

Sept. 16, '88

Mr Collins:-

I cant tell you what a kick I got out of the July issue of 306 Echoes. - I made my first trip to England this spring (May) with my wife. - While there I thought - what the hell I'll make a trip to Thurlough to see what's there. - I met Gordon Richards there (Bedford) & he took me to Thurlough & showed me the monument & it just wiped me out. -

Here are several snapshots of it. -

I had no idea that the 306 had a reunion program

until I read about it in
Andy Rooney's book. —

In case you are wondering
why I am so gung ho it
is because I came to Wendover
from Puddleton in March '42 in
a cadre of 50 men - first
sergeants, mess sergeants, cooks,
supply people & a few
company clerks including me.
I was in 369th from 3/42 until
8/45 when I finally got rotated
with 111 points. I from about
6/42 however I was in S-2
which was a group function. Brit.
I go back to when MASOR Curtis
Lee May was OPS officer in Puddleton
looking forward to Dayton OH
Feit, H.

P.S. -

Can you put
me in touch
with 369th
Coordinator
if you have
such an animal
Robt E Crane
for example

L. H. Hansen

(E for ELY)
(over)

MARTIN MARIETTA

Dr. John
Barnsfather,
he was Group
S-2 for most
of our tour.

L.H.

Pardon writing
eyes are shot.

July 10, 1986

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo MI 49007

Dear Russell

Last Fall, I believe around October I sent for your book "First over Germany" and received it promptly for which I thank you. - I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the retelling of 306th experience. Thank you again. - To identify myself, I was in Group S-2 (Assigned for admin. to the 369th) as S/Sgt in J A Bairnsfather's gang. I put many of those horrible black strings reaching into Germany ~~and the~~ on the briefing map. I was in that group of 50 men who came from Pendleton Field on Palm Sunday weekend 1942. First Sgts, Men Sgts, Supply Sgts, cooks etc. I was a lowly PFC who happened to be able to type. Later that spring Major Watts Humphrey requested my transfer to S-2.

Your book received many memories (2) of the early days. We were first assigned to tents in "Tent City". Two (2) of my tentmates were Wilson Elliott & Clyde Bennett, both of whom were early PW casualties. The war must have been a terribly long ordeal for them. I'm delighted to see that Wilson Elliott is active in the reunion effort. I hope he remembers me. - Our acquaintance was so brief!

Another episode that touched me was the fate of Chas. Crammers plane with Arizona Harris' heroic feats. The image of the top turret guns still firing, as the plane is sinking in the Channel is a very difficult image, until you remember the red hair and freckles, and the most intimidating lower jaw I have ever seen. I was one of the four (4) ground personnel in the air echelon from Woodover to Westover assigned to Lt. Crammers plane. Again my contact with these people was very brief but memorable. Such fine men, A.T., Kermit Constantine, Harry Messers, etc.

I remember as we were flying in the (3) area near Chicago, the navigator was asked for ETA. He said "about midnight" - I remember we touched down at Westover at 12:01 - My esteem for the flight personnel rose immeasurably.

Harry Meyers (waist gun) did not go on that fateful mission (I don't remember why) but was so unhappy that he didn't go. I suppose he thought he could have made a difference.

Cliff Langley, a good buddy from Wendover days, volunteered for gunner when they added a second waist gunner. Unfortunately he was in the tail when he got hit in Rip Roideam plane. I went down to the Oxford hosp. to visit him a few days after and he was his old joking self. - I was able to retrieve his helmet from Tech Supply and the steel spring strap in the helmet was severed by a .7.9 bullet. A very interesting souvenir for Cliff. I regret having lost track of him.

These close contacts, however brief, with these great guys left me with a feeling of being a Jonah. — I finally concluded that it was best that the flight crew (EM anyhow) were billeted separately from the ground personnel.

(4)

~~The~~ The new 306th directory came in the mail today and I was tickled to see new additions included some of my good friends. One in particular was the quint-essential goof-off in the service, and ~~was~~ about 20 years ago when I bumped into him in N.Y. he was an officer of a large (nationwide) bank.

I am looking forward to Dayton. I'd like to look you up. Bob Crane too. — He was the only real soldier in the 369th. — I have some very interesting souvenirs that may be of interest to the Historian. If not, Gordon Richards should get them. — When I was there (Thurlough) in May 1985, He said "The history of the 306th was here in England, not in the U.S." — I certainly hope he too, will be at Dayton. Until then, I sincerely
Lois Hansen

Dec 31, 1986



Leif Hansen
7029 Arbor Drive
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Russell,

It was a pleasure to meet and chat with you at Dayton, my first reunion. Certainly not my last. I thank you for the stuff returned to me, I assumed that you would retain it for your archives or whatever.

