

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 6/3/91

LAST NAME: Herbst FIRST NAME: Kenneth TITLE:

Street address: Telephone: ()

City, state, zip: P.O. Box 308291, Ford, IA 51351

Date of Birth: 1/21/1908 Wife's name: VIVIAN

College(s) attended: Missouri State University Degree(s): BA 1981 Year(s):

Last employment and job title: Asst. Prof. at Wichita State University, IA.

Reunions attended: (by year or location)

Serial #: 423 Squadron: 2nd Specialty: Navigator

Date joined 306th: April 1944 If combat, what crew: PFFICER

Special duties or assignments w/306th:

Number of missions flown: 9 Date of last mission: Late Jan 17, 1944

Date left 306th: March 1945 Highest rank/grade with 306th: 1st Lt

Other 8th AF units served with: 8th Bombardment Co MATANZ

Top service assignments after 306th: USAF retirement date: Sept. 1945 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.

University

of



Okoboji

Okoboji, Iowa 51335

712-338-2424

8/28/81

Dear Russ;

Thanks for your letter of August 17th, and I'm looking forward to meeting you at the reunion in St Paul in Oct. I wish I could be of more help.

I will bring along some pictures in the hopes that I can identify some of my bunkmates.

I was married Aug. 1944 by the Registrar at Bedford and had as witnesses Lt. Harry V. Phillips, and Leslie Berry, and I lived in Dingleberry Hall. A Lt. (airline navigator from Brooklyn) and I had the NCOs room.

Several highlights of the 423rd, I sure will be a part of the history. I was a good friend of the Catholic Chaplain (Major Fitzgerald). I am not a Catholic but I remember his short service prior to the departure to the aircraft. I think he had as many Protestants as Catholics attending, and how he always was very returning mission. I went on a weekend leave with him to London and he took me to the Westminster Cathedral.

I remember the little Country Church on the final approach to our main runway. Several of us would often cycle there and just go in the Church and offer a silent prayer after a rough mission. Also there was a plus because we could buy some fresh eggs from a nearby farm.

As acting group company officers I was forced to show training films when the group was stood down to our air gunners. We were fortunate in having the Reconnaissance commanded by then Col and later Buck General Elliot Roosevelt. The special services Sgt at my request would pick up a good movie and I would show that instead. One morning when we were in the midst of watching "Ingrid Bergman in Saratoga trunk" the Ground Exec. came in and chewed me up on one side and down the other, and put me on a report. I saw my Colonel and acting chief of the report. However I could do no wrong as far as the gunners were concerned.

I've been back to England several times and in 1979 I visited the American Cemetery at Cambridge and later drove to Thurleigh, and found that it was a permanent base. I was not allowed on parts of the base and I did see the big hangar along with Vera Lynn (the sweetheart of the band) and his band were evacuated to our tented falling in London.

Bill Collins and I think there was a request for the postage so will send the check to you for the reunion. We will stay in Bloomington 06th Dendezvous room and we would want to be there the 15th. All the festivities on the 16th and the festivities starting at 1200 hrs. 17th.

Affectionally Yours,

Ken Herbst
Veterans Affairs Councilor
Our Mythical U.



e fun in life is your degree —

University of Okoboji

Okoboji, Iowa 51355



712-338-2424

11/26/81

Dear Lisa,
 I love
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to meeting you in St Paul, and was very sorry to
 your family. Im certainly looking forward to the
 Im sorry that I didnt know about the 306th th
 before.
 Judge Don Ross, a lead Bombadier and visiting wi-
 Squadron commander Col. Chalfont. After serving in t-
 a Staff Sgt. and later Athletic Officer with the
 volunteered when a New MOS opened up that of Aerial
 thru advanced Gunnery School in England and was
 in March 1944 and assigned to the 423rd.
 down, Col Chalfont would take a group of us to two
 the Pub keeper would break out several bottles of
 could buy one he would give us another on the house.
 us to several dances at a W.R,E.N communications
 at time.
 how he saved me from a severe R,primand. When we
 supposed to conduct a film training and discussion
 all gunners. As you remember we had a Reconnaissance
 Elliot Roosevelt and they got some of the latest
 service I got the new film Ingrid Bergeman in Sara-
 ad of showing a training film we had this on. Our
 came in and I belated shut of the film and called
 and then listened to a chewing and a threat of
 Thanks to Col Chalfont nothing ever came of it and
 as far as the Gunners were concerend I could do
 Bedford on August 11th and that night there was
 giving a party in the Pub at the hotel where we were
 operator who was always in trouble on the ground
 and of course would get his rank back when he was
 a couple of times and he insisted on giving my wi-
 had won when he was in Phase training at Los Veg-
 uer and in 1978 I remarried to an old friend who
 husband also with cancer. We honeymooned in England
 by old bases and my English relatives. We especia-
 ck to Thurleigh(which now is a very hush hush0 ex-
 we spent an afternoon at the American Cemetery
 eyed a visit with the assistant administrator who
 I looked up the disposition of two who were killed
 ngleberry Hall) and found that both bodies had been
 That is a beautiful cemetery.
 th year of doing a weekly radio program, called the
 rican Legion is on the Air, and Ive used several of
 306h Echoes. Would appreciate any back issues or
 light have available t at will fit in a ten minute
 of 1981 for me were the 8th Air Force reunion and
 the U. of Iowa!

