

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE

Russell A. Strong 2041 Hillside Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Name GERALD J. KRUSZYNSKI AKA. GERALD J. KRUSE  
Address 1971 43<sup>RD</sup> AVE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116  
Home Phone (415) 564-3269 Date 5/4/81  
Occupation SALES Employer VELVETONE - GALLAGHER CO.  
Address 49 14<sup>TH</sup> ST. S.F. CA. 94103 Bus. Phone (415) 431-3701  
Serial No(s) 6916649

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

REGULAR ARMY

6<sup>TH</sup> DIV. HDQ. BATTERY - FORWARD RADIO OP. & OBSERVER  
8<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY

After leaving the 306th:

ASSIGNED TO KEESLER FIELD MISS. RADIO MAINTENANCE  
DISCHARGED JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> 1945 ON POINT SYSTEM

306th Record

Arrival date at Thurleigh 10/9/42

Squadron or other unit(s) 423<sup>RD</sup>

MOS # \_\_\_\_\_ Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

Missions Completed (and date of last) 7 EARLY 1943

Promotions \_\_\_\_\_

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM PH<sub>2</sub> Battle Stars

(On unusual DFCs, and Silver Stars and above would like to see a copy of the citation)

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?)

FIRST MISSION FOR GROUP 10/9/42 - LILLE. FRANCE  
WITNESSED MOST OF OUR EARLIER LOSSES, LT WARNER  
EDDIE ESPATA ~~WARR~~ - ARIZONA HARRIS ET AL

1/13/43 MYSTIFYING COLLISION OF 2 PLANES  
RETURNING FROM LILLE

1/3/43 BAD WEATHER FORCED US DOWN ~~AT~~ AT ST. EUAL  
ENGLAND AFTER LOW LEVEL ATTACK ON ST. NAZAIRE  
WHERE WE LOST CAPT. CRAMER, DOWN IN THE SEA  
UNDER HEAVY ATTACK BY FIGHTERS. WITH ARIZONA  
HARRIS'S GUN STILL BLAZING. HE WAS LOW  
OVER THE WATER OFF OUR LEFT REAR

MISC. PHOTOS, ORDERS etc TO FOLLOW UNDER  
SEPARATE PACKAGE

# AVOID VERBAL ORDERS



DATE

3/20/81

A. M.

TIME

P. M.

TO

Wm. M. Collins

SUBJECT

306<sup>th</sup> Group

Enclosed is a letter written to Russell Strong which is self explanatory. Is it possible you can take action on it?

Sincerely  
Jerry Kessel

49-14th St • San Francisco 94103 • 415 431-3701

Specialists in Silk Screen and Advertising Displays

Jerry Kruse

**VELVETONE  
GALLAGHER** COMPANY®



March 11, 1981

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

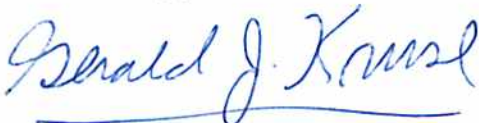
Dear Russell,

As a member of the 306th Bomb Group during World War II, I contacted Col. John M. Regan after reading his article about the first raid on Germany (Wilhenshaven). The Col. sent me a copy of the 306th "Echoes" and advised me to contact you regarding what I can do to join your organization and contribute to its purposes.

I found the 306th "Echoes" to be very interesting, bringing back all those cherished memories, some sad and some joyful.

Please advise me at your earliest convenience what I can do to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerald J. Kruse". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Gerald J. Kruse  
/lhc

P.S. Pertinent data regarding my service attached.

DATA

T. Sgt. Gerald J. Kruszynski  
A.S.N. 6916649

Joined 306th at Wendover, Utah.  
Flew overseas with original group to Thurleigh as radio gunner,  
423 Bomb Squadron. Col. Overacker commanding. My pilot Capt. McKay.