I thank you again for renewing the contact with Cliff Langley. (He keeps thanking me and I presume has thanked you. The thanks really belong to your VA friend) Cliff & I have corresponded via letter, cassette, and phone. In his last letter he sent me the enclosed INTELLIGENCE REPORT which I believe is a fine subject for inclusion in the 306th ECHOES. I remember in an early issue I read that you did not want to hear all the stories because you have heard them all. However, I believe that surviving 4 separate wounds and still shooting down

an FW 190 was a really noteworthy achievement. - Cliff explained to me that shortly after arriving at Gunnery School in FFA to start as instructor he was interviewed for this article. - I told Cliff I would like to send a copy to you, and he said OK. I presume that to be tacit approval for further use as you see fit. (No need to return as I have the copy Cliff sent to me) -

If you want to contact Cliff his phone is 1-606-744-2529. Incidentally Cliff at present in England through TAN 6. He went Dec 1st. to visit family. He said he would visit Thurleigh & look up Gordon Richards. He estimated, from his schedule that he would be at Thurleigh on Dec 12th which was the 1942 date of what he calls his rebirth. A remarkable coincidence! Gordon Richards will flip.

I hope 1987 will be a good year for you and yours. - I know the month of SEPT will. Had a note from REX BARBER. He suggested a NEW YEARS resolution for each of us to get 2 more people at the next reunion. Sincerely Les Hawson

March 11, 1987



Russell Strong
2041 Hillside
Kalamazoo MI 49007

Dear Russ

Working on my Rex Barber resolution, I have good news and some bad news. I've located a dear buddy from Wendover days. I was discharged 10/5/45 and married Anne on 10/20/45. - Waited long enough!! Al came to my wedding. When he got married several months later I went to his wedding (in Philadelphia). This puts our buddyhood into perspective.

I'm talking about:

ALBERT MARKOWITZ

7471 BROCKTON RD

PHILADELPHIA PA 19151

Like me, Al was in the 369th but assigned to Group duty in Communications.

I told Al you would send him the last Echoes, and probably an address directory. He expressed interest in the next reunion. - I will appreciate that,

Now for the bad news. Raleigh Holloway from Camp Spring MD died June 26, 1986. When I called, a woman (wife, I presume) answered and was upset when I identified myself. She said that "some colonel" had called and I assumed that the news would have reached you in time for publication in the last "Echoes". This was several months ago and shook me up enough to scare me from more phone calls. - Until today when I talked to Al.

Hope this is not too disappointed.
Looking forward to Sept. - My registration went in today.

Bill Wansley

24 March 1987

Dear Leif:

I appreciate your feelings of frustration over your call to Mrs. Holloway. I have had that happen a number of times and always find it difficult to handle. Although sometimes it results in a delightful conversation with a widow who is eager to talk about her late husband.

We are always dependent for updating our records on someone telling us.

As to Holloway, I remember that General Rader called me about the day the last Echoes went to press to inform me that he had indeed talked with Mrs. Holloway and had been informed of Raleigh's death. Now, that was in January and he had died the previous June. In the meantime, she had received two copies of Echoes, and perhaps the directory, without letting us know about, so I don't feel any great responsibility.

It is unfortunate, and I talked to a widow just recently whose husband had died three years ago and she had just not gotten around to letting us know.

There seems to be no definite pattern to such things. Some take care of it expeditiously and others are just too overwhelmed to handle such matters very well.

Don't give up calling, though, because the rewards of finding people and talking with old friends far outway the few who have passed away or who only want to gripe about their time with the 306th.

All the best, and expect to see you in September.

ssell A.
Briscoe,
a. Kleth
rzynski;
n, past

This is an interesting, small publication with a host of color pictures of principally 8th AF B-17s, with lots of nose art in color. That seems to be one area in which the 306th is especially short—color photos of airplanes and scenes around the base.

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ner, and
own ad-
5. Con-
may be

This is an interesting paperback to add to one's collection, but must rate more as a picture book than anything else.

2041
Home

M. COL-
Poland,

"Piccadilly Commando" and "Meat Hound" are two of the 306th planes shown.

ociation
, and as
c)(19).

More Issues of 'Echoes'

Here's my help for future issues of Echoes!

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

Name _____



Lelf Hansen
7029 Arbor Drive
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Address _____

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

*I enjoyed the
Dayton reunion (my first)
and look forward to next.
(over)*

As an original 369th member, - I
was in the cadre of 50 men ^{trpd}
from Pundleton on Palen Sunday 1942
and was pleased beyond words to see
many old faces (and fat bodies). If
there is any shortfall in funds for
the 306th Echoes let us know. JH.

Aug 20, 1987



Leif Hansen
7029 Arbor Drive
Frederick MD
21701

Russell Strong
Kalamazoo MI
Dear Russell

Last spring I forwarded an address for Al Markovitz in Phila. I called him last night to chat and found he has moved. (Fortunately, kept his same phone No.). He said I had revived his enthusiasm for the next reunion, and I am going to keep fanning it.

Looking forward to next month.