Where fun in life is your degree —

University of Okoboji

Okoboji, Iowa 51355



712-338-2424

I did not graduate in 1934, but I had another year of eligibility in 1935. I lacked one education course. However I got a job and had some credits for officiating football and basketball as I did on my job so I was able to graduate and get those two credits.

I started in 1935 and they decided to waive those two credits and give me a major in Political Science instead of Physical Ed.

So I was one of the graduates on July 31st, that was the last official year to be a student. President Sandy Boyd. By the way this is also a great year to be a student. In a storybook finish our Football team is going to the Rose Bowl, our Basketball team is rated 9th in the pre season polls, and our baseball team is the talk of the midwest.

I am sending you an excerpt with our story of our U of Okoboji; I have filled several requests from the Dean of Admissions to the Veterans Affairs Counselor, and in several years we have presented Honorary Doctorate Degrees to our citizens.

At an annual reunion we had two world war 11 reunions here this past summer. At the reunion of the US Cruiser Trenton we presented three honorary Doctorates. The chief of one was presented to the former Division Chief of one of the divisions. He was given an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, because he had sixty four Bars at Beautiful Lake West Okoboji. Actually this is an ideal spot for a Reunion of the 306th but of course it would be large enough for an 8th Air Force reunion.

Ken

P.S. Enclosed is a check for \$17.50 for a History of the 306th. My wife is planning on giving it to me for Christmas.

KEN NICKER
R. C. HILL

University of



koboji

Obafemi Awolowo Way, Lagos

712-338-2424

Handwritten: koboji Spelling

6/16/82

Dear Editor:

I enclose please find another small check to help in continued 306th research. I appreciate the History of the 306th and I can realize how much effort and resources were involved. However I wish there could have been more stories of the extra curricular activities. Unfortunately I was on TD at Horad Air Base at the time of the big bash.

In Canada I served in the R.A.F from Aug 1941 to March 1943 when I transferred to the Air Force as a staff. Sgt in Special Services; I received a promotion in April and was posted to 8th Bomber Command as an aerial gunner. In Jan 1944 I volunteered to ~~serve~~ serve as an Aerial Gunner and completed Phase training in Feb. 1944 at the 8th AF school in England.

I was posted to the 423rd Squadron of the 306th in March and served also as acting Group Officer, until August when I was selected along with another RAF officer to help instruct at a gunnery school at Egla Field. We arrived in New York our orders were changed and we were to report to the Air Force base in Texas. When we reported in they were closing the school and orders were cut giving us some leave and then reporting back to base in England.

Because of personal problems I failed to clear the base and remained at Horad until the middle of ~~July~~ October. Then after more leave I finally reported to the 306th and found the gunnery officer position filled and I was assigned to Special Service.

Thank you for the advice as a gunnery officer I managed to be awarded the Air Medal and the RAF cluster. And believe it or not when I was ready to come home I had with 187 points as they gave me credit for my RAF service in the RAF and three battle stars that was awarded to the group while I was in the States.

I suppose the highlight of my service at the 306th was the morning that instead of showing a training film to the Gunners, I managed to get the movie Ingrid Bergman in Casablanca from the Special Services at Elliot Airfield. Unfortunately for me the Group Exec, happened to come in on that occasion. I was forced to call the men to attention and we told I would report. I immediately saw Col Chalfont (our Sqd Commander) and he was there. However from then on I could do no wrong as far as our Gunners were concerned. I was married on Aug. 11th in Bedford and somehow a group of gunners found out about it and had a party for my wife and I that night. One of my favorites a Tech Sgt. Radio Operator who would usually insist that my wife have a Silver Dollar he won in a game to be held in Vegas.

My Squadron Commander Lt Col. Chalfont was in my book a great commander and he died in 1975. When we were stood down he would take a dozen boxes of us to Luton where the owner would break out several bottles of whiskey. On two occasions we were invited to a W.R.E.N. dance at our base. It was a hush hush communications center.

I am sure I will remember the night that Glen Miller played a concert in one of the big halls and featured the British Seetheart of the Forces, I think her name was Lynn. I also have a picture and was assigned to to serve as a member of the Lancaster Bomber crew that visited the 306th in early 1945. I think they had more than 100 missions.