My Current Address:

1971 43rd Ave.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94116

Phone: (415) 564-3269

Alternate Address:

Jerry Kruse  
Velvetone Gallagher Co.  
49-14th Street  
San Francisco, Ca. 94103

Phone: (415) 431-3701

ADD

JERRY KRUSE



26 March 1981

Dear Jerry:

Your letters, through Bill Collins, arrived at my home today. And I thought I ought to write, and update you a bit.

Mac McKay is a very special friend, and I have visited him a couple of times at his home in Los Alamitos, CA. He is as feisty as ever.

L. P. Johnson is about to retire from Pan-Am as a 747 pilot, and lives on Long Island, NY.

Gene Pollock stayed in service, retired as a colonel, and spends most of his time fishing in Florida.

George Horner lives in Springfield, OH.

I assume the last copy of Echoes came to you from Bill Collins, but I think you'd be more interested in the enclosed number, and I'd like to know what happened to you when you quit flying.

Do you also have any recollections on Alleman and Pascual?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

April 6, 1981

Russell A. Strong  
2041 Hillisdale  
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

Dear Russell,

Just a few lines to thank you for your prompt response to my letter, and also special thanks regarding information on M. Kay, Johnson, Pollock and Horner.

I am getting this letter off as soon as possible to inform you that I am going to follow up with information you requested as soon as I dig my old B4 bag out of storage containing orders, photos, news clippings, souvenirs, and most important of all, my diary, which will help refresh my flagging memory and to enable me to fill in your questionnaire. This will be done within ten days.

Enclosed is a modest contribution to the 306th Echoes and 306th B.G. Assn. to help defray printing and mailing costs for Echoes and support research of 306th History.

Also enclosed is a copy of one of Don Bevan's earlier cartoons. (I believe I have one or two more in my B4 Bag). A copy of this letter with the 306th Echoes contribution is being sent to Bill Collins. The contribution for research is enclosed in your copy.

For your information I believe the flyer pictured with Lt. Gaslin and Lt. Youree on the upper right of the centerfold next to Don Bevan's art of Jan. 1980 Echoes issue is Mike Roskovich of the 423rd. If my memory serves me right I believe he was killed in an accident in Northern England or Scotland shortly after being commissioned as a 2nd Lt.

LOWER  
LEFT  
KNEELING  
BARE HEADED

Sincerely Yours,

Jerry Kruse

P.S. To Bill Collins, I would appreciate back issues of Echoes. I have vol. 5 no. 1 Jan. 1980 and vol. 6 no.1 Jan, 1981.

P.S. To Russell Strong, Looking forward to seeing you in S.F. next fall.



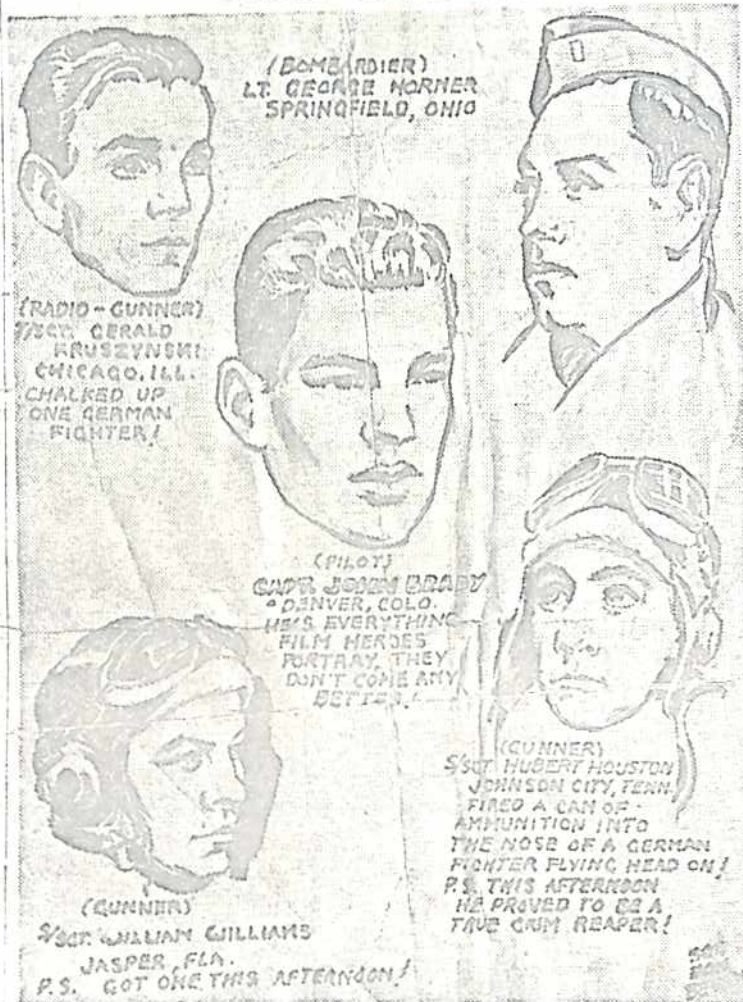
## "GRIM REAPERS"

