

M. F. Gilmore, Jr.
8733 Dumfries Cove
Germantown, Tn. 38138

August 18, 1982

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Dear Sir:

Yesterday I received your book and read it until 2 o'clock last night. I found a picture of "Flack Shack" in the book which I flew on many times, and also see mentioned "A Bouncing Baby" which I flew on a number of times. Your reference to page 311 when "Flack Shack" was shot down, I recall a beautiful clear day when we were going north of Berlin and there was no flak and the crew was telling jokes over the intercom. I sat in the tail staring at the "Flack Shack" plane which was high to my right and saw the tail being blown off completely. I called the pilot who told me to count the shoots. We also received heavy flak that knocked out an engine and punctured a tank. We continued on to the target and then made it back to the base.

I also remember the day when the whole group went on target practice and we shot down the tow plane over the WASH.

This book brings back so many memories that I had almost forgotten. I remember making a number of passes with the Disney bomb and under fairly heavy flak the whole time and the immense relief of the crew when these things were finally released.

Thank you for a very good book.

Sincerely,



M. F. Gilmore, Jr.

12 Aug.

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Sir -

Really appreciated your letter of Aug 8, I sure would have known of you had not a new engineer of mine ~~had~~ not given me your address.

I have been writing the Air Force in Maxwell Field trying to get a photograph for my office, and they now refer me to the Photo Depository in Arlington Va. I am hunting a picture of any 306th plane in Flak, preferably 369th Sqdn. I would also like pictures of take-off with the Disney Bomb. I remember a crowd of people were taking pictures nearby as we revved up for take off. I flew in #612 "Flak Shock" piloted by C.P. Tinkham I flew some in "Bouncing Baby" don't remember the number.

I later served in the Infantry during the Korean war and was a company commander and retired as Major C.E. USAF.

I took an Engineering Degree from the Univ of Alabama and did some graduate work at the Univ of Delaware

I have been with the Engineering Dept. of E.I. DuPont de Nemours for the past 30 yrs.

please give me an idea of photos you have and cost.

Sincerely

M E Gilmore Jr

Former

(S/Sgt 14190869)

Tail gunner

8 August 1982

Dear M. F.,

Your book will be on the way in a couple of days. As soon as my Monday mail comes I'll ship off a batch. Thanks for the order.

James McKinney was indeed C.O. of the 369th while you were there. Unfortunately, he is now deceased. Joe Bowles is retired in the Roanoke, VA, area, having returned to selling cars after the war.

I have an extensive picture file of the 306th. Any specific plane you might be looking for as to a picture?

The experimental raid you mentioned was with the Disney bomb. Not an outstanding success, but better than some of the efforts that were made during the war.

There is a 306th organization, and you have just been put on the mailing list for the quarterly newspaper. The eighth reunion will be held in October in Cincinnati, and you'll get information on it shortly. There is also a reunion in England in October with the unveiling of a memorial at Thurleigh.

I had had your name for years on a search list out of Birmingham, Alabama, so was pleased to have you show up as my quest in Birmingham had been fruitless.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong



M. F. GILMORE, JR.
Construction Project Manager
Construction Division
Engineering Department

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY (INC.) 901-353-7100
Memphis, TN 38127 901-353-9979