I had some pictures made of our residents at Dingleberry Hall

Handwritten: 1/1/82

Where fun in life is your degree — over

University of Okoboji

Okoboji, Iowa 52555



712-338-2424

In March 1941 I was wondering when you are at the reunion of anyone can remember some of the men. Will write on the back the ones I think I know. I will be happy to see a photo to anyone on it.

I went back to Raleigh in Oct. 1978 and found it was now an operational base with the area out of bounds because of experimental flying. I also visited the American Cemetery in Bedford. I also visited the Assistant Commandant, who was formerly a commander of the 1st division. I think the 305th.

Nalora and Dingleberry resident who were buried there both went home about some two thirds of the personell buried there.

Our University campus was the site of two WW 2 outfit reunions in 1981 and is scheduled so far for this year. Our summer season peaks in August about August 15th the motel and hotel owners offer special rates to various organizations holding conventions and reunions.

In addition to Great University, we have a very active Iowa Navy and they confer several commissions on qualified persons.

We at the University of Okoboji present several Honorary Doctorate degrees on deserving individuals.

An example of a reunion of the shipmates of the USS Trenton we conferred a Doctorate of Laws degree on a Former Chief (a Gun Captain who according to reports always had a quantity of spirits and beer in his foot locker. We recognized his qualifications "Because he passed all Sixty Four Basic Courses on Campus."

I was told by every member of the Crew at their ~~reunion~~ reunion and was told that it was the best reunion yet in the history of their organization. There are state camp grounds within one mile of the convention hq. and there are some 8,000 rooms for rent most going at 1/2 price after Aug. 15th. Many companies in the area have articles made here that is presented to everyone and everyone goes all out to make everyone feel they are all wanted.

The West Lakes Chamber of commerce would like to send full party members of the time and place committee in the hopes they will be able to come to Beautiful Lake West Okoboji.

Sincerely,

Ken Kestete

University of Okoboji



712-338-2424

Okoboji, Iowa 52050

PS I finished Both Penmanship & Typing!

8/16/82

Dear Russell;

I enjoyed "First Over Germany" very much. I can appreciate the tedious research that went into the writing of this book.

I have been interested in the war written by Edward Jablonski and there is some interest in it. However his book gives the overall broad picture and it is a story of personal involvement in the war.

By the way, the courses in College were a two hour course in American History. Just remembering Dates and incidents, we studied people of that time; handling which was practiced by Engaged Couples in the level of the war.

I hope you have enough material to do a sequel to "First Over Germany" in which you use stories; such as even when I moved into Dingleberry, Ill, that no one living in Dingleberry every completely roommate Lt Perline proved that story false by finding out that I was posted to the 423rd. I was the recipient of all the letters from home for the next month or so; which I distributed to my friends.

I was a member in the reaction of W.F. Smatlack, as I'm sure the course position in the 423rd as Gunnery Officer was not available to you. Actually I went to England in August 1941 and instead of going Air Force, I was posted to an R.A.F. training center as an instructor; I transferred to the 8th Air Force as a staff sergeant and shortly after received a commission as a 2nd Lt. I served as Athletic Officer at 8th Bomber command until I volunteered for training as a Gunnery Officer. I was posted to the 306th Bomb group and assigned to the 42nd Squadron. At that time I served as acting group gunnery officer and participated in combat missions.

In late August I was ordered to report to Eglin Field to participate in a Flexible gunnery school for Air Gunners. When I reached New York the planes were changed to Lockheed Texans. When we arrived in Texas the gunnery school there was scrubbed and we received orders to return to our original Bomb group. When I cleared the station they found I had dental work, so they pulled three teeth and I was allowed to return to the hospital which was Air conditioned until the plates arrived. Unfortunately there was a mixup and after two weeks I was placed, so they took another impression and they were finally a week later both plates arrived; It seems the man P.O.W. and the first plate had been sent to a ... Camp. My delay in route I finally arrived back at the 306th, and I was assigned to see me. My vacancy had been filled by a pilot who had been grounded and was staying on so I was again assigned to

old Commander at Bomber Base requested my services at Bomber Command. Then in Sept. 1945 when the points

over

Where fun in life is your degree —

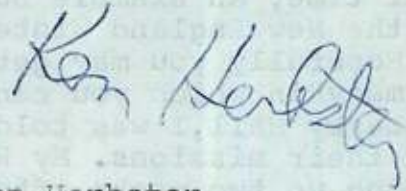
System came out I was suprised to find that I had 187 points and Col. Shilling and I were the first two Officers from the Bomber command to be sent home.