LI

(Concl

men who I do not remain before and the vig are not too too wearily ing what v to welcome so much t strange.

But of certain: it of the tr America the future will the resurre controvers between the lationists progressive dealers ar will find, becomes n are no lon things, and about inte to the ge back from as amiable eccentric a; reling in Battle of E



"Grim Reapers" is the title Sergt. Donald Bevan of Springfield, Mass., gives these drawings of U. S. Army Air Force men who are in service in the European theater.

Lieut. George Horner, formerly of Springfield, Route 4, is among the U. S. Army Air Force men who are making a name for themselves in war operations in Europe. Lieut. Horner is a Springfield High School and Wittenberg College graduate, and was commissioned a second lieutenant and graduate bombardier at the Victorville Army Flying

school on the staff of the New York Daily News.

Those listed in Sergt. Bevan's report were: Capt. John Brady of Denver, Colo., pilot; Lieut. George Horner of Springfield, O., bombardier; Tech. sergt. Gerald Kruszynek of Chicago, Ill., radio-gunner; Staff sergt. William Williams of Jasper, Fla., and Staff Sergt. Hubert Houston of Johnson City, Tenn., all gunners.

Approx Date: after the 306. In a 2nd or 3rd Mission

10/21/85

Dear Bill (William?)

I attended the reunion at Colorado Springs and left with wonderful memories of the tumultuous past. My thanks to everyone who arranged it.

I mentioned the passing away of Fred Larmer - 369<sup>th</sup> quarter - Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> 1985 but they were hectic days & nights at Colorado Springs so I figured to repeat the information.

Enclosed is a modest contribution to The Echoes.

Again thanks for everything  
Jerry Kurl

A.K.A.

Gerald Kauszyski -  
Radio op. Mack McKay's  
original crew - 423<sup>rd</sup>



1/14/85

Dear Bill Collins,

Enclosed is a modest contribution to the '306<sup>TH</sup> ECHOES'. Please note I changed my number of the check to 306. (I wonder why?)

Also enclosed are copies of some of the memorabilia I have. I also have a diary covering the first seven missions flown by the 306<sup>TH</sup> in detail. (St Nazaire, Brest et al), and copies of orders etc.

For the record I would appreciate it if were published that my name be carried as follows;

GERALD J. KRUSZYNSKI NOW KNOWN AS

7125 GERALD J. KRUSE. My name was shortened shortly after WW2.

Request No #2.

**NAME CHANGE**

I misplaced an important issue of the 306<sup>TH</sup> Echoes. Would you please send me the copy of 306<sup>TH</sup> Echoes that contain the roster of the original personnel of the group (Combat crews & Ground force). It does not have to be the 306<sup>TH</sup> Echoes, just as long it is the original roster. I believe it was published in late '81 or early '82. If any costs are incurred I would be glad to reimburse them.

