

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Dr. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Name RICHARD B. HANKEY
Address 1842 E. CRITTENDEN LANE PHOENIX, ARIZ 85016
Telephone 279-4687 Date 2-6-78
Occupation PRODUCTION CONTROL Employer DUELCO MANUF.
Address 401 S. 36TH ST. Telephone 275-4406

Service Record: Serial No(s) 33067355

Before joining the 306th:

ICE CREAM BUSINESS

After leaving the 306th:

ICE CREAM BUSINESS

306th Record:

Arrival Date MARCH 1942 Squadron or other unit 369

MOS M/SGT Combat Status _____

Missions Completed NONE

Promotions _____

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH Battle Stars BROWNIE STAR other _____

(OVER)

DICK HANKEY

Was crew chief on B-18 at Wendover

When first arrived there were only two barracks on site

Lots of drilling to fill time

Went over on Queen Elizabeth. Left NY 10 a.m. Monday, and
in the Firth of Forth Friday afternoon.

Eventually barracks were built at Wendover.

Douglas McKnight got Silver Star six-eight yrs ago.

On a gunnery mission, Richard Wong headed plane in wrong
direction, got shot up over France, red lined it coming
home at water level. Skin on wings was winkled and wings
were bent



AT A BOMBER STATION—These Marylanders are on duty at a bomber station somewhere in England. Left to right: Major Harry Holt, Chevy Chase; Sergt. Morris Bach, and Corp. Harold Cowden, Baltimore; Sergt.

Dick Hankey, Hagerstown; Corp. John French and Sergt. Charles Hill, Baltimore; Sergt. James Tyler, Crisfield, and Sergt. Henry Praderio, Baltimore. They were assigned duty with a group including Maryland flyers.

Other personal data:

Description of Air Missions:

(What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your role? What heroics did you witness? What events were there of which you have special knowledge?)

Add additional pages, if necessary

13 February 1978

Mr. Richard B. Hankey
1842 E. Crittenden Ln
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Dear Dick:

Thanks so much for sharing these materials with me. I have been able to copy the things I wanted, and now have them in my files.

We will follow up on some of the leads your materials provided as to people.

I have kept three of your pictures and will return them to you as soon as I have an opportunity to make photo copies of them.

Thanks again for your interest in helping preserve the story of the 306th.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

SGT. HANKEY GETS THE BRONZE STAR

Local Soldier Decorated for Work as Squadron Flight Chief

(Special to the Herald)
 An Eighth Air Force Bomber Station, England. — Master Sergeant Richard B. Hankey, 26, son of Mr. William L. Hankey, 49½ East Franklin street, Hagerstown, Maryland, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, its was recently announced by Colonel James S. Patton of Findlay, Ohio, commanding officer of the 306th Bomb Group.
 Sergeant Hankey received the decoration for outstanding services as a squadron flight chief at this veteran Flying Fortress base.
 Following, in part, is the citation accompanying the award: "Because of his outstanding work as a crew chief, Sergeant Hankey was appointed a flight chief and at the present time still holds that position. His actions during his entire assignment as crew chief and flight chief reflect the highest credit both in himself and on the armed forces of the United States."

Before entering the Army Air Forces in October, 1941, Hankey was engaged in the ice cream business with his father in Hagerstown.

Fortress Local Boy Is Responsible For Between Fights Gets 7 Enemy Planes

Master Sergeant Richard Hankey, 24-year-old son of William L. Hankey, of Hagerstown, received extensive mention in Wednesday's Philadelphia Inquirer in a first page story written by Ivan Peterman, who interviewed the ground crew of a Flying Fortress in England recently.

Young Hankey, who as crew chief of that particular ground crew has charge of six men, supervises equipment for the bomber between flights and makes sure that any necessary repairs are done quickly and efficiently. His description of the extensive personnel and exhaustive work necessary to keep an active bomber in top condition leads Peterman to observe that "work is never done on a bomber." The "Banshee," as

Hankey's crew has dubbed its charge, is one of the flying fortresses that make periodical raids on France. The "Banshee" holds a record among American fortress groups for having shot down seven enemy planes in twelve minutes.

Sergeant Hankey, as Peterman states, worked prior to his enlistment in his father's ice cream factory, which furnished him with very little background for his present job, as he and his colleagues haven't seen an ice cream cone since they arrived in England last September.

Hankey reveals the anxiety of the ground crew over their beloved "child" when he says, "We know what they're enduring up there, but anyone would gladly trade and go flying if only to quit fretting till they return."

Marylanders among the ground crew here include Sergeants Morris Bach and Henry Praderio and Corporals Harold Cowden and John French, all of Baltimore; Master Sergeants Richard Hankey, of Hagerstown, and James Tyler, of Crisfield.