It seems that I got credit for all my R.A.F. time plus the R.A.F. Medallion that was given to all Americans participating in the R.A.F. upon their induction into the U.S. Army Air Force. Also I got at least three battle stars for the time I was in the Zone of Interior.

In the event that you decide to do a Sequel, Im sure that a number of us would be happy to jot down our own experiences, which could be assembled.

My wife and I were in England and Europe for three weeks in May and while I would like very much to be at the dedication at Thurleigh I want to be a part of the 306th Bomb Group Memorial. Will you see that my check gets to the right place.

One final comment; While sitting around the Rondevous room at St Paul one of the best comments I heard was by the wife of one of the better story tellers. "She said" After looking at all these old men, I wonder just how in the Hell we won the War".



Ken Herbster
1 Milford Ia. 51351

University of Okoboji

Okoboji, Iowa 51355



712-338-2424

12/1/83

I have a copy in my Rd. But not in Spellman

Editor
 The Okoboji
 Journal
 P.O. Box
 Okoboji, Iowa
 51355

I sent a small check to aid in continued publication.
 and I especially appreciate the Squadron pict-
 Oct. 1941 to March 1943 as a Physical Training
 training center at Cosford, I transferred to the
 was later commissioned as a 2nd Lt. and served
 untill Feb. 1944 when I volunteered as an Aerial
 completed a flexible gunnery course and was posted
 Gunnery Officer in April 1944.
 the following orders. Spec. orders No. 123 6May 44
 tions order No.2 30June 44 Spec. orders 188 6July 44
 July 44 . I qualified for an Air Medal and Oak leaf
 you do not have copies of these orders Ill be glad

After I was privileged to be invited by Col Chalfont
 officers to a Royal Navy signals station for WREN
 trips to Luton at his favorite Pub where the owner
 catch when our group would show up.
 acting group gunnery officer, and one of my duties
 ing films to gunners when we were stood down. I de-
 didnt need any more training films so I made arr-
 the latest movies from special services at the
 handed by Col Elliot Roosevelt.
 at of watching Ingrid Bergmann in Saratoga trunk;
 roped in. He chewed we out and said that he was
 However I saw Col Chalfont and he told me to forget
 . We still showed movies. Needless to say I could
 the gunners were concerned. When my wife and I were
 he 20 of the gunners were celebrating at the pub in
 staying. One a Lead radio poerator insisted on gi-
 dollar he won when he was on phase training in Nev-
 ked his missions so it was a celebration.
 ury Hall and was fortunate in having a semi priv-
 My first roommate was a Navigator by the name of
 Brooklyn. Has heever been found? He finished up
 time I was his roommate he used to get two or three
 home. When he left he put me in charge of the
 getting them for the next month or so and I would
 group in the barracks.
 e of the group hoping that you might use it in the
 the picture would write in. I have an enlargement and
 path.
 thank you letter telling him that Ive never attended
 ion, and I feel sorry for any future group in trying

Herbster R. Milford Ia. affectionally yours,
 51351
 — Where fun in life is your degree — *Herbster*

University

of



Okoboji

Okoboji, Iowa 51355

712-338-2424

March 5, 1984

306th Bomb Group Committee
Box 16917
Fort Worth, TX 76112

My wife and I expect to attend the 9th reunion of the 306th Bomb Group, Oct. 25, 26, 27 1984 in Fort Worth. I am inclosing the \$25.00 registration fee.

Please include us in group B for Friday Oct. 26th. Im sure that with the exception of the Reunion at Thurleigh; our 83 reunion was the best ever.

Your plans for 3 days in Fort Worth, I think will top our 83 reunion. My wife and I are looking forward to Billy Bob's and to riding and dancing to WW 2 tunes played by the S.A.C. band. My wife had always dreamed of shopping at Neiman Marcus. Hopefully I just will not be able to misplace her Visa Card.

I was interested in Russell Strong failing to mention that Major Glenn Miller's Air Force Band was evacuated from London during the night of the Buzz Bomb attack and based at the Reconnaissance Camp at Thurleigh. Im sure all of us who were at Thurleigh in July 1944 will never forget the program by Glenn Miller's Air Force band and the performance of Vera Lynn (the sweetheart of the Forces) (British)

Sunday March 4th Radio Station W.C.C.O. Minneapolis presented a two hour program of dance tunes of the 30s and 40s. with the last half paying tribute to Glenn Miller. The Director of the Minnesota ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ joined Glenn Miller's band in 1938 and then enlisted in the Air Force band.

Im sure that W.C.C.O. would be happy to give the S.A.C. Band director a copy of the script used in this tribute; and I feel that a program featuring his music and tribute would be used by his home town of Clarissa for their yearly observance of his birthday. We are happy to be keeping the memory of their home town boy alive.