Also for the record I served with Mack McKay original crew starting at Wendover, and ended up under the command of them, Lt. Hopper. Group Communication Officer checking out the qualification of replacement Radio Operators.

Request No. 3.

How about considering the West Coast



area for the next group re-union? Facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area are terrific. I would be happy to cooperate with the reunion committee if the S.F. Bay Area is considered. These sentiments were also expressed by Eddie Espitalier (423<sup>rd</sup> Capt Warner Crew. P.O.W.)

Keep up the good work, publishing the 306 Cadets' and I would also like to express my thanks for the excellent ~~thing~~ (Bad pen!) directory of 306 Bomb Group Historical Assn. I intend to get a letter off to Mack McKay and Lewis Johnson in the near future.

All The Best,  
 Gerald J. Israel

7/12/86

Dear Bill,

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Schembri were referred to me by Gordon Richard. After contacting them early this year they have been an invaluable source of video documentaries for my personal and fellow veterans use.

Among the many video tapes they gave me were "All The Fine Young Men" - "Walter Cronkiler Air War Over Europe" "306<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Thurleigh" and many others.

In lieu of compensation they insisted I send donations to 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Assn and our 306<sup>th</sup> Assn. They would also like to hear from any of us or requests for tapes. What would be required to make them friends of the 306<sup>th</sup>? Any acknowledgment

(2)

to them would be appreciated.  
I still hope to attend the  
re-union in Dayton but I  
won't know for sure until later  
this month.

Yours in comradeship

Gery Krus

A-KA. G. KRUSZYNSKI

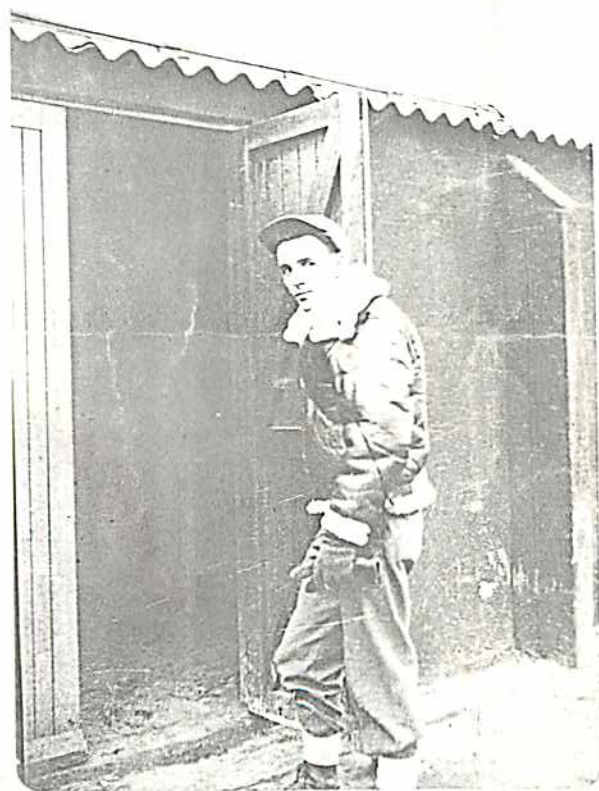
MR & MRS. ANTHONY SCHEMBRI  
4136 POINT HOLLOW LANE  
FAIRFAX VA. 22033  
(703) 378-7716

P.S. The enclosed check is donated  
in the Schembris name.





RIVER HOUSE - BEDFORD



NO COMMENT!



T/SGT. GERALD KRUSZYNSKI - 1943 - 306 B.G. 423 SQ.

TEAM SGT GERALD J. KRUSZYNSKI - 1943 RADIO-GUNNER - ~~423 SQ~~

1/281 - GERALD KRUSZYNSKI - 1943 - 302 B.2. N.Y. 20.

