

Huntington Beach
California, 4/13/82

Wm. M. Collins Jr.
~~Russell H. Strong~~

I joined the 8th Air Force
Historical Society about Sept 1981.

My card is L. B. Cook #9172.

I received my Echoes today and find
I am not listed in new found members
or listed under the Registrants for 306 the
Reservior in England. I have a Confirmation
Tamarac Travel agency as of Dec 28, 1981.

I am anxious to contact any of the fellows
I flew with or new in the 306th please
see that my name is listed in the next
issue with my full name L. Brooks Cook.
So far Bert Perimeter is the only living
person I have be able to contact.

I also belong 384th Bomb Group 547 Bomb Sq.
after finishing my Missions. I received
a Commission as gunnery officer and sent to
the 384th. Bert Perimeter also was down
in as a 2nd Lt. about the same time. J. Cook

29 June 1984

Dear Brooks,

Returning yesterday from a vacation trip to North Carolina, I found your letter awaiting me.

I am sorry that you did not find your name in the book. The index in the back was merely that, not a roster of the 306th. As near as I can determine about 10,000 men served with the 306th, and that listing in the book is 2500 names, so everyone stood a 1 in 4 chance of appearing. Of course the book is a history of combat, and the combat men had a greater chance of being cited than did ground personnel.

In the back of my mind is a project to put together a book of just 306th personnel. It would take about 250 pages to get all of the names in, and perhaps at some time in the next couple of years it may get done. In the course of developing the book I compiled a roster on 3x5 cards, and from that comes my estimate of 10,000 men. The cards fill seven file drawers.

Again, I am sorry that not all men of the 306th could be listed, but perhaps we'll get that job done yet.

Thanks for writing, and I do appreciate the information you told about yourself. That, too, will go on your card.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

Russel A Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, Mi 49007

June 20, 1984

Dear Russel:

I received your first over
Harmony book and have been interested
in re-living some of the mission and
getting names of different crew members.
Your book has been well written however
my name is not listed in 306 personnel.

I began my missions May 13, 1943
I flew over to England with Lt. Tom Price
but our crew was broken up because Gross
our tail gunner had to go to the Hospital
before we started our mission as a crew.

I joined Lt Sherman Crew as left waist
gunner after making 5 missions on different
crews. ~~After~~ Harold Rodger was tail gunner
who had the Dog. Mister. Lt Porter took
over the crew after my 16 mission as Sherman
had completed his 15. I completed my
25 mission over Ender in 9/6/10, 1943

On Oct 3, 1943. I was recommend for
a Commission as Gunnery Officer.
6 months later I received my Commission
as 2nd Lt. Feb 22. Best per letter post
Commission about the same time.

I was sent to 384 Bomb Group, at
Kettering. I was at Thurleigh Field
for 11 months which is long for a
Combat Crew member. I realize you
are not interested in my any history but
I was disappointed in the 306 personnel
of which I was not listed.

Best Regards
Brooks Cook

Russell A Strong
2041 Hillside
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Hi, Russ

I found 3 pictures with names on the ships. Jo Ann with the crew in front is pretty faint. I can't remember any of the crew.

The other two Ses & Hell's Fury Capt. DeSlofield in front. Bert Pearlman was also on the crew.

I flew over from the States with Wm. Price & crew. The ship name was Smiling Thru. However our crew was broken up because; Graves our tail gunner had to go to the hospital, so never flew on Price's crew.

Jo Ann also sending a picture of Lt. Sherman crew which I flew about half my missions with but don't remember the name of the ship and it's not shown in the picture. over

12 November 1987

Mrs. L. Brooks Cook
19301 Worchester Ln
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

Dear Mrs. Cook:

I was grieved to learn recently of Brooks' death, and would like to offer my condolences and those of the group.

It was my great pleasure to have gotten to know Brooks and I enjoyed seeing both of you at reunions.

As is my custom, I usually contact widows and ask if they would like to continue on the mailing list for Echoes. Most widows seem to want to, but not all make that choice.

I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope for your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong
Secretary

Dear Russell:

Thankyou for your
kind letter.

Yes I would like to
be on the mailing list
for Echoes. I really
enjoy it.

Thankyou
Cullyn Cook

19301 Worchester Ln
Huntington Beach, CA
92646

11/5/87

Dear Russ -

My WIFE SAW
THIS ARTICLE IN 11/3/87
News Paper -

DIDNT FIND HIM
IN OUR 306TH Directory
Tldo -

That you'd like live
up DATE -

BEEN TO LAST TWO
REUNIONS - WIFE & I
REALLY ENJOYED - SAW
Guys WHO CAME THRU
OUR PHOTO LAB - I
HADNT SEEN SINCE 44-45.
I SPENT 3 YRS IN THE
PHOTO LAB, 1942-1945 -

ALL THE BEST

TO YOU ALL

BOB FIELDS

3015

423 RD

COOK, L. BROOKS -
Of Huntington Beach,
California passed
away October 14, 1987.
Brooks attended school
in Twin Bridges, Mon-
tana and Montana
State College in Boze-
man. He and his fami-
ly moved from
Montana to Bakers-
field in 1952 where he
was in the banking
business. They moved
to Huntington Beach in
1980.

Brooks was a mem-
ber of the 300th Bomb
Group 369th Squadron,
serving in World War
I for four years.

He is survived by his
wife, Evelyn of Hun-
tington Beach; son,
ennis of Fresno;
daughter, Connie Shaw
Huntington Beach;
and five grandchild-
ren, Rendi, Robert
Mark, Matthew
and Christie; and a
nephew, Ed Cook of
Astoria, Oregon.

H & V Corigliano
1536 Summitridge Drive
Diamond Bar, Ca 91765

Oct. 17, 1987

306th Bomb Group
c/of Russel A Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, Mi. 49007

Dear Russel Strong,

I have just received a call from Evelyn Cook, Brooke cook who was the squadron-gunner for the 369th in Thurleigh. Evelyn had called to let me and my wife to tell us that Brooke had died Wednesday, Oct. 14. Brooke had attended services with Evelyn and he had leaned his head back and died. Brooke was a small in structure but big in the things that man requires to show courage determination and faith. Brooke had completed his tour and was commissioned as a 2nd. Lt.. He and several others were responsible for rigging the gun-turret simulator, but in those days we didn't call them simulators. If you recall many of us bombardiers and navigators never had gunnery school so we went to combat raw. I benefited from Brooke's coaching and it sure decreased the terror the balance of my tour held for me, at least I could man the gun-station I was near without total ignorance. At the reunions of the 306th, starting with the visit to Thurleigh I became close to Brooke, and I regret that I didn't get closer. Brook sat next to me during the church services in Kelsoe and we had gone to London a couple of days earlier than the group in Bedford. We wanted to visit some of our old haunts. Ronnie had received the call and when I was told of Brooke I called back to see if there was anything I could do. She indicated that a Brooke so admired the comradaree of the 306th that he would have appreciated a donation to the 306th Association, a group of people he admired and respected. Brook had intended to attend the last reunion in Washington, but wasn't feeling too well. I believe Brooke was 72 years old when he died. He died peaceably. He was a quiet man and strong in character. I will miss him as a close friend and as a comrade in arms. I'm sending \$50.00 as a donation to the Association in the memory of Brooke Cook.

Horace and Ronnie Corigliano