Ken Herbster
Veteran Affairs Counselor
U of Okoboji.
R.1 Milford Ia. 51351

Complete
Electric Service



Herbster Electric Co.

217 Grand - 51301
Phone 262-4913
Area 712

Spencer, Iowa

8/27/87

Dear Russell;

Enclosed please find a check for the 306th Echoes.

Johns McCollum's review of the Book Paper Doll put me right back in Dingleberry Hall 423rd. It brought back memories of the times when we were stood down. Col Chalfont would requisit a truck and a driver and we would go to Luton to a special Pub where they would cook out the scotch for the Colonel. He also tok us twice over to a Navy signals station manned by WRENS and we would enjoy a night of dancing.

I arrived in England in August 1941 and after spending three weeks in Bournemouth at a reception depot for Overseas R.A.F. troops, I was posted to Cosford a large training center and spent fifteen months as a swimming instructor.

Like most other Americans serving in the R.A.F. after Dec. 7th 1941 I started trying to get transferred to the U.S. Army Air Corps. That was accomplished in March 1943 and I finally worked up at Bomber Command HQ at High Wycomb. I volunteered in Oct 1943 to go to the gunnery course at the Wash and qualify as an Aerial Gunnery Officer. After finishing the course I was posted to the 423 as an Aerial Gunnery Officer and moved into Dingleberry Hall.

I was married on Aug. 9th 1944 and three from my barracks were going to town so I asked them to come and be witnesses. I took a picture of all three with my bride and two of them showed up on our Marriage license; When we went to the 8th Air Force reunion at Ft. Belvoir I called down the two names on the marriage license; and the first afternoon in our Messing Room Bill Guilfoyle flashed the picture saying he recognized the wife. My wife and I were with you on the dedication of benches.

We joined Ed Phillips and part of his crew at the banquet in Omaha; Phillips brought Retired Gunners to the Banquet and I think nine of his crew were present at Omaha. They all got home without a scratch but one of the gunners was killed in a car accident.

One of the things that was the Concert by Glenn Miller with the Sweetheart of the Forces here by the side of the Hangers. I was on the welcoming committee for the R.A.F. types that were invited to the concert.

About the middle of May I was ordered along with another Gunnery Officer from the 4th to return to the States as an instructor in a flexible gunnery school at Tampa Eglen Air Base. When we arrived in New York they changed our orders and sent us to Colorado Texas. We departed in on Friday Afternoon and they knew nothing about it so they gave us a hard time and we went to San Antonio. When we returned on Monday A.M. they decided to send us back to the U.K. as with the B 29s there was no need for flexible Gunnery training.

I cleared everything out at the Dentist where they pulled three teeth and told we as long as I had my teeth I could stay in the Hospital which was Air Conditioned until I got the mail from San Antonio. It would take about a week or less. After waiting a few days; they decided to make another impression and then about three days later sent me the partials. The first one had been sent to a German P.O.W. camp thinking I was a German P.O.W.

I had a 21 day layover route so after visiting I reported in at 4P.M. to Fort Cotton and was checked in seven P.M. and on a plane to the Azores at 8 P.M. over

Q9

I frankly have no idea what kind a priority I had but there was some 200 Chaplains there trying to get overseas and some had been there for two or three weeks. We ran into a bad snow storm about a half hour later and they diverted us to Bangor Maine where we landed in a blizzard. R.A.F.

We left the next evening and that was the best flight I ever had. Several of the V.I. Ps were going to Africa so they took the train to New York and we had a 20 knot tail wind so we flew directly to Prestwick. The Capt. invited me come up and sit in the Co-pilots seat for a half hour when with a full moon we could see the Ice in Newfoundland and the waves below.

I stopped to see my wife on the weekend and then reported in at the 306th and they wondered why I came back. Shortly after I got a promotion and was assigned to the 8th Bomber Command at High Wickam, where my wife and I rented a flat and I was able to live off base.

I was one of two officers to be sent home after V.E. and I found I got three points a month for my R.A.F. service plus 5 points for the R.A.F. medal; and best of all I also got three points for all the time was in the states plus several five pointers for the Distinguished Service Battle Stars. I had 198 points.

Finally Iowa had a WW 2 bonus and while I was living in Madison Wisconsin at the time I went to England I gave Spencer Iowa as my hometown and according to the bonus payment if you were essential war work for six months or more prior to your enlistment in the Armed forces that was counted. They decided after three years that my R.A.F. service was essential war work so I got a maximum bonus and we were able to use that money to build a new house. R.P.

SINCERELY YOUR,

Ken Herbst

Hope Fully you can find something in
the three specimens I listed. I was
missed by a piece of Flack when our No 3
Explosive was hit over Hamburg, and I have
the piece of Flack which was $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from
an edge, we got down to 3 Explosives with
the formation.