KRESE

NO. 1000000000



423RD  
GRIM REAPERS



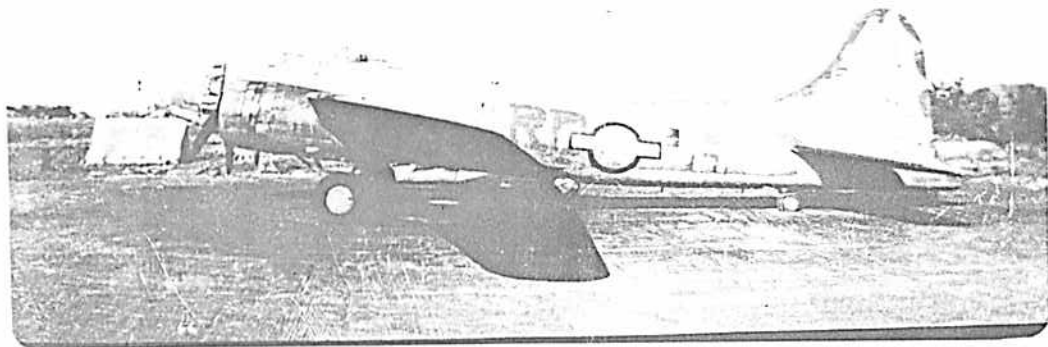
369TH  
EAGER BEAVERS?



