

PERSONNEL RECORD UPDATE
306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to Russell A. Strong, Secretary,
306th BG Association, 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205.

Date completed 2/5/94

LAST NAME: GILL FIRST NAME: LYLE MI: E. TITLE:

Street address: 15 ST. MARK AVE Telephone: (717) 626-5342

City, State, Zip: LITITZ, PA. zip + 4: 17543 2206

Date of birth: 7/21/25

Wife's name: JOANNE

College(s) attended: PENN STATE

Degree(s): — Year(s): —

Last employment & job title & retirement date: 1990

MANAGER OF SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Reunions attended:

NONE

ARMOUR GUNNER

Serial #: 13172308 Squadron: 369

Specialty: (TOBELIER)

Date joined 306th:

If combat, what crew: AL ROMANIN

Special duties or assignments w/306th:

Number of missions flown:

Date of last mission:

Date left 306th:

Highest rank/grade w/306th:

Other 8th AF units served with:

STAFF SERGEANT

Top service assignment after 306th:

USAF retirement date:

Rank/grade:

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units serving with the 306th, are sought by the secretary, as many of these do not appear in any collections of materials in Federal files:

If you know of others who served with the 306th who do not appear in the current directory, please add their names and current/WWII hometowns/or other addresses. to the back of this sheet so that searches may be implemented to add them to our present 306th roster.

MEMBERS OF ~~THE~~ ^{OUR} CREW IN 369TH
(DO NOT KNOW ADDRESSES)

ARTHUR JARDON - COPILOT

THOMAS P. CARNEY - NAVIGATOR (NEW ENGLAND)

WILLIAM LEWIS - RADIO OPERATOR.
(DIED IN 1992)

COLFAX, ILLINOIS

EDMUND J. SADKOWSKI - GUNNER

WILLIAM C. BARR - PENNSYLVANIA

MILTON E. HANSON - N. ORS. DAKOTA

RUSSELL A. STRONG
SECRETARY/EDITOR
306th ECHOES

MAY 20, 2003

DEAR SIR,

I AM WRITING WITH A QUESTION THAT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER. I WAS A VERY LATE ARRIVAL AT THURLEIGH (APRIL 9,1945) SO NO EXCITING STORIES TO TELL BUT VERY PROUD OF THE GREAT FRIENDS I HAD DURING MY TIME WITH THE 369th GROUP. I ARRIVED AS AN "ARMORER/GUNNER" BUT BEFORE OUR FIRST MISSION I WAS INFORMED THAT I WAS ALSO TO BE A "TOGGLIER". MY QUESTION IS, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY 'TOGGLIERS' THERE WERE AT THAT TIME? WHEN ANYONE ASKS WHAT I DID DURING THE WAR I TELL THEM I WAS A 'TOGGLIER' ON A B-17 FLYING FORTRESS. THEN THE OBVIOUS QUESTION IS 'WHAT IN THE HECK WAS A TOGGLIER?' THEN I EXPLAIN THAT I HAD THE BEST SEAT ON THE PLANE AND COULD SEE EVERYTHING THAT WAS HAPPENING AND ALSO THE WORLD THAT I HAD LEARNED ABOUT IN SCHOOL NOT LONG BEFORE THAT, AND WITH A NAVIGATOR BEHIND ME SHOWING ME THE MAPS.

I AM JUST CURIOUS AS TO HOW MANY OF US THERE WERE? I KEEP READING IN THE 'ECHOES' ABOUT PILOTS, AND GUNNERS, AND NAVIGATORS BUT NO TOGGLEIERS. I IMAGINE WE ARE A VERY SMALL AND SELECT GROUP. I AM ALSO NOT SURE WHY THE GOVERNMENT CAME UP WITH THE IDEA. WAS IT TO SAVE MONEY BY NOT PAYING AND TRAINING OFFICERS OR WAS IT JUST A CONVENIENCE AT THE TIME? IT WAS NOT A JOB THAT PREPARED US FOR A POST-WAR CAREER BUT WE WERE PART OF A GREAT GROUP OF PEOPLE.

I WOULD LOVE TO GO BACK TO THUREIGH OR AT LEAST TO THE REUNION AT SAVANNAH BUT FOR HEALTH AND OTHER REASONS WILL NOT BE MAKING THE TRIP. THANK YOU FOR A LOT OF REASONS!

LYLE E. GILL
15 ST. MARK AVE.
LITITZ, PA. 17543

FORMALLY- -S/SGT LYLE E. GILL 13172308