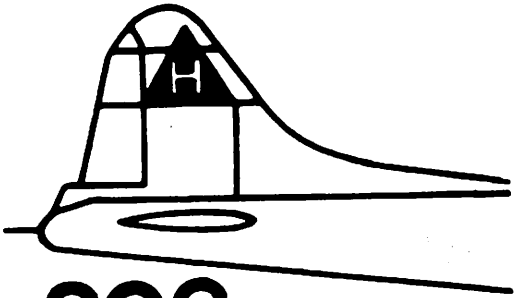
I appreciate you, He 1A

Ken,

I WAS SWORN IN MARCH 16 - 1943 AS
A TRANSFER FROM THE P.A.F.

I LATER VOLUNTEERED AS A JUNIOR OFFICER
IN FEB, 1944 AND AFTER FOUR WEEKS ON
JUNIOR TRAINING I WAS ASSIGNED TO
THE 423RD.

ON AUGUST APPROXIMATELY 10TH I WAS
SENT TO THE STATES TO REPORT TO ENGLAND
AT TAMPA FLORIDA, WHEN WE GOT TO
NEW YORK THEY SENT US TO LOUISIANA
THEY DIDNT WANT US! BUT THEY PULLED 3
TEETH AND I HAD TO WAIT FOR A PARTIAL
SOME 20 DAYS, THEN I HAD A DELAY IN
RANKS I ARRIVED AT THE 306TH AND MAY
REASSEMBLED SOME TIME IN NOV. FORT WORTH
I WAS PART OF THE 306TH AND GOT ALL THE
POINTS AND 2 MEDALS WHILE IN TEXAS.



367th, 368th, 369th, 423rd Squadrons, and service organizations
Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England – September 1942-April 1945

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

President

M.E. Christianson
3871 Boca Bay Drive
Dallas, TX 75244

3 June 1991

To All Ground Officers:

Vice President

Donald R. Ross
P.O. Box 307
Omaha, NE 68101

In preparing a listing of Ground Officers who served with the 306th or any of its service organizations, I would like to pass it by those of you now on the 306th mailing list.

Secretary

Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Hopefully, you may be able to add to, subtract from, or correct the names which I have found in my research of the 306th.

704/568-0153

Treasurer

C. Dale Briscoe
7829 Timber Top Drive
Boerne, TX 78006

I have condensed the names on to the two sheets accompanying this letter, and ask that you read through the list, noting that those names followed by an asterisk are currently on our mailing list, while those names followed by (D) are known to be deceased. Obviously, there are some deceased whom you may know about. Please let me know their names. Also, if you know the whereabouts of anyone not delineated, please give me a current address or at least the city where they live. Or, you may remember the college they attended, or the place they came from when you knew them 50 years ago! Any lead you can provide will be followed up diligently.

Directors

Rex C. Barber
2252 South 1000 West
Syracuse, UT 84041

Please check your own listing, and add those titles which I have not listed.

C.F. (Casey) Jones
136 Coventry Drive
Henderson, NV 89014

I am also interested in two other dates; the date you arrived with the 306th, and the date on which you departed.

George G. Roberts
49 30th Street
Gulfport, MS 39507

As some of you know, I am very interested in having you track down your own 201 file. I am constantly looking for orders issued by the 306th Bomb Group, or Station 111, or by the squadrons or any service organizations at Thurleigh. These are valuable sources of information. If you can, make copies and send them to me. If you send me your originals, I will copy them immediately and return them by the next day's mail.

Leo H. Van Deurzen
621 N. Ontario Street
DePere, WI 54115

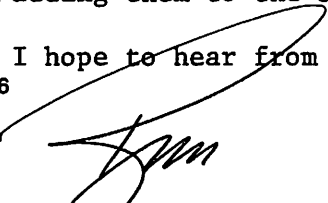
Past President

Robert P. Riordan
6805 Santa Maria Lane
Dallas, TX 75214

I am also interested in any special pictures you may have from Thurleigh. If you would permit me to copy them I would be delighted. If you have come to that point where you would like to see them have a good home, please consider adding them to the 306th collection.

1991 Reunion Chairman
James F. Macry
Box 165
New Brighton, PA 15066

I hope to hear from you soon and best wishes to you,


Russell A. Strong
Secretary and Historian

1991 Reunion
19-22 September
Pittsburgh, PA

Spencer loses leaders

By Joni Weorholm
Daily Reporter Staff

Spencer lost two great leaders this week, leaders who left a long legacy of volunteerism and tremendous community betterment efforts.

270897
Ken Herbster, 89, died on Tuesday. Herbster was a long-time Spencer business owner of Herbster Electric and very active in the community. He was Spencer's 1972 Citizen of the Year.