Sincerely
Leif Hansen

ALBERT MARKOWITZ
3939 CONSHOHOCKEN AV.
PHILADELPHIA PA 19131

Nov 17, 1987

Dear Russell

Out of the blue I received a letter from Robert Bliss. - Bob & I were in tent city, Wendover, and we were part of the nucleus of S-2 as originally formed by Major Watts Humphrey and Lt. Col. Douglas Coleman.

Bob got involved pretty much the same way I did. That is, by a visit to Thurlough. He too is very eager to catch up with all that has happened. Bob left the 306th late 1943 to enter pilot training, which he completed. At the risk of duplicating some effort I am forwarding his address.

ROBERT BLISS

1907 OAKMONT DRIVE

MONROE LA 71201

Needless to say Bob is looking forward to Las Vegas too. (over)

That was an interesting letter (found
in the last 306th Echoes, from Chas. LePue
of the seven people he named in the letter
I had taken pictures of six (6) of them.
Including Harnois from Dayton. I don't
know LePue but I'm going to send him
a copy of those pictures. Should blow his mind.

Speaking of pictures I'm sending the
enclosed which I took as the thing was
breaking up. (I have a duplicate) No need
to send it back but I would like you to
identify the third person. I believe Robert
William is the center, Is that Lambert on
the right side?

No need to respond thru letter other
than to identify the cast of character with
you and return my note.

Many thanks

Leif Hansen



Leif Hansen
7029 Arbor Drive
Frederick MD
21701

Feb 24, 88

Dear Russell

You may have heard about this bad news, but I thought you would appreciate the list of accomplishments of Col Klette. I had no idea. — Of course we could expand on the statement that he was an 'accomplished pilot'.

I'm afraid that at this stage of our lives there will be a lot of this going around. It must be the worse part of your function as secretary.

Leif Hansen

P.S. No response required.

P.P.S. I've sent in my 1st year registration.

20 February 1989

Leif Hansen
7029 Arbor Drive
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Leif:

Writing for myself, and for Don Ross and Reg Robinson, let me express our thanks to you for your recent gift to the 306th BG Project Fund.

Your interest in the Association, as witnessed by your gift and your enthusiastic participation in reunions, is much appreciated. You will hear further from us on this matter soon.

Sincerely yours,

William F. Houlihan
President

Amount received: \$100.00

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and give)
 (to Russ Strong at the Las Vegas reunion, or mail to his ad-)
 (dress: 5323 cheval Pl., Charlotte, NC 28205)

Date completed 4/11/88

LAST NAME: **HANSEN** FIRST NAME: **LEIF** Title:
 Street address: **7029 ARBOR DR.** Telephone: **801/694-0064**
 City, state, zip: **FREDERICK, MD 21701**

Date of birth: **6/24/1916** Wife's name: **ANNE A.**
 College(s) attended: **N.Y. UNIV.** Degree(s): **no** Year(s): **2**

Last employment & job title: **CONSULTANT INFORMATION SYSTEMS
 MARTIN MARIETTA CORP**

Year joined 306th Association: **1985**

Reunions attended: (by year or location) **DAYTON - CRYSTAL CITY -
 LAS VEGAS**

Serial #: _____ Sqdn: **369** Speciality: **AMOS 631**

Date joined 306th: **4/9/42** If combat, what crew? _____

Special duties or assignments w/306th: **GROUP 5-2
 (PALM SUNDAY)**

If commissioned w/306th, date & specialty: _____

Date departed: **9/1/45** Highest rank/grade w/306th: **S/SGT**

Other 8thAF units served with: _____

Top service assignments after 306th: **CIVILIAN**

USAF retirement date: _____ Rank/grade: **S/SGT**
DISCHARGE 10/5/45

Most memorable experience w/306th: (use back of sheet, too) **1. Flying Wendover
 to Westover with C CRANMER whose ship & entire
 crew w/ A.T. Harris all lost. Very disappointed -**

In the continuing search for 306th people, please inform the secretary as to any persons you know from the 306th who are not listed in the 1988 directory; consult your WWII address book as to hometowns of anyone not listed in the 1988 directory; inform the secretary as to anyone from the 306th whom you know now to be deceased.

The secretary is constantly seeking copies of orders issued at Thurleigh, either by the 306th Bombardment Group, Station 111, the combat squadrons, or other units assigned there. If you have any such orders, please send copies to the secretary.

If your immediate family or other heirs are not interested in your 306th memorabilia, you may wish to place with such materials directions and an address so that it can be mailed to the secretary. Such materials will be included in the 306th collection that will eventually be placed in the Library of the U. S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO.

2. Not flying to England with them. -
2. The collision of 20305th A/c overbird. I was
at interrogation room when main part of 1 fuselage

(over)

landed within short distance of inter-
room.