MANY LEAVING ON SATURDAY

Group Of Hagerstown Registrants Called Up For Induction.

The following Hagerstown registrants will leave Saturday for Baltimore for their final physical examinations incident to induction into the armed forces:

- Albert B. Allen, Washington;
- Donald P. Rudisill, 544 Chestnut;
- Robert L. Saum, 161 Summit; John C. Clark, 753 West Washington;
- David F. Zook, 600 Washington;
- Charles R. Russell, 419 George;
- Earl L. Eichbone, 33 Elizabeth;
- Roy C. Rowland, Silver Springs;
- Albert Discepoli, Waynesboro;
- Kenneth L. Harrison, 112 West Antietam;
- Mulford P. Busey, 34 Garlinger;
- Harold E. Harper, 418 West Franklin;
- Charles A. Berklow, 115 McComas;
- Phillip L. Henry, 548 George;
- Robert M. Kann, 418 Jefferson;
- Donald L. New, Shenandoah, Pa.;
- Herman E. Swope, Jr., 311 Bryan;
- Elbon L. Harper, 35 North Locust.

- Kenneth E. Jones, 312 South Locust;
- James W. Schindel, 632 Highland;
- Donald R. Spielman, 302 North Cannon;
- William N. Jamison, 29 North Foundry;
- Donald D. Kretzer, 622 West Church;
- Gene J. Corsi, 305 Jefferson;
- Samuel T. Hankey, 49½ East Franklin;
- Charles W. Grumbine, 926 Salem;
- Nelson H. Stickell, 1021 Main;
- Clayton E. Luckard, 70 West Franklin;
- Jack Reynolds, 425 George;
- Reynolds, Jr., 603 West
- Ch C. Gorman, 311
- Way H. Miller, 20
- Night, 200

Discharges Given To Two Brothers

Master Sgt. Richard B. Hankey and Master Sgt. James H. Hankey, sons of William L. Hankey, 49½ East Franklin street, have received their honorable discharges from the U. S. Army.

Sgt. Richard Hankey, who served with the 8th Air Force in England for 36 months, wears six battle stars, the Good Conduct ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Bronze Star. He has been in the service since October, 1941.

Entering the service in March, 1941, Sgt. James Hankey was with the Air Service Command, 14th Air Force in India where he was stationed for 37 months. He has one battle star and the Good Conduct ribbon.

Two other brothers, William I. Hankey, Jr., and Samuel Hankey, are still in the service.

(below) PIN for daytime or evening work. Lensed in gold plate, set with rhinestones. 15.95* Making 9.95*

GIMBELS HANDS

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

FLYING FORTRESS SCHOOL

BOEING AIRCRAFT COMPANY

Seattle, Washington

CERTIFICATE OF
TECHNICAL TRAINING

Date July 3, 1942

This is to certify that:

Hankey Richard D.
(LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE)

32087385 Pvt. 369th Bomb Sq
(SERIAL NO.) (RANK) (ORG. OR ARM)

Graduated from the

FACTORY TRAINING COURSE

on July 5, 1942
(DATE)

with rating of

Very Satisfactory

Subjects covered and rating on same are shown on reverse side

Richard B Broadhurst

RICHARD B. BROADHURST

1st Lt., Air Corps

For The District Supervisor

- E - Excellent
- S - Satisfactory
- U - Unsatisfactory

(OVER)

CERTIFICATE OF TECHNICAL AIRCRAFT TRAINING

It is to certify that

Richard B. Hankey

Private 306th Bomb Group
RANK ORGANIZATION

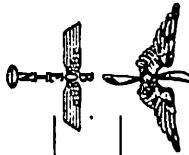
has satisfactorily completed the United States Army Air Corps Factory Training Course conducted by the Boeing Aircraft Company at Seattle, Washington, under the direction and supervision of the United States Army Air Corps, and is hereby presented with a Certificate of Graduation from the

BOEING FLYING FORTRESS SCHOOL

which recognizes his ability to accomplish service and maintenance operations on Boeing Model B-17F Bombardment Airplanes in accordance with Technical Orders issued by the United States Army Air Corps.

CERTIFICATE ISSUED

July 4th 1942



John A. [Signature]
FOR THE MAJOR
625 [Signature]
FOR BOEING AIRCRAFT COMPANY

United States Army Air Forces



Technical Training Command

Be it known that

Pvt 1c1 RICHARD D. HANKEY, 33067355

has satisfactorily completed the prescribed FACTORY TRAINING course for

as prescribed for the B-17F Stinson, given at

BOEING FLYING Fortress SCHOOL

In testimony whereof and by virtue of vested authority I do confer upon him this

CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING

Given on this 3RD day of JULY

in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred forty TWO

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

See TB 41111

Richard B Broadhurst
SUPERVISOR, ARMY AIR FORCES
1st Lt AF

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

FLYING FORTRESS SCHOOL

BOEING AIRCRAFT COMPANY
Seattle, Washington

CERTIFICATE OF TECHNICAL TRAINING

Date *July 3, 1942*

This is to certify that:

