

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, 4900 Appleridge Ct., Dayton, Ohio 45424

I am endeavoring to put together a good history of the 306th Bombardment group, an idea which has been in my mind for some years. I am working diligently on the matter, collecting all kinds of data and working through the official history and records of the group. I served as a navigator with the 367th Squadron from June through November, 1944, and currently am director of news and information services at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. I solicit your assistance in my project.

I am interested in any special materials which you may have, such as good photographs of personnel, battle damage, plane insignia, etc. I am also interested in commendations (other than the usual Air Medal and DFC) you may have received, special stories which you may have in your possession, letters that are highly descriptive of combat action, or any other documents. I would appreciate receiving xeroxed copies. But, if you do not have such facilities readily available, I would appreciate the loan of materials which I might copy and return to you immediately. I am also interested in manuscripts of memoirs which you may have prepared, particularly if they were done within a couple of years of the events. Again, I would appreciate copies or the opportunity to copy them.

Name WILLIAM W. FAHRENHOLD
Address 115 FRUSTON ST, PGH, PA.
Telephone 331-2469 Date 19 Aug. 1975
Occupation CRANMAN Employer LEVINSON STEEL CO
Address 20TH & WARTON SS. PGH Telephone 481-3200

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th: 11 WKS. BASIC TRAINING FORT MC CLELLAND ALA. 10 DAYS WITH 1024 BOMB SERVICE SOWALAMAGORDO, AIR BASE NEW MEXICO AND THEN WE WERE SHIPPED TO ENGLAND ANY THUR LEIGH. 4 MONTHS IN BOMB SERVICE
After leaving the 306th: SCHOOLS - CHANUTE FLD ILL. GALVESTON, TEXAS. VOLUNTEERED FOR CREW TO GO TO PACIFIC, MADE 20 PHOTO MISSIONS WITH LT. COL. ALEX GUERRY IN PACIFIC.

306th Record:

Arrival Date 9/22/42 Squadron or other unit 1024 B.S. SQDN
MOS _____ Combat Status _____
Missions Completed 8TH 25 E.T.O., 20 F.E.A.F 6 PHOTO RECON, PACIFIC
Promotions FROM PVT 1ST. TO SGT, TO STAFF THEN TECH,
Decorations X AM 5 olcs X DFC 1 olcs X SS DSM DSC MH SM
PH Battle Stars NEW GUINEA, PHILIPPINES other _____

Eugene J. Pollock, navigator

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

John S. Trost, officer

Howard W. Kelly, officer

John L. Ryan, pilot & Sqdn. C.O.

John DeJohn, enlisted

Ben F. Marcilonis, mechanic

James C. Green, Jr., mechanic

R. H. Smith, pilot

Wm. P. Cassedy, pilot

514 W CHIPPEWA ST.
BROOKHAVEN, MASS.

----- Drew, officer

These are the last addresses I have on orders.

FARENHOLD

Feb 18, 1980

Dear Mr Collins Jr

I guess Bill & I won't
be making Orlando this year.

Bill passed away Feb 1st.

We had gone to the Dr.'s
Monday (Jan 28th) & he was
doing very well, thought
we would have a few more
years together, but it's
all in God's hands, & He
knows best. I have a lot
of good memories (33 years).
I loved him very much.

Thanks for being so nice
in Phoenix.

Sincerely
Ray Fahrenhold

Pittsburgh Goes to War

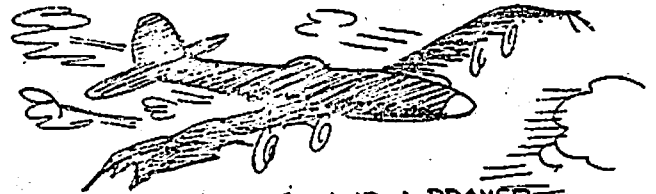
Local Flier Describes Ride in Burning Plane

By Charles F. Danver
Post-Gazette War Correspondent

A UNITED STATES BOMBER BASE IN ENGLAND, July 20.—(By Wireless)—They gave a Michigan boy the Congressional Medal of Honor here last week for heroic action aboard a flaming Fortress, but Staff Sergeant William J. Fahrenhold, of Stowe township, was along too—and not just for the ride.

He got the Silver Star.

It happened over the English Channel on May 1 while the Forts were returning from a raid on St. Nazaire. They were attacked on all sides by Nazi fighters and the ship was hit repeatedly and several of the crew were wounded. The



COMING IN ON A WING - AND A PRAYER

others bailed out when a 20 mm shell exploded in the radio hatch, setting the crippled bomber afire.