Personal to Russ Strong

Last Friday 10/28 I called on
Victor Spevak (POW from Berlin mission)
who is mentioned in your book as one
of only two survivors of that plane.
I don't know if you are aware that he
lost both legs/feet as a result of that
event. — I thought 367th people should
know. Victor gets around well and
never complains. — Victor would like
4 copies of Germany if available. If not
will there be another edition issued,
Victor is at 301-663-8787 if you want
to talk to him. — I'll be glad to convey
any messages otherwise.

Sincerely
Felix Hansen
Rm 611

RECORDS UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish to, fold and mail as per address on reverse side. Or, if obtained at a reunion, hand to Russ Strong)

LAST NAME: **HANSEN** FIRST NAME: **LEIF** TITLE:
STREET ADDRESS: **7029 ARBOR DRIVE** TELEPHONE: **(301) 694-0064**
CITY: **FREDERICK** STATE: **MD** ZIP: **21701**

DATE JOINED 306th ASSOCIATION: **MAY ~~1983~~ 1985**

REUNIONS ATTENDED: (Years) **1986-1987**

WIFE'S NAME: **ANNE**

LAST EMPLOYMENT: **MARTIN MARIETTA CORP. Retired 6/81**

COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED: **NEW YORK UNIV. 2 YRS, DEGREE(S): — DATE:**

SERIAL #: **32199444** SQDN: **369th** MOS: **631 INTELL. SPECIALIST**

DATE ARR: CREW:

DATE DEPARTED: HIGHEST RANK IN 306th: **S/Sgt**

SERVICE RETIREMENT DATE: **OCT 5, 1945** RANK or GRADE: **S/Sgt**

DECORATIONS WITH 306TH: **DIST. UNIT BADGE, ATD, ETD, GOOD CONDUCT (6 BATTLE STARS)**

TOP SERVICE ASSIGNMENT AFTER 306TH:

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS WITH 306TH: **GROUP S-2 JUN 42 - NOV 45**

QUESTIONNAIRE

CATERPILLAR CLUB - IRVING CHUTE COMPANY

NAME:

COMBAT JUMP DATE & MISSION:

HEIGHT WHEN BAILED OUT:

ANY PROBLEMS WITH PARACHUTE:

306th Bombardment Group. SQDN:

July 17, 1990

C. Dale Briscoe
1990 Reunion Chairman

Dear Dale

Enclosed are two (2) checks. -
One for the balance due on the
reservations, \$99.- In your
confirmation letter you noted
that I could switch my reserva-
tion from Randolph to Fackland.
I would like confirm that change.

Also a check for \$25. for the
1990 Directory. Russell Strong
keeps improving things. Great job!!
I'm reminded of Cal Kletts remark
at the Washington meeting when we were
discussing the matter of Secretary pay.
He said we would be getting \$50,000
worth of effort for a mere \$6,000.
(over)

My wife and I are looking forward to the San Antonio reunion. - We are even coming 2 days ahead, because it looked so good.

Thanks again for your double duty efforts.

Sincerely Ley Hansen
erstwhile S/Sgt from
Wendover days. &
Lt Oliver.

P.S. I hope to see Col. Oliver there - As well as yourself
LH.

A REMINDER: The 306th Bombardment Group Historical Association is a tax exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)19, and thus your gifts to the Association are deductible on your Federal income tax.

Too bad I can't itemize.
over

Dale, - I'm glad to help support
The 306th Assn. in this effort. And
to make sure the Futen Biten is well
represented. I wish I could afford more
See you in Little Rock.

Respectfully,
S/SGT in Group S-2.
Ray Hansen

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to
Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval
Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

Date completed 9/5/90

LAST NAME: HANSEN FIRST NAME: LEIF TITLE:

Street address: 7029 ARBOR DR Telephone: 301/694-0064

City, state, zip: FREDERICK MD 21701

Date of Birth: 6/24/1916 Wife's name: ANNE A.

College(s) attended: NYU Degree(s): M Year(s): 1935/6

Last employment and job title: MARTIN MARIETTA CORP (HQ)
CONSULTANT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Reunions attended: (by year or location) 1986 DAYTON ET SEQ.

Serial #: _____ Squadron: 369 Specialty: 631 INT,

Date joined 306th: 4/9/42 If combat, what crew: SPECIALIST

Special duties or assignments w/306th: S-2 w/ J. BARNES FATHER

Number of missions flown: _____ Date of last mission: _____

Date left 306th: SEPT? 1945 Highest rank/grade with 306th: S/SGT

Other 8th AF units served with: 34 B.G. PENDLETON OR
3/42 to 4/42

Top service assignments after 306th: NONE

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, will be welcomed by the secretary.

If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add
their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search
further for them.

over.

(TWA CAPT.) LARRY ONTI VEROS
80 ALPINE DR.
LATHAM N.Y.
12110

Served with 306 BOOB WINGS (B47)
(From 60 to 63) 369th - FITIN BITIN'

Russ; He was the pilot on the

TWA FLIGHT I came here on.