Lee Holt, a former state senator, died on Wednesday. He was 88. He, too, owned a Spencer business, Lee Holt Motors, and was very active in both community and state affairs. Holt was Spencer's 1977 Citizen of the Year.

Service to his community and country was a lifelong commitment for Herbster. He worked with the American Legion, where he held the office of Service Officer of Glen Pederson Post No. 1 for several decades.

In 1955, he took the helm as

Commander of the Ninth District of the Department of Iowa, American Legion, and built it into the largest in the state, with more than 14,000 members.

One of the accomplishments Herbster was most proud of was his 30-year weekly American Legion radio program aired on KICD.

He was a member of the Milford Kiwanis, a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, Spencer VFW, and a member of Union Memorial Church.

Following his retirement, Herbster lived at Pocahontas Point on West Lake Okoboji. He was a member of the West Okoboji city council for almost 30 years.

Herbster strongly believed in the strength of volunteerism. He once commented, "Many good things just wouldn't get done without volunteers."

Services for Herbster are today. A full obituary appears on page

Leaders

continued on page 3



Ken Herbster



Lee Holt

Leaders

continued from page 1

Senator Holt's list of activities was lengthy; a former board member of Spencer Industries Foundation; member of the Spencer Rotary Club; an original board member for St. Luke Lutheran Home; former chair of the Lutheran Family Services of Fort Dodge; past chairman of the Fellows of Augustana College; past president of the Parents Association of Augustana College; chair of the revenue committee for the Spencer Centennial celebration in 1971; former chair of the Spencer School of Business advisory board; former chairman of the

First English Lutheran Church congregation; active member of the Lutheran Laymen's League of the Iowa District West.

He was past president of the Iowa Automobile Dealers Association; a member of the advisory council for Iowa Lakes Community College; served on the Spencer Association of Business and Industry board and served on the State Legislative Council for AARP.

From 1979-83, Holt served in the Iowa House of Representatives; from 1983-89 he was a member of the Iowa Senate.

Holt continued to be active as chairman of the board for St. Luke

Lutheran Home. He once commented that "serving and providing care for people who cannot care for themselves" had been one of his most rewarding efforts.

A new project of St. Luke's, an adult day care service, has been named the Lee Holt Center for Adult Day Services.

Holt was also recently active in the Spencer Regional Healthcare Foundation's successful fund-raising drive for the newly-completed Abben Cancer Center.

Services for Holt will be Saturday. A complete obituary will appear in Friday's Daily Reporter.

IN MEMORY OF
KENNETH E. HERBSTER

February 7, 1908

October 27, 1997

SERVICES

Union Memorial Church-Milford, Iowa

2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 30, 1997

OFFICIATING

Rev. John Rozendaal

ORGANIST

Gerry Sternberg

DUET

Bev Austin & Wendell Williams

"Whispering Hope"

"Hymn of Promise"

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

"O God Our Help, In Ages Past"

CASKET BEARERS

Cal Christensen

Dale Feldman

George Heikens

Tom Christensen

Aaron Holz

Terry Heiliger

Philip Christensen

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Milt Warner

Rudy Leytze

Herb Safely

Wilbur Rabel

C.H. Thurston

Steve Meyer

LeRoy Morton

Howard Titterington

Roy Olson

Riley Gillette

Virg Wahlman

Herman Richter

INTERMENT

Okoboji Cemetery

Arnolds Park, Iowa

Arrangements by Warner Funeral Home

Spencer, Iowa

Kenneth Edward Herbster, the son of John Jacob and Margaret Edwards Herbster, was born February 7, 1908, in Milford, IA. His mother died when he was a year and a half, and his father when he was 12. His older brother, George and sister, Marie and an aunt, Mrs. Emma Herbster Knudsen, helped raise him. He attended high school in Milford, Arnolds Park, Waldorf Academy and graduated from Meservey in 1924. He attended Ellsworth College, U. of Wisconsin, U. of Utah and graduated from the U. of Iowa. Following college, he was first owner-operator of a Maytag business in Cambridge, WI and later of Herbster Lighting Design Inc. in Madison WI.

In the late summer of 1941, he went to Montreal and enlisted in the Royal Air Force, later transferring to the 8th. Air Force after the U.S. entry into WW II. He served 4 years in England as a gunnery officer on B17s and in Special Services. He married Joan Skett of Tipton, England in July of 1944. After his discharge, he came to Spencer and established Herbster Electric, Inc., an electrical appliance and contracting business, which he owned and operated for the next 45 years. He also attended the Field Artillery School at Ft. Sill, OK, and as Capt. Herbster, was the first commanding officer of the 194th. Field Artillery Battalion of the National Guard when it started in Spencer in 1948.

