

PERSONNEL RECORD UPDATE:
306TH. BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

LAST NAME: Griggs Douglas A. TITLE; Rev.

STREET ADDRESS: 3013 Clayton St. TELEPHONE: (405)255-7771

CITY, STATE: Duncan, Ok. ZIP + 4: 73533-2225

WINTER ADDRESS: SAME AS ABOVE...

DATE OF BIRTH: Jan. 21, 1924 WIFE'S NAME: Clara M. #C=0, #GC=0, #G

COLLEGE ATTENDED: Amarillo Junior College, Amarillo, Tx. Ardmore Higher Education Center, Ardmore, Ok. No degree.

LAST EMPLOYMENT & JOB TITLE & RETIREMENT DATE: United Methodist Church, Minister of Gospel, June 1988.

SERIAL #: 1808 5483 442-12-2609 SQUADRON: 368th. SPECIALTY: Top turret and Waist Gunner.

DATE JOINED 306TH: February 1943 or early March 1943

IF COMBAT, WHAT CREW? William H. Schiel

SPECIAL DUTIES OR ASSIGNMENT W/306TH: None I can remember

NO. MISSIONS FLOWN: 25 DATE OF LAST MISSION: Not sure, Late Sept. 1943 or early Oct. 1943

DATE LEAVING 306th: Oct. 1943 HIGHEST RANK/GRADE W/306TH: T/Sgt.

OTHER 8AF UNITED SERVED WITH AND WHEN: None

TOP SERVICE ASSIGNMENT AFTER 306TH: Superintendent of Work Load Control of Director Maintenance, 3320 Maintenance Group, Amarillo Technical Training Center, Amarillo AF Base,,,

USAF RETIREMENT DATE; Jan 31, 1966 RANK/GRADE: CMSgt.

ADDED INFORMATION: Bill Schiel and other crew members, except CP Reginal d Peterson, were shot down April 17, 1943, Later Peterson ran out of Gas over France and went down, I was the only one of our crew that completed the required missions. After leaving 306, I was instructor at Ardmore Combat Crew Training Center, Ardmore, Ok. until end of War. Reenlisted and was assigned to 54th Troop Carrier, Elmendorf AFB Alaska until Berlin Air Lift, Flew 300 sorties into Berlin during Air Lift as Crew Member on C-54 Aircraft.. Added one Air Medal to Distinguished Flying cross and four WWII air medals and also Medal for Humane Action..

REV. DOUGLAS A. GRIGGS
3013 CLAYTON AVE.
DUNCAN, OKLA.
73533

MR. RUSS STRONG
5323 CHEVAL PLACE
CHARLOTTE, N.C.
28205

DEAR RUSS:
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY HEARING HOW ANOTHER OF OUR
LOST HAS BEEN FOUND.
LAST WEEK, I WAS HAVING MY WILL UP-DATED BY AN
ATTORNEY THAT I HAD KNOWN FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS,
AFTER GETTING ALL THE DATA HE NEEDED WE WERE
ENJOYING A CUP OF COFFEE AND HE MENTIONED THAT HIS
DAD HAD RETIRED FROM THE AIR FORCE IN 1964 AND I SAID I
RETIRED IN 1966. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS DAD HAD
BEEN A BOMBARDIER ON B-17S DURING WW II AND I SAID I
HAD FLOWN 25 MISSIONS WITH THE 306 BOMB GROUP AND
WOULDN'T IT BE FUNNY IF WE HAD BEEN IN THE SAME GROUP.
WELL, WE WILL JUST FIND OUT AND WENT TO GET HIS DAD,
WHO ALSO IS AN ATTORNEY. WE DISCOVERED THAT SURE
ENOUGH WE HAD BEEN IN THE SAME GROUP ONLY AT
DIFFERENT TIMES. HE WAS WITH THE 423 IN 1944, AFTER THE
WAR HE GOT OUT OF THE SERVICE AND WENT TO LAW SCHOOL
THEN CAME BACK IN AND RETIRED AS A LT. COL. IN 1964.
HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE 306 ASSOCIATION AND
IMMEDIATELY BEGAN ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REUNION
AND OTHER.

HIS NAME IS AL ASHTON
4704 N.W. 47TH. PLACE
LAWTON, OK.
73505

I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO ASK BUT WOULD YOU PUT HIM ON
THE MAILING LIST AND INCLUDE A DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS.
ALSO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE LET HIM KNOW ABOUT THE NEXT
REUNION. MAYBE HIS SON AND I CAN INFLUENCE HIM TO BE
THERE...

THANKS,



DOUGLAS GRIGGS



**NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP
OF
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
AND
LOCAL PASTORS
U.M.C.**

July 31, 1991

Dear Russell,

You might have this information but just to play it safe I will send it anyway.

I arrived in Thurielgh sometime in either Feb. or early March 1943 with Lt. William H. Schiel's crew. Included were: 2nd. Lt.

William H. Schiel, Pilot

Co Pilot: Lt. W.D. Peterson

Bombardier: Lt. R.E. Wigham

Engineer: T/Sgt. Douglas Griggs

Weist gunners: Not known

Radio: T/Sgt. B.J. Benigo

Ball turret: S/Sgt. C.R. Bell

Tail gunner: S/Sgt. A.M. Baker

All, except myself and Lt. Peterson were shot down about five weeks after we arrived. Sgt. Bell was killed in action others were taken prisoner. Later, on his 24 mission Lt. Peterson landed in France after his plane ran out of fuel and as far as I know was taken prisoner. Of the crew that trained together I was the only one to complete my 25 mission combat tour. I finished in October 1943. We flew a B-17 F (number 25393) to England by way of South America and Africa, but it was not assigned to the 306.