Chatting with him & one word led
to another when he told me of his
tie in with the 306th.

I told him he should be entitled
to reunion privileges. & would he
like to be on the mailing list. & he
gave me his address above.

I would like to mail him the
July issue of Echoes.
Even the rambling report.

Dear Russell

Thank you for your note about bringing Capt. Outwros into the organization. I'm sure he will be pleased.

I was wrong in the date of April 9th as my arrival at Wendover. It was April 6th 1942 as noted in your book, when 50 ^{came} men from the 34th B.G. in Pendleton.

I was drafted on Feb 7 in N.Y. 2 days later in Jefferson Barracks in MO. - then Pendleton for 4 weeks.

The 34th - was a training command and was moving recruits in daily and shipping Travel men out daily. My job was to type a complete roster daily reflecting all changes.

I remember joining the group of 50 men going to Wendover,

The only memories I have of that is: 1) It was a holiday weekend (Palm Sunday) and the rest of the train was full of beautiful girls on their way to Sun Valley for skiing. 2) I think I was the only private in our group, the rest being privates, techs, staff sergeants with a few corporals. It was a cadre of trained people. At Wendover other than the base personnel everyone was a private just out of school, or basic training. The people from Pendleton were 1st Sgts, Supply Sgts, Tech-Supply, Mess Sgts, and a few Line chiefs. George Atoms could give you better info on this as he was with the 34 B.G. from Wendover days.

The 1st Sgt for 369th Sq. (3)
for example was Francis Leedham
who in several weeks or so left
for D.C.S. Our Supply Sgt was Wm.
Bippus no longer on our address file
T/Sgt JACK VALUZZO was Tech Supply
M/Sgt ARTHUR HAENOIS was here Chief
Sgt JOHN SANUTH was Men Sgt.
Cpl ANTOVS, PVT KENNEDY were
Cooks. - The other squadrons got
their share of personnel in key positions.

I'm sorry to be of so little help.
Incidentally you said at San Anton.
that you were interested in putting
some names to a photo of 52
Officers.
And, I promised a write up on
TORCH & the FOUR HORSEMEN. You
should have it in a month or so.

I am enjoying more and ⁽⁴⁾more the reunions. San Antonio was one of the best. Even Anne is looking forward to them.

I'll see you in the yearbook.

Best wishes
Fay H.

(2)

I have visited Victor several times and it is sad. He lost his lower legs on the Berlin raid (pg 304 in your book) But he is cheerful and I think he enjoys my visits. We have a model B-17 and he painted the Logo CARBARN HADAMERSLAW which is shown in your last ECHOES. He didn't go down in that plane but before he was on combat he was a sheet metal man. I think he will try to make Pittsburgh. You should meet him.

I have also been in touch with Robt Henry. In fact I bought his book, I'm about 3/4 through. Very good in spite of all the humping & pumping as Billy Crystal puts it. He seemed lukewarm about participating in 6/15 Bill & Hist. I mentioned a book signing opportunity which was of interest to him. His video documentary was excellent.

I run on, Looking forward to Pittsburgh. The money we save on that will go toward 1992 in England. Thanks for everything. Best to June. She was a lovely model @ San Antonio. Left H. (301) 694-0064

P.S. I'm really sorry about the lousy typing job. When in S-2 many of the mission reports were written by me. - The one with no errors. I might say.

L.

PPS. Last 5 or 6 Bell & History days celebrations have been period pieces, mainly CIVIL WAR. See enclosed photos.

L.

Nov 20 '91



MR. LEIF HANSEN
7029 ARBOR DRIVE
FREDERICK, MD. 21701

Dear Russell

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in returning these strike photos which you were kind enough to lend for my WWII display at Frederick Bell & History day celebration.

The pictures were well received as was most of my exhibit. You would have enjoyed the exhibit of NOSE ART which I made up from the many pages of same from a number of back issues of ECHOES.

But Denny was also involved in our celebration too. Thanks for your recommendation. — See you in England

(over)

Leif H.

P.S. - I did not return the photos
from the Feb 3, 1945 Berlin raise
since that was the raise when
VICTOR SPEVAK was shot down and
lost both legs. I felt he was
entitled to that.

L.A.

MARTIN MARIETTA CORPORATION

6801 Rockledge Drive

Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Telephone (301) 897-6503

*returned 6/30/81
694-0064*

LEIF H. HANSEN

Consultant Information Systems

LEIF H. HANSEN

7029 ARBOR DR.

FREDERICK MD. 21701-7127

Tel: 301-694-0064

369th Squadron from 4/9⁶/42

WIFE - ANNE

JUNE 24, 1916 (IN NORWAY)

SS. 056-05-5034

see card attached.

7/6/92

Dear Russell -

I'm sure you must have seen this story about another Group (305) claiming the Rose of York. Where the hell do these guys come from? And what are they smoking?