Fahrenhold was the top turret gunner behind and above the pilot and co-pilot. The Michigan lad was the ball turret gunner. Between them, from the nose to the tail, were the bomb bay, with its narrow catwalk, and the radio hatch and the fire.

According to a story in the "Stars and Stripes" about the Medal of Honor recipient, the battle with the flames and the enemy fighters was a one-man show. But here's Bill's side of it.

"When I first saw the flames they were about 10 feet out from the radio hatch. I was firing at two planes. My guns were the only ones on the ship working and I kept firing at one plane—the one that was on fire and passing me." When he got up above I got a good

29 October 1975

Dear Bill:

Here are your pictures. Many thanks for entrusting them to me.

Should you ever lose them, or want additional prints, I do have negatives of them now and will hang on to them.

Couple of questions:

In among orders I see a George Klucick, also of McKees Rock, listed. Know anything of his whereabouts?

Do you have any ideas about Lewis Johnson? I note that he comes from the Kentucky hills, and have written a letter to a postmaster down there, looking for him. Do you recall if he had gone to college, and where? Anything like this might be helpful in trying to locate him.

Glad the other materials got there without incident, and I'll look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

4900 Appleridge Court
Dayton, Ohio 45424

- SENDER: Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
Add your address in the "RETURN TO" space on reverse.

1. The following service is requested (check one).

- Show to whom and date delivered..... 15¢
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 RESTRICTED DELIVERY.
 Show to whom and date delivered..... 65¢
 RESTRICTED DELIVERY.
 Show to whom, date, and address of delivery 85¢

2. ARTICLE ADDRESSED TO:

3. ARTICLE DESCRIPTION:

REGISTERED NO.	CERTIFIED NO.	INSURED NO.
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UNNUMBERED

(Always obtain signature of addressee or agent)

I have received the article described above.

SIGNATURE Addressee Authorized agent

4.

DATE OF DELIVERY

10-18-75

5. ADDRESS (Complete only if requested)

401 Hill

6. UNABLE TO DELIVER BECAUSE:

CLERK'S
INITIALS

Sgt William W. Fahrenhold
Silver Star - 20340

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

20 May 1943.

GENERAL ORDER)
NO.....61)

SECTION

- AWARDS OF SILVER STAR* * * * * I
- AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL * * * * * II
- AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS * * * * * III
- AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS * * * * * IV
- AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL* * * * * V

I. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq., ETOUSA, 5 April 1943, the SILVER STAR is awarded to the following named Officer and Enlisted Men.

Giffth Jp

JOSEPH C. MELAUN, 20820570, Staff Sergeant, 410th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action against an armed enemy of the United States, while serving as Nose Gunner on a B-17 airplane on a bombing mission over enemy occupied territory, 1 May 1943. After completion of the bombing run enemy fighter planes attacked in large numbers, causing severe damage and starting an intense fire in the mid-section of the airplane. The condition of the plane was so serious that part of the crew bailed out. Displaying great bravery and skill, Sergeant Melau, with utter disregard for his own safety, went into the radio compartment, which was a mass of flames to aid the ball turret and top turret gunners in extinguishing the fire. After the fire was extinguished Sergeant Melau returned to his nose guns and warded off repeated attacks by enemy fighter planes. The bravery and skill displayed by Sergeant Melau on this occasion aided materially in the safe return of the airplane and reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: RFD #2, Seagoville, Texas.

X

WILLIAM W. FAHRENHOLD, 13087745, Sergeant, 423rd Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action against an armed enemy of the United States, while serving as Top Turret Gunner on a B-17 airplane on a bombing mission over enemy occupied territory, 1 May 1943. After completion of the bombing run enemy fighter planes attacked in large numbers, causing severe damage and starting an intense fire in the mid-section of the airplane. The condition of the plane was so serious that part of the crew bailed out. Displaying great bravery and skill, Sergeant Fahrenhold, with utter disregard for his own safety, went into the radio compartment which was a mass of flames, to aid the ball turret and nose gunners in extinguishing the fire. After the fire was extinguished Sergeant Fahrenhold returned to his guns and warded off repeated attacks by enemy fighter planes. The bravery and skill displayed by Sergeant Fahrenhold on this occasion aided materially in the safe return of the airplane and reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 614 Main Street, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

HARRY E. PRIVETT, 15082342, Sergeant, 342nd Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action against an