I am sure Lt. Schiel gave me a copy of his log when we visited together in 1988 but I cannot find it, it has some details about our crew that I cannot remember, but might be important to the 306 Echoes. Maybe if you would contact him, he would furnish you with a copy of that log book...

I remember flying the last mission with Capt. Leo McIntyre (now deceased) and Capt. L. J. Hennessy. though assigned to 369, he led a flight for the 368 on his last mission over Williamsburg.

God's People Doing God's Work

I have not had much contact with the 306 because of my responsibilities as a Minister but did attend the reunion in Ft. Worth a few years ago and enjoyed it, just have not been able to work it on my calendar. The reunion falls during the time we have a national Ministers meeting and I am serving as National treasurer of that Fellowship so feel I must attend that instead of the 306 reunion.

I enjoy the "Echoes" very much and am interested in keeping the 306 together. I retired from the U.S.A.F. in 1968 as CMSgt.(E-9) then entered the ministry for nearly 15 years am now trying to retire once again...Only preached in nine different churches this summer and have two more on the calendar next month...

Thank all of you for keeping old and good memories alive!!

Douglas Griggs

NFAM & LP
Doug Griggs, Treas.
3013 Clayton Ave.
Duncan, OK 73533

*What About Maj. Oglo &
368 - I remember him as
our Operations officer
Annexed
6 Aug 91*

Dear Russell

I just received the latest Echoes and it was the best I have ever received. I located my old Co-pilot in the list of new members and we had not heard from since he went down over France in the summer of 43. I have been in contact with the other known members of my crew for the past three years, Bill Schiel was pilot, Wesley Peterson, Co-Pilot, Benedito Benigno, Radio Operator and me, Douglas Griggs, Engineer.

I checked the list of Pilots in this issue and find one name is missing. Lt. Leo MacIntire, who joined the 306 March 12, 1943. He originally was assigned to the 369 then transferred to the 368 and was co-pilot to Ed. Hennessy until Ed finished then he was back on the right side and I flew with him until he finished his missions. Ed Hennessy also came to the 368 from the 369 and I was his engineer and top turret for at least five missions. I finished my tour late Sept. or early October 1943, at least before Black Thursday. A red headed Tail gunner from Chicago also finished the same day I did. That is all I remember except that I still had the big red 25 painted on my chest and back when I got home...

It was through my reading the Echoes that I have had a reunion with the known members of my original crew. I was the only one to finish a tour, the others were shot down April 17, 43 except Peterson and me, Pete later ran out of gas over France and went down, I watched him from another plane and except for something unknown to me, I was supposed to be on his crew that day...

Thanks for keeping us informed about our outfit. It is good to be a part of History! Nearly forgot, I also was a part of the Ardmore bunch, I taught in the turret school from May 1944 through the end of the war. I believe Col. Wilson was the base commander then. All those crews listed as crews coming from Ardmore, I taught them turret operation.

My spouses name: CLARA M.

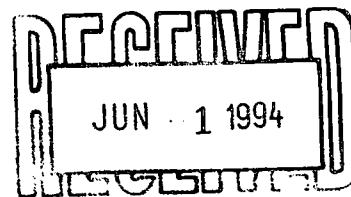
God Bless!!

Doug -

*DOUG GRIGGS
3013 CHATTAHOOCHEE
DUNCAN, OK. 73533*

Rev. Douglas A. (Doug.) Griggs

3013 Clayton Street
Duncan, Ok. 73533-2225
Phone:(405)255-7771



May 14, 1994

Dear Russell,

I have a family name to be added to our roster. It is the sister of our ball turret gunner who was killed April 17,1943. S/Sgt. Charles Bell trained with the William Schiel crew and we arrived in Thurleigh in March 1943. He was killed on his fifth mission, the rest of the crew that I trained with were all taken P.O.W.

Here is the family name:

Mr. & Mrs. Don Dean
R.R. # 3, Box 22
Elwood, In. 46036
Phone: 1=317-552-3647-317-552-3647

Now for the information on me:

Douglas A. Griggs (CMSgt. USAF, RET)
3013 Clayton St.
Duncan, Ok. 73533-2225
Phone 405/255-7771

My wife's name is Clara.

The write up on Ed. Hennessy brought back some memories. It was a particular rough time for the 368 and Ed and Little Audrey were transferred to the 368 and I flew as his engineer and top turret gunner. I remember over Williamshaven when we were last and he flew our B-17 like a P-47. He finished his missions and his co-pilot, Lt. Leo S. McIntire took over as first pilot and I stayed with him until he finished his missions. Then I was supposed to go with Lt. Peterson but before that happened, he ran out of gas somewhere over France. I was the only member of my original crew who finished their combat tour. The rest were taken prisoner or killed. It was not until about three years ago that what remained of the crew got together. Since then I have discovered the Co-pilot, Lt. Peterson and the radio Operator, TSGt. Benny Benigno, still around, as well as Lt. Schiel. We have not been able to get al of us together but still are trying. Mr. and Mrs. Dean have been our primary moving force but somehow we all think of some excuse not to get with the others...

I enjoy the Echoes and hope some day to attend another reunion but it always fall on the days I have a church reunion and I feel obligated to attend that. I served as Treasurer until this year when I resigned because of my By-pass surgery. I am still in the recovery stage so won't be able to make it to Demoinis Maybe next time...I will keep trying....

GOD BLESS!!

Griggs