Looking forward to seeing you again next month. Anne & I are going to Brussels and Paris before going to England. Thanks again for all your good work, Les 71

reproduced
9 Jul 92



Leif H. Hansen
7029 Arbor Drive
Frederick, MD 21701
October 20, 1992

Brittany American Cemetery
50240 St. James, France

Gentlemen:

I am sending this request for information which I hope you can satisfy. I attended the 50th anniversary of the arrival in England of the 306th Bombardment Group. Part of our reunion ceremonies included a visit to the American Cemetery in Cambridge.

It was there that I found that four (4) of our men who were missing were in fact, buried in Brittany, France. They are:

Lt. Albert Brunsting - copilot
Sgt. Charles S. Wall - gunner
Sgt. Robert L Ransom, gunner
Sgt. Edgar G. Whittaker, gunner

These men were members of Lt. Charles W. B. Cranmer's crew. Their B-17 was shot down in the English Channel 40 miles northwest of Brest on their return from a raid on St. Nazaire, January 3, 1943. Intelligence reports for that mission tell that the plane went into the water under constant attack and the top-turret guns were still firing as the plane sank. No parachutes were observed.

My questions are:

1. How were the men recovered from 40 miles from land?
2. Was death from exposure or wounds?
3. How and when did they get to Brittany?

The Battleground Monument Association in Washington, D.c. has told me that you probably have a "Personnel File" on all who are buried in Brittany. In that event I would appreciate any pertinent photocopies from those files.

(!)

My personal interest in this crew is due to being assigned with them during travel from Utah to England in the late summer of 1942. The Secretary/Historian of the 306th B.G. Assn. is also interested and I will forward everything to him.

I thank you very much for your attention.

Leif Hansen

Leif Hansen

Russ: Couldn't get our Clubhouse Secretary to tape this. Not busy for an old man.

If you ever read any neat Intelligence

summaries they were probably done by me. How things change!

cc: Russell Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC, 28205

Secretary/Historian 306 B.G. Assn.
Author: FIRST OVER GERMANY
Editor: 306th Echoes (Quarterly Newspaper)

As an after thought I called back the Battleground Mem. Assn. about the list of 306th people - she said how do you want it? I asked for alphabetical by country. That is all of ETO!! She will also send literature on all of their various services. I'll send it to you when I get them. Next time in DC I'm going there and give her a box of candy. Incidentally their address is: 20 MASS. AV. DC 20314

May 14, 1991

Dear Russell

Enclosed is my vital statistics for the new directory. Nothing wrong with the old one. I'm very sorry for the delay. I meant to do it last Feb, but you know how that goes.

Thanks too for the April issue just arrived. As usual I could not put it away until it was finished. The OBITs but 369th pretty hard Capt Hagg, C. C. Hunt, (Middle C for Cordell, a good Tenn. name) P. Pappas and Al Markowitz, with whom I shared many London experiences. Al came to my wedding ^{in N.Y.} on 10/20/45 and I went to his wedding in Philadelphia next spring. Bill Gentle photo lab gave me a priceless collection of 306 pics as well as the princess & Rose of York pics.

In the list of the WtCC of The MISSING I noted the omission of Lt. BRUNSTING who was Lt CRANMERS, CO-PILOT. I noticed this because on the flight from Newdover

to Weston, J.W. Haire the flight engineer
continued some kind of motor problem so
we could land at OMAHA which gave
Lt BROOSTING a last chance to visit with
his family. Having noted that omission
I referred to your book pgs 60-61 where
I saw that Wall, Ransom, and Whittaker are
missing. It is not important that they
are missing from your list, but if missing
from the WALL that should be fixed.

I have something good to say about
Navigators from that trip. As we were
passing the CHICAGO area he guessed we
would arrive ~~at~~ around midnight. - We
touched down at Weston at 12:01.

Two (2) names are missing from the
reunion roster, Taft and Langley. Both
had told me earlier that they planned
to go. I'll pick them up.

We are taking add-on Trip except
it is before the reunion. On Aug 46 we fly
to Brussels for 3/4 days then to Paris until
we boat/train to LONDON on Aug 25TH.

Looking forward to a fine August
Len Hannon



MR. LEIF HANSEN
7029 ARBOR DR.
FREDERICK, MD. 21701-7127

Dear Russell

Nov 6, 1992

Please excuse the stationery but I find it much easier with my bad eyes. Enclosed is another copy of the list of 306th men from the Battle Monuments Comm. You will notice that I have referenced the page numbers from your book. I thought you might find it useful. I was curious myself. It was startling to realize as I proceeded that you did not miss anyone! - Was that one of your goals as you planned your writing? I sure looks like it.

Hold the phone! The mail just came, with it my video from the reunion. Be right back.

It was a nice film. Good to see you in it. Too short, only 40 minutes. Nothing on the Bedford activity. Corn Exch etc.

