyone, especially mailers and list keepers.

New Directory Due

Our 1992 directory should come out in May, and we need your help!

The Postal Service has been good about sending us changed numbers, but we need more data from many of you.

We also need to have you check your listing in the 1990 directory and to let the editor know what you need changed.

If we don't hear from you we must assume that the data we have is correct as far as your directory entry is concerned.

Check the form below:

Name _____ Albert A. Conrad, Jr. _____
 72 Applegate Lane _____
 Address _____ Falmouth Foreside, ME 04105 _____
 City, State and zip code _____

Telephone #, with the correct area code (209) 781-0928

Can you give us the four-number addition to your zip code? (Look on one of your utility bills for this, if you can't remember it).

On that street address, please designate whether it is St., Ave., Blvd., Road, etc. Rural routes AND box numbers need to be spelled out. In the alpha listing of the Directory, be sure your unit designation is correct. That's the one that counts. (If you were placed in the wrong listing under organizations, don't worry about it. We plan to get it right this time.)

Other data we will store away for possible later use:

Wife's first name RUTH W.

Your birthdate AUGUST 4, 1917

Social Security # 059-16-4560

Retirement date/place of employment/job title RETIRED 8/01/82

January 1992
Vol. 17, No. 1

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 34
Charlotte, NC

Albert A Conrad, Jr
3 Bridle Path Circle
Dover, MA 02030

1992 England Trip

Reunion Sets Big Schedule For Thurleigh and London

Fifty years ago next September, the 306th Bomb Group flew into history, with its arrival in England for combat duty with the U.S. 8th AF. That signal event in aviation lore will be recalled once again in August when the men of the 306th, their spouses, families and friends will join in a reunion visit to Bedford, the old base at Thurleigh, Madingley cemetery at Cambridge, and to the venerable city of London.

Two options are being offered for those participating in the main trip: A. being to spend two nights in Bedford, at either the Swan or Moat House hotels, which lie across the Ouse River from each other at the bridge; or, #2. to spend four nights at Bedford and the remainder in London. Group A will go on to London after the visit to Duxford, a WWII airfield that served both the RAF and USAAF and which has been restored as a WWII

3 Baidle Path Circle
P.O. Box 232
Dover, Mass. 02030
February 1, 1984

Dear Bill:

Hope the enclosed will help defray the cost of keeping me on the mailing list for "306th Echoes."

Shortly after I read the October, 1983, issue, the enclosed obituary appeared in the "Boston Herald."

I had noticed that a Vincent Palumbo's likeness appeared in the picture of the 369th in "Echoes," and I wondered if it might be the same person.

The name isn't common and the age appears to be possible for a WWII vet.

If he is the same one, I'm glad he was able to attend the reunion as a last fling.

Very truly yours

Al



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

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

President
William F. Houlihan
39470 Tyler Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Vice President
Marshall E. Baker
2600 Londonderry
Alexandria, VA 22308

Secretary
Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Treasurer
C. Dale Briscoe
7829 Timber Top Drive
Boerne, TX 78006

Directors
John R. Grimm
5085 Morelawn Ct., Apt. B
Centerville, OH 45429

Robert P. Riordan
6805 Santa Maria Lane
Dallas, TX 75214

Robert J. Starzynski
5253 North Long Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630

Leo H. Van Duzer
621 N. Ontario Street
DePere, WI 54115

Past President
Reginald L. Robinson
4009 Ranier Court
Fort Worth, TX 76109

1989 Reunion Chairman
Hugh E. Phelan
Rt. 1, Box 800
Donaldson, AR 71941

1989 Reunion
21-24 September
Little Rock, AR

Dear Al:

During the past few years we have watched the 306th Bombardment Group Association grow and prosper, each reunion seeming to set a new record for attendees.

Until 1986 our finances were rather hit and miss. A few contributors (especially Kieth Jackson) made fairly substantial gifts, but by and large we have existed on small individual contributions to Echoes and the profits from our reunions. Our current financial condition is adequate, but it lacks the long range stability we would like to achieve.

The present and former officers of the Association listed below feel that many of our members may be willing to make substantial gifts to assure the continued success of our organization. This money will be used for current and upcoming projects developed by your officers and directors. Upon dissolution of the Association, the balance of our monies will be paid over to the 306th Bombardment Group Endowment Fund now in place, pursuant to our contract with the Association of Graduates, U. S. Air Force Academy.

We would hope that you may wish to contribute from \$100 to \$500 (or more), depending upon your own circumstances. For those willing to give \$100 or more, a special permanent contributor's card will be provided. If you do not choose to participate, there will be no change in your status with the organization. We have never required payment of dues, and we have no intention of doing so now.

If you are willing to join with us in this project, please return your contribution in the enclosed stamped, addressed envelope.

Thank you for your past assistance and for your continued support of our Association.