He was a 50 year member of Spencer's Post #1 of the American Legion and served as Post and District Commander. He had a weekly radio program on KICD for 31 years, and was a long time Service Officer. He moved to the family property at Pocahontas Pt in 1958. He was a member of the Union Memorial Church, Spencer VFW, Milford Kiwanis, longtime member of West Okoboji City Council, and "Meals on Wheels" volunteers. He was Spencer's "Citizen of the Year" in 1972. He was a member of the 306th. Bombardment Group Assoc. and attended a number of reunions, including the 50th. at the old base at Thurlough, England in 1992. Joan died in June of 1977, and in October of 1978, he was married to Vivian Heikens.

Ken loved his family and cherished his friends, especially his American Legion comrades, and his associates and customers of Herbster Electric. He was a voracious reader and a great story teller. He enjoyed Lake Okoboji, a good game of bridge, traveling, fishing, and most all sports, either as a participant or spectator. He has been a resident of Milford Nursing Center since June of 1995.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother & sister; and his first wife, Joan. He is survived by his wife, Vivian; three step-children: Dr. George Heikens of Vining, MN; Kathy Heikens Christensen of Spencer; Dr. Barbara Heikens of Burlington, IA; 6 step-grandchildren: Tom Christensen of Rockwell City, IA; Lori Christensen of Iowa City; Philip Christensen of Lawrence, KS; Julie Christensen Heiliger of Urbandale, IA; Molly Holz of Bozeman, MT; Aaron Holz of Iowa City, IA; one great-grandchild, Jacob Andrew Heiliger of Urbandale. Also a niece, Yetta Ashworth of Tulsa, OK; a nephew, Jim Herbster of Savannah, GA; 5 great nieces including Elaine (Mrs. Dale) Feldmann of Broken Arrow, OK; and Christy (Mrs. Kemp) Lewis of Farmington, NM; several great-great nieces and nephews and many friends.

“TAPS”

DAY IS DONE ~
GONE THE SUN
FROM THE LAKE...
FROM THE FIELD...
FROM THE SKY ~

ALL IS WELL,
SAFELY REST
GOD IS NIGH.



KEN HERBSTER

1908 - 1997

KZN
↓



KENNETH E HERBSTER #236

4TH FROM LEFT

3^D FROM RIGHT

2ND ROW

IN FRONT OF BINGLEBERRY HALL

KEN JOINED RAF IN SEPT '41 -
FINALLY WAS TRANSFERRED OVER
APRIL 1943

Vivian Herbster
2122 Okoboji Blvd.
Milford, IA 51351-7039
2-8-01

206A Echee
5323 - Cherry Place
Charlotte NC 28205

To the Editor -

Has interested to see the picture of the
"Lingliberry Hall" crowd in the January, 2001, issue
of "Echee". It may be the same my late husband
put ten or fifteen years ago, but cropped (and
embossed.) The one he sent is identical but a sign
"Lingliberry Hall" is visible against the building.

The only picture he could have had was, of course,
his own. Ken is ^(2d son Ken Herbster) 4th from left in second row
(wears "overseas cap on.) Ken joined the R.A.F. in
Aug 1941 and after Frank Mather, started trying
to transfer to the Army Air Force. This was finally
accomplished in March of 1943. He spent time
at Fiddington, High Wycombe, and then got
into Gurney School at someplace he called

the "Wash" and sent to the 306th at
Sherburne in Feb of 1944, and was
there until March 1945, then back to
High Wycombe which I think was 8th Bomb
Command.

Ken was 36 years old when he went
to Sherburne as a waist gunner. Because he
was not attached to a regular crew, he
got to fly only when someone else was
unable to go that day. He did get on
a mission 10 days or so -

He spoke of going with the Chaplain
after to Cambridge for business, and got
getting baseball equipment together and
organizing baseball games. (He'd played
football at both ^{US} Universities & U. of Iowa
and was a Phys Ed major at Iowa.) He
also remembered teaching some business
classes as sort of "in-service" training.
He'd had a business in ^{electrical & lighting} Madison, Wis,

Pre-war - and again in Spencer, Ia, for 45 yrs.

I do hope you will get names of some of those in your pictures. Ken died in Oct 1997. (He almost made it to 90!) Ken had enjoyed a number of the reunions, including the 50th Reunion in 1992 at Huntington. Was gone there in the late 70's by ourselves, a few years before the first 306th Reunion there.

Ken did a lot of American Legion work, - and patriotic speeches at Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances for years. His four years in England were very important ones in his life.

Yours Truly

Timothy Herberts Herberts
OK

After the war
Ken later went to Field Artillery School at Ft. Sill
and as Capt. Herberts commanded the first National
Guard ^{unit} at Spencer - still active