

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

SERIAL # 32625590

Name Charles F. Hayes
Address Box 287, Claridge, Pa. 15623
Telephone 412-744-2970 Date Feb. 12th, 1978
Occupation Retired Pl. Supt. Employer _____
Address _____ Telephone _____

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

Induction

After leaving the 306th:

Air Gunnery Instructor - 395th Combat Crew
Training School, Army Air Field, Ardmore, Okla.

306th Record:

Arrival Date Oct. 6th 1943 Squadron or other unit 369th

MOS _____ Combat Status Hammer

Missions Completed 32

Promotions S/Sgt.

Decorations AM 4 olcs DFC 1 olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH Battle Stars 3 other _____
Amer. Def., ETO Ribbon 2 Bronze stars, Dis Unit Badge,
Good Conduct medal, Victory medal, Overseas Bar (OVER)
2, Flying Instr. Insignia.

Other personal data:

Left E.T.O. Aug. 22, 1944

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?),

Much, much to much had happened and it would take a book writer to put it together.

Our fortress was named, "Satan's Lady,"

I was its nine o'clock gunner (waist). We were in the group when the Americans bombed Berlin in its first daylight raid. We were a group leader plane and we were leading the first raid when we got word the mission was scrubbed when we were more than 1/2 way there. Next day it was Berlin again, we were to the right of a lead plane. Just before we reached the target area that lead ship was on fire, from the bomb bay to the tail. Staid with to target area, dropped its bombs then turned to the left and blew up. There were missions when we could have walked on the flak, others that had some humor and others like the field was fogged in and a plane almost crashed us, we dove. Then the time we landed with no skin on the right wing, two 20mm's on through the main spar and one exploded between two gas tanks. Seen many a plane going down both ours & theirs, after we landed and it was a rough mission we would walk around the plane and count flak holes - one mission it had 43 holes.

I have target Germany book and several others, one is an air force book with a picture of the back end of our group, with a JV-88 on its tail. Some "Life" magazine & Star & Stripes paper

a clipping on the snuffy Smith
like you have and clippings
pasted in my book of all our
missions.

Pictures of the boys of the
369th Squadron, the briefing of the
"D"-day mission and bomb run pictures
of same. Plus a good many of the
missions we were on, I used to go
over to the photo lab and borrow a
hand camera from Francis Waugh.
He would also give me pictures of
strikes I was not on the mission,
so my scrap book is about 4" thick.

Could you please give me
Francis Waugh address, I would
like to get in touch with him.

Sincerely,
Charles F. Hayes,
Box 287,
Claridge, Pa.
15623

May 23rd 1979

Dear Russell,

Received the back issues of Echo, they are always very interesting. The one article asking about the German Air Force is very good. On one of our raids we dropped leaflets about, "Where is the Luftwaffe?" So with the leaflet in my book I added the article from Echo.

One problem with the pictures in my collection, I do not know the names of so many of our men. Many of these pictures were given to me as I had no camera of my own, and other mens names I had forgotten.

It would take hours, many hours to go through the book. Perhaps as much time as you would not like to spare from your friends here in Pittsburgh. I would make a suggestion, to send the book to you then you can photograph what you wish. Frank Waugh gave me many of the base pictures, including the King and Queen when they visited our base. The present Queen as a small girl christened the B-17 "Princess Rose". Let me know how you feel about my suggestion.

I do have that picture of "Satan's

"Lady" returning, I am enclosing a spare
picture of a painting that you may keep.

Sincerely yours,

Charley.

25 May 1979

Mr. Charles F. Hayes
Box 287
Claridge, PA 15623

Dear Charley:

Thanks for your letter received this morning.

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I am very interested in seeing your picture collection, and would be most appreciative if you would send it along to me. In all likelihood, I would have it only a day or two and then ship it back to you.

Yes, it is a problem on names. I have many unidentified pictures, but every so often I get lucky and someone comes up with a bunch of names.

I was there the day Rose of York was christened by the Princess Elizabeth, and stood within about 15 feet of the whole thing. I have a good set of pictures on that, but I am sure that you have many others I would like to see. I have a good copy setup and have learned to do it well and quickly.

UPS seems to work well to my house, if this is available to you, and I am sure that would be the quickest way to get it to me and to return it.

Looking forward to seeing your collection.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

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June 11, 1979

Mr. Russell A. Strong
Rt. 1, Turnpike Road
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352

Dear Russell:

Received your letter and after reading it, I'd say you got lucky on names. I've turned over several of the pictures and they had names on the back, so I had put tabs into them. There are others I had not turned over, so take your time and check them over.

Enclosed in the package are things that are not involved with the 306th Bomb Group, but I believe you will find interesting. In the one Air Force magazine dated July 1944 next or near to the last page you will see a German 210 fighter and an "H" wing.

On the "D" day mission we all received a paper about crossing the channel and freeing France, etc, signed by Eisenhower (signature in print). 20 years later I got his personal signature, Was'nt easy but I did it and its on that paper.

I have a request for two 8X10 pictures, they have a tab in them. Good luck and take your time, turn the pages of "Yank" magazine slowly as they like myself have mellowed with age.

Have to send the package regular mail as U P not in our area, they deliver here though.

Sincerely yours,


Charles F. Hayes

MEMORANDUM

Date July 27th 1979

From: C. F. HAYES

To: Dear Russ,

Subject:

Package received, thanks for the 8x10's their beautiful. I had no idea Pete had a super collection, he never mentioned anything about one in any of our correspondence.

After the scrapbook was in the mails, I realized I had not informed you of its lay out. That the missions were first and the missions pictures were in the center of the book. Among the pictures is a man who sat opposite me at the tailgate of the truck, when we were leaving for our plane site. He had a down cast look on his face, so I asked him what was the matter. He looked at me and said, "I'm not coming back." You talk about a man

having a premination, I did try talking him out of it and that crew did get shot down. He is on one of the unidentified pictures, the mission was to Enders.

Enclosed is a clipping I found in the Pittsburgh press dated July 8th 79.

Russ, I do not know how your computer got my name as Charles W because its Charles F as the men know me.

Would be very happy to converse with you on the telephone, next time you come to Sewickley.

Sincerely yours,

Charley