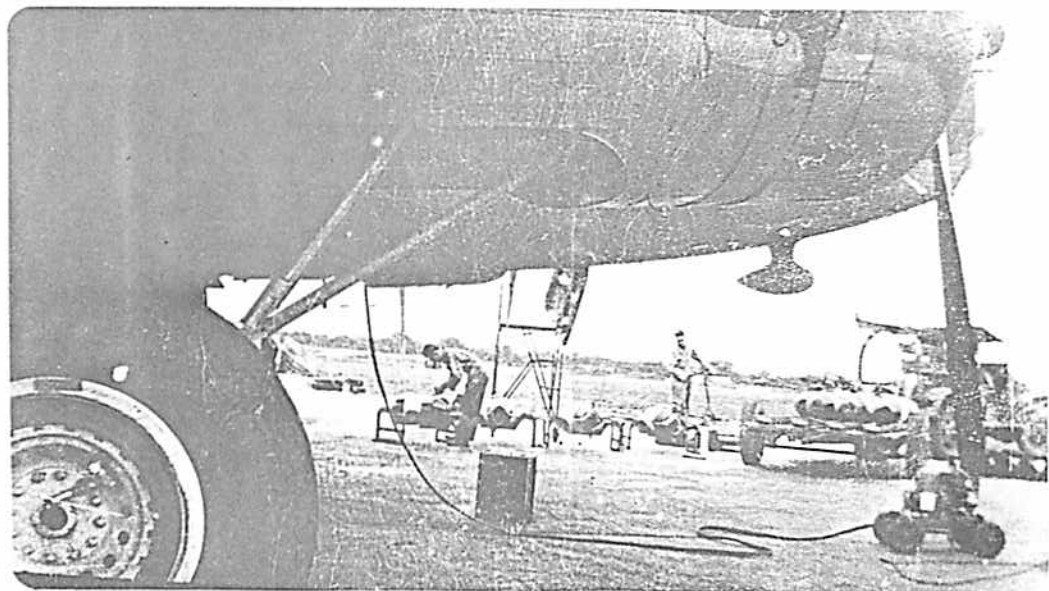
THESE PATCHES ARE AMONG MY SOUVENIRS



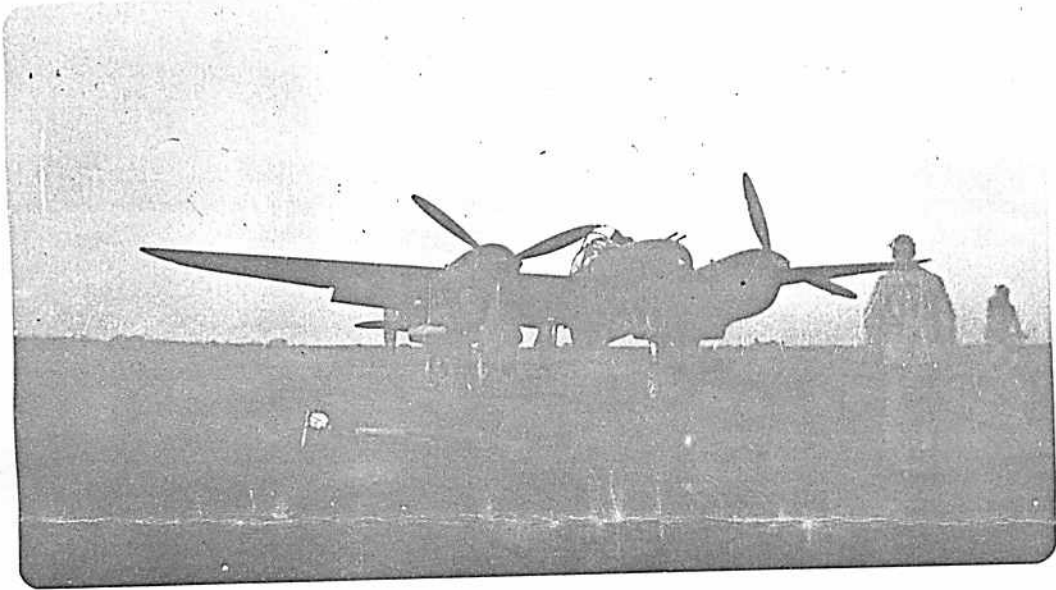
BATTLE WEARY - # 1244690 - B17E 1943



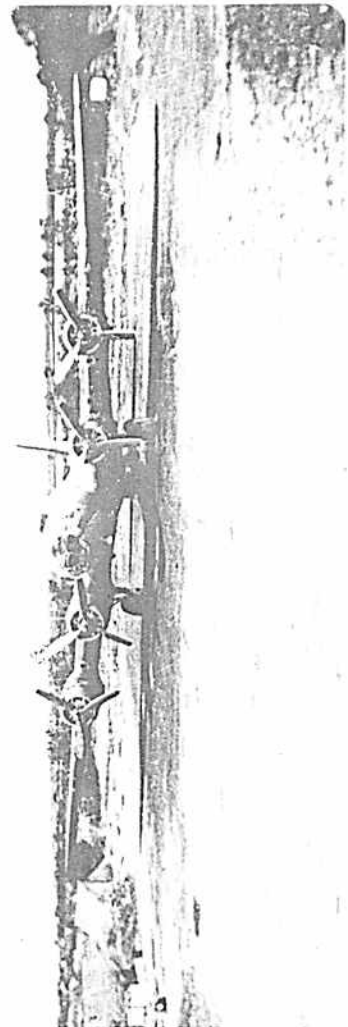
CREW CHIEF



BOMBING UP



CAPTURED MESSERSCHMIDT - ME 110  
MAY 1943



#42-29649 - LT. JOHNSON  
APRIL - 1943

30612 B.G. SPO. JOHNSON ; 17-01 ETS I





PUBLISHED IN;  
PICTURE POST  
DEC 26<sup>TH</sup> 1942  
VOL 17 NO. 13  
HULTONS NATIONAL WEEKLY

FEATURES 306<sup>TH</sup> BOYS  
AND ALSO SEGMENTS  
WERE SHOWN ON  
NBC DOCUMENTARY  
"ALL THE FINE YOUNG  
MEN" (SEE ENCLOSED  
CLIPPING)

Picture



priceless. They sat down gingerly on the edges of the chairs. They all said politely they never smoked, they couldn't dance, they didn't eat except when strictly necessary.

But one round of hot punch, one whizz round the ballroom, and one good look at each other, soon settled all that. Five minutes from the start, the party went.