Also enclosed is a few statistical breakdowns of the data in the list. Your Epilogue pg 3/6 says 483 men buried vs. 267 on the list is probably due to the men who were buried in the U.S. The people at Battlefield Mon. Assn. told me that when bodies were ready for final burial the families were given the choice of going home. The difference of 105 remains I can not guess.

I hope you don't mind the liberties I have taken. I am continually amazed at the amount of effort you have expended and I hope I have helped.

Best regards to you both Leif H

P.S. — After the last reunion (50th)
Anne told me that after 50 years
the war ought to be over, and she has
had it. Yesterday the Echoes came
and she is taking Alaska cruise. We
had our first ever cruise (Bermuda) 3 years
ago and she loves cruises.

J.

24 July 1993

Dear Lief:

Many thanks for the clippings on Victor Spevak. That makes writing an obituary so much easier.

A year or so ago, while wondering what to do with the obits from all kinds of people, some short, some long, I discovered that I could copy many of them on the back of my 3x5 file cards, which I did with Victor's. In this way I have a permanent record, and don't add another piece of paper to my files. And, when I copy that card file every three years or so, that permanent record appears on the microfilm.

The Association provided me with a small copier, hand fed, and I have found that while it would be nice to be able to run it automatic, that it really serves my purposes better for all kinds of things than a bigger model might. And, I certainly don't want two copies around--lack of good space.

Had to stop writing to move a sprinkler. We are trying hard in this daily 90-95 degree heat to keep our trees and shrubbery alive, and usually water heavily every morning and evening. And I just noticed that a small shrub that has been watered may not make it.

Now I am hurrying to finish up the 368th Combat Diary so that it too can go to Seattle. Looks Like I ought to make it to the printer by about 10 August, which is plenty of time. But, I'll also have to order some additional 367th diaries in order to have some to take with me.

Plans are going along well for the reunion, and I am expecting at least 600 there. After a year off for a stateside reunion this really ought to bring out a lot of people. I imagine for many it will be their only chance to ever visit that part of the country. We are going to a few days early to do Mt. St. Helen, Vancouver and to make a fall visit to Buchardt gardens on Victoria Island. Then we'll follow up with the Alaskan Cruise, which now has 62 people, and some are still talking about going. The last I knew the ship was full.

Look forward to seeing you and Ann once again,

July 21, 1993

Deer Russell

Enclosed is some bad news about one of your 367th men. I spoke to Natime today, finally. She said she would like to remain on the mailing list.

Victor had a stroke on June 21 and never came out of his coma. It was very sudden. I would visit with him occasionally, but sadly did not see him after the Thurleigh reunion. I had been planning to show him the reunion tape but never got around to it.

He had made a B-17 Model (hand carved) with the name "FIGHTING CABERN HAMMERSEW" on it. He told me that he had painted that name on the 367th B-17. Before combat he was a sheet metal man.

He was a fine gentleman and I will miss him. I sent a modest contribution to the ~~Brooklyn~~ Carnegie library. — Whenever I feel sorry for myself I turn to FIRST GERMANY and reread the story of Victor's last mission.

Also enclosed is a section of the Washington Post Book Review section from several weeks ago. Bob Denney is reviewing when not writing.

It will be good to see you again in Sept. Anne & I looking forward to AK Cruise. We planning 5 day stopover in Leekegan on way home. My brother lives in Hudsonon NV.

I hope we are in time to make the July issue of Echoes.

Regards

Leif A.

Mrs. Anne Hansen

Mrs. Anne Amanda Hansen, 76, of Crestwood Village, Frederick, died Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Frederick Health Care Center.

She was the wife of Leif Henry Hansen.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by Keeney and Basford Funeral Home, Frederick.

Mrs. Anne Hansen

Mrs. Anne Amanda Hansen, 76, of Crestwood Village, Frederick, died Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Frederick Health Care Center.

She was the wife of Leif Henry Hansen.

Born June 22, 1921, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Michael and Minnie Werderman Hoffmann.

Mrs. Hansen had been employed as a bank officer with North Brunswick Savings and Loan in New Jersey.

She was a Presbyterian and served many years as a church secretary.

Surviving in addition to her husband are two daughters, Karen A. Guest and husband Robert S. of Arlington, Va., and Lois J. Karasa and husband Norman of Monument, Colo.; one sister, June White of Northport, N.Y.; one brother, Michael Hoffmann of New York; two grandchildren, Andrew John Karwasa and Ruta Jane Karasa, both of Monument; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Hansen was preceded in death by a grandson, Edwin Marchetti.

The family will receive friends from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14, at Keeney and Basford Funeral Home, 106 E. Church St., Frederick. Funeral services will begin at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 15, in Etchison

Memorial Chapel of the funeral home, with the Rev. J. Russell Butcher, associate pastor of Frederick Presbyterian Church, officiating. Interment will be in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Frederick Health Care Center, Attn: Michelle Mahn, 30 North Place, Frederick, Md. 21701.