Hankey *Richard* *D.*
(LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE)

33067355 *Pvt* *169th Bomb Sq*
(SERIAL NO.) (RANK) (GRADE OR UNIT)

Graduated from the

FACTORY TRAINING COURSE

on *July 5, 1942*
(DATE)

with rating of

Very Satisfactory

Subjects covered and rating on same are shown on reverse side

Richard B Broadhurst

RICHARD B. BROADHURST

1st Lt., Air Corps

For The District Supervisor

- E - Excellent
- S - Satisfactory
- U - Unsatisfactory

(OVER)

Dec. 23, 1988

Dale,

Thanks very much for a great reunion in
Los Vegas.

Sincerely yours

Richard B. Donkey
369th Bomb Sqdn.

June 14, 1994

Russell A. Strong, Secretary
306th Bomb Group Association
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Russ,

I received your card dated April, 1995. Thank you for asking my assistance to help improve 306th Association records. The following is a documentation of my happenings prior to December 1, 1942:

I graduated from Sheppard Field on March 21, 1942 and was then transferred to Wendover Field the early part of April, 1942. I was promoted to Sergeant on June 1, 1942, then my promotion came about a month apart until I made M/Sgt. in September, 1942. I think I was the first Crew Chief in the 306th, 369th Sqd. on the first plane assigned to the 306th A "B-18." In June, 1942, I was transferred to Boeing School for instructions on B-17's maintenance. I graduated on July 4, 1942 from Boeing School and was then shipped back to 369th Sqdn., shortly thereafter. In July, the Air echelon flew me to Westover Field, where I stayed about 10 days to 2 weeks and was then transferred to Fort Dix for overseas. I suppose you have the history of our crossing on Queen Elizabeth from then on. I was awarded the Bronze Star on June 8, 1944. I didn't see that noted in your book. This was per General's orders #449, which is enclosed. I left Thurleigh sometime in July, 1945 to return back to the states for discharge. I know of no group pictures of the Master Sergeants in 369th Sqdn. I am sorry I don't have records of the exact dates on some of the happenings.

In regards to my marital status, I am a widower.

I hope this information helps. I look forward to seeing you soon at one of the reunions, perhaps the one in LasVegas.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Hankey

Enc.

GO H49

8 JUNE 44

BRONZE STAR CITATION

Master Sergeant RICHARD B. HANKEY, for meritorious achievement as Crew Chief of B-17 type aircraft during the period of 15 September, 1942, to 15 December, 1943. During this period Sgt Hankey has supervised and maintained three aircraft which participated in a total of 62 operational missions. One of the aircraft participated in a total of 37 consecutive missions without mechanical failure. Probably the highest tribute to be paid any B-17 in the Eighth Air Force was to Sgt Hankey's first plane when General Armstrong selected it to be the first plane of the VIII Air Force over Germany. Sgt Hankey's second aircraft, No. 629, successfully completed a total of eight (8) consecutive operational missions before it was transferred to another Crew Chief in Combat Status. On the last date that Sgt Hankey was in charge of this aircraft it had never had an engine or supercharger changed and it had a total of 200 flying hours. Sgt Hankey was then immediately assigned to aircraft No. 993. This aircraft flew on 29 consecutive operational sorties without an abortion and after one abortion completed another ten while in Sgt Hankey's charge. Sgt Hankey had to work many days and nights repairing battle damages inherent in combat flying and in no case has a Pilot ever done anything but praise Sgt Hankey's work and leadership. At the time of transfer this aircraft had a total of 560 hours, with five engine and no supercharger changes. Because of his outstanding work as Crew Chief, Sgt Hankey was appointed Flight Chief and at the present time still holds that position. So superior was Sgt Hankey's leadership and guidance that of the 30 men who have worked for Sgt Hankey, one is Squadron Inspector, five are crew chiefs, and three are Assistant crew chiefs. The above qualities are sterling evidence of Sgt Hankey's superior technical skill and supreme devotion to duty. His actions during his entire assignment as Crew Chief and Flight Chief reflect the highest credit both on himself and on the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

erofed

Here's my help for future issues of Echoes!

I enclose \$ 20 ⁰⁰/_{xx} to support the production and mailing of the 306th Echoes. I also want to support continuing reunion activities for those who once served.

Name RICHARD B. HANKEY

Address 1842 E. CRITTENDEN LN. PHOENIX, ARIZ 85016

Mail to: Wm. M. Collins, Jr.
2973 Heatherbrae Drive
Poland, OH 44514

NOTE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NEXT
306TH REUNION

Deed Hankey