Sincerely yours,

Will
William F. Houlihan
President

Reg
Reginald Robinson
Immed. Past President

Don
Donald R. Ross
Past President

P.O. Box 252
3 Braidle Path Circle
Dover, MA 02030
February 6, 1989

Dear Dale,

As much as I'd like to make a contribution of the magnitude asked, I'm retired since joining the Association and am just not in a position to do so.

Do hope you'll keep me on the mailing list for "Echoes" but if my small annual contribution doesn't warrant it, I understand if you drop me.

Very truly yours
Albert A. Conrad, Jr.
(al)

Flying Control Officer
March - September, 1943

508 785-1928

(508)

P.O. Box 252
3 Bridle Path Circle
Dover, MA 02030
December 11, 1990

Mr. Russell A. Strong
Secretary/Editor
306th Echoes
5353 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Russ:

I'm sure that most members are well aware of all that Ralph Franklin has done for the 306th Historical Association -- particularly with respect to the Memorial and flag posts at the field, and working so hard to make sure that the recent reunion was a success.

However, until this Summer I was unaware of all that he has done to entertain individual members, and I thought I should let you know how I became aware of this through his hospitality to my wife and me.

I'd had a hankering for some time to visit Thurleigh, and while we were in London last June, we took the train to Bedford and a taxi out to the field on the off-chance that I might be able to see something I recognized.

I knew it had become an RAE Station, which I felt would keep me outside the gates. The best I hoped for was a taxi driver who knew enough about the area to find roads circling the field, enabling me to see something I might recognize.

However, it was my lucky day. When I explained to the guard on duty at the gate that I had been a Flying Control Officer at the field in 1943 and would really like to see it as it is today, he told me to hang on and called Ralph, who promptly arrived at the gate in his car.

Explaining that he is a native of the village of Thurleigh, is now a Control Officer at the field and that it happened to be his day off, he would hear of nothing but our dismissing the taxi and being his guests for the day on a tour of the field. And a memorable day it was, thanks to the time he gave us, and the generosity with which it was given.

Nearly everything looks different, as you know. However, Ralph's knowledge of what was where in 1943 in relation to what's there today, enabled me to conjure up some pretty vivid pictures of a period of my life that was most important to me at the time, but many of the memories of which had grown a little hazy.

I'd never be able to express my gratitude adequately to Ralph for a day I'll always fondly remember, but perhaps my mentioning it to someone else will help to let him know how much

I appreciated it.

It was, by the way, only gradually during the day, and when he finally asked me to sign his register, that I realized he had done the same thing for many, many other ex-members of the Group.

Perhaps I should identify myself, since I wasn't at Thurleigh long enough for most of the members of the Association to remember me.

As noted above, I was a Flying Control Officer there in 1943, but only from late-April to mid-September, when I was transferred up to Wing (later 1st Air Division) Headquarters at Brampton.

This transfer was much against my will as I wanted to stay at Thurleigh, but I didn't have much say in the matter, and spent the rest of the War at Brampton, eventually becoming Senior FCO of the Division in 1945.

My boss at Thurleigh was Lou Hartsell, the Senior FCO, and I was a contemporary of Bill Peterman, with whom I attended the Royal Air Force School of Flying Control in January and February of 1943, and who, I note with sadness, recently passed away.

Every day when I was on duty in the tower and many, many of the off-duty moments were memorable from my point of view, but I won't attempt to recount them nor to mention all the members of the group I remember with such great respect and fondness. There just isn't room in this letter.

Suffice it to say that I'm proud to have been a member of the 306th, and am very grateful to Ralph Franklin for helping to rejuvenate so many memories of those days.

Very truly yours

Albert A, Conrad, Jr.

P.O. Box 252
3 Bridle Path Circle
Dover, MA 02030
December 14, 1990

Dear Dale,

Am happy to enclose a contribution, which I hope will help the cause, small though it^{*} may be.

Wish it could be larger, but what with retirement, Christmas, the market the way it is, etc., it's about all I feel I can safely muster at this time.

Your phone call of awhile back, assuring me that I was welcome no matter what, was encouraging but I don't want to be a dead weight.

Last June, when the market was better, my wife and I took a trip that included London, and while there, we went up to Thurleigh for what turned out to be a truly memorable day.

This was largely due to Ralph Franklin, and I recently wrote Russ Strong about the day as a of means of thanking Ralph publicly. Russ may find the letter too long, or insufficiently newsworthy, to print but I thought it might interest you, so I'm enclosing a copy.

One memory the day made vivid was of watching all of you take off from the main runway (24?) and disappear into the valley towards Bletsoe. Many was the silent prayer I muttered that you'd reappear on the other side, which, fortunately you always did.

I could reminisce endlessly, but will spare you.

In closing, Dale, you are most assuredly one of the ones I refer to in my letter to Russ Strong as being remembered with great liking and respect. I hope all goes well with you.

All the best



** The contribution, not the cause!*

P.O. Box 252
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5353 Cheval Place
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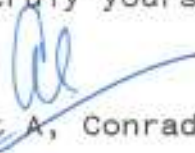
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Very truly yours



Albert A. Conrad, Jr.