Dear Russell

9/20/97

Bad news from the home front. My wife died last week and has changed my life. Thanks to my two daughters they have put me on the right track. They reorganized my entire home. They spent a week with me and were wonderful.

I am now a dialysis patient MON/WED/FRI hooked up to an artificial kidney for 4 hours. With travel time & set up time it is at least 6 hours. Its working so I'm glad. See you NOV in Orlando.

Sincerely

Leif Hansen

24 September 1997

Dear Leif:

I was much saddened to receive your letter yesterday and to learn of Anne's death. I can only imagine the depth of your loss.

Then, I was cheered to read on that you are feeling reasonably well, even though on Dialysis. The fact that you are considering coming to Atlanta, is something that will bring joy to a of the other reunion attendees.

Our numbers seem to be growing rapidly, and it appears that we will probably have a reasonable crowd, although there have been too many moments of concern that all kinds of factors have entered in to perhaps shrink our crowd.

But I am daily receiving calls from Men who will be there, with an increasing number bringing along sons and other family to be with them.

June and I look forward to seeing you in about six weeks.

Sincerely,

Mr. Leif Henry Hansen, 81, formerly of Crestwood Village, Frederick, MD, and more recently of Arlington, VA, died on Wednesday, June 17 at the Arlington Hospital. He was the husband of the late Anne Amanda Hoffman Hansen, who died Sep 10, 1997.

Born June 24, 1916, in Tonsberg, Norway, he was a son of the late Hans and Olga K. Nelson Hansen. Mr. Hansen immigrated to the United States in Nov 1920, with his mother, and after entering thru Ellis Island, settled after several months with his family in Elizabeth, NJ, where he remained until they moved to Queens, NY. He received his early education in the New York area, and enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving with the 369th Bomb Squadron, 306th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force, E.T.O., until his discharge in 1945. He was married on October 20, 1945, and remained in New York, where he was initially employed as a runner on Wall Street; later with Pan American Airlines, in an accounting position. He later joined the Glenn L. Martin Company, Middle River, and relocated to Lutherville, MD. He continued in employment as a computer consultant after the merger of Glenn L. Martin Co, with Martin-Marietta, and had moved with the company several times including assignments in Sommerset, NJ, Greenbelt, MD, and finally moving to the Crestwood Community in Frederick in 1979. He retired from Martin-Marietta in June 1981.

Mr. Hansen was a member of the 8th Air Force Association; the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association; and the National Capital Area Chapter of 8th A.F. Historical Society. He was also active in annual reunion of these groups, and had attended with the 306th Bomb Group, the return to Station 111, Thurleigh, England, on the 50th anniversary of deployment in August 1992.

He also enjoyed writing and had articles published in the D-Day issue of "War Stories" in 1995, and was currently writing an additional story for submission. He had received a Certificate of Appreciation in May 1998, for his work with the National World War II Memorial, Washington, DC.; and was a member of the Francis Scott Key Post 11, American Legion, Frederick.

Mr. Hansen was an active member of the Historical Society of Frederick County, and served for a number of years as a docent; was a member of the Bell & History Days committee, for a many years; and created all the signage for the Civil War Walking Tour of Frederick City. He was also a ^{charter-}member of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable; a member of the Monocacy Battefield Preservation Association; the Friends of Antietam National Battlefield; and was active with the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Monocacy, and the Ransom of Frederick City.

He was also a member of the Frederick County Society of Model Railroaders, Inc, and had an active interest in the Walkersville Southern Railroad, Inc. Mr Hansen was also a member of the Fredericktowne Players, where his talents were often incorporated into stage design and set-up for performances at the Weinberg Center of Frederick.

He is survived by two daughters, Karen Alice Guest, and her husband, Robert S., of Arlington, Lois June Hansen Karasa, and her husband, Norman L., of Monument, CO; one brother, Stanley Hansen of Henderson, NV; two grandchildren, Andrew John Karasa, and Ruta Jane Karasa, both of Monument, CO; and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Edwin Marchetti; and a sister, Alice Heilmann.

The family will receive friends at the Keeney and Basford Funeral Home, 106 East Church Street, Frederick, MD, from 9 am until time of services at 10am on Saturday, June 20. The Rev. Dr. Marlin C. Hardman, associate pastor of the McLean Presbyterian Church, will officiate. Interment will be in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick.

Memorial donations should be made to the 8th AF Museum Fund, c/o Robert N. Houser, P.O. Box 13362, Des Moines, IA 50310.

Mr. Strong -

In addition to the above information, more detailed service data includes :

Inducted : 07 Feb 1942

Discharged : 05 Oct 1945

Military Occupation : Intelligence Specialist (631)

Rank : Staff Sgt

Decorations & Citations : Distinguished Unit Badge - EAME Medal - GCM