We thought the best sort of party for Americans would be a dance in an English country home. So we asked Mrs. Tabor, who owns a Tudor manor with an authentic ghost, if she would let us use her house and be hostess for the evening. She said she would, and gave us the run of the whole house, panelled drawing-room, library, kitchen, and all. The boys said they'd seen such houses on postcards and in British films, but hadn't believed people actually lived in them.

Then we had to whip round collecting the best crackers, hats, candles, balloons, holly, food, and drink we could find. Even at this fourth war-time Christmas, you can still get a good glitter by buying things here and there and pooling old stocks. On the food and drink side, we wanted to

*Continued overleaf*

### The Party Starts With the Old Christmas Ceremonies

Quickest way to warm up a party is a round of rum punch. Picture Post's Bill Garnham doles it out hot. Les Gedney (U.S.A.) and Mary Phipps (of London) join hands to cut the cake.

# WE GIVE A CHRISTMAS PARTY TO THE FLYING FORTRESS BOYS

We wanted to show Christmas hospitality to some of the American boys in Britain. So we gave them a real English party in an English home.

If only there could be thousands of parties this Christmas, then Anglo-American friendship would be complete. Picture Post has just given a party for some Flying Fortress crews, and we learnt in one riotous evening what good fun these Americans are. And we think they rather liked us.

We all started off with a lot of wrong impressions. The girls spent the morning speeding up their conversation and practising slang. The boys (judging from their gloomy entrance) came screwed up to endure an unbelievably rigid evening. They eyed the china nervously as though they were sure they'd break something



A Trumpet Solo From One of the Boys  
The noise gets deafening. The squawk of crackers

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*A Trumpet Solo From One of the Boys*  
The noise gets deafening. The squawk of cracker instruments swells the band.



*The Hosts Deal Out Hats and Crackers*  
Hats, crackers, candles are scarce, but we found enough for a baby tree. Anne Scott-James, who arranged the party, comes off best in an Anglo-American cracker pull.

*While the Boys Snatch a Bite*  
English food? It's really quite eatable. But we'd included Christmas cake and pumpkin pies.





16, 1922

Picture Post, December 12

*We Gave the Party in a Real English Home*

*A Tudor manor with a real ghost was where we held the party. The Lady of the Manor, Mrs. Tabor, threw open her house for the evening. She's in the background of this*



*We Gave the Party in a Real English Home*

*A Tudor manor with a real ghost was where we held the party. The Lady of the Manor, Mrs. Tabor, threw open her house for the evening. She's in the background of this picture.*



*Freddie Mirfield Leads the Way in a New Sort of Dance*

*hasn't a name, but it's a good dance just the same. It's an invention of Band Leader*



*An Anglo-American Croon Act*

ORIGINAL DIARY  
(WHEN I CAN FIND THE  
REST OF IT) WILL BE  
SENT TO "306TH ECHOES  
WHEN I FOLD MY WINGS"



# 1942 - 1943 Calendars

CALENDAR FOR 1942			
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
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SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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CALENDAR FOR 1943			
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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EXCERPTS - DIARY

G. KRUSZYNSKI  
MACK MEKAYS CREW  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

①  
See ②

Date

- 12/6/41 - Transferred from F.A. to A.C.U.
- 1/1/42 - Assigned to A.C.T.S. (Radio) South Field Ill.
- 5/8/42 - Finished Radio school, sent to Las Vegas Gunnery school.
- 6/1/42 - Finished Gunnery school, sent to Salt Lake Air Base to await assignment.
- 6/1/42 - Assigned to 423 Bomb SQ. 306 GROUP AT Wendover field Utah.
- 7/1/42 - Put on combat crew as radio-gunner assigned to Capt M<sup>c</sup>Kay's crew. Leader of "A" flight. 423<sup>rd</sup> Bomb SQ.
- 8/1/42 - Finished combat crew training. Flew to Wendover Field Mass as a group. While awaiting over-seas orders our crew and several others flew submarine patrol.
- 9/2/42 - Took off for Gander Lake New-foundland. First stop to over-seas duty. Group commander (Col. Overacker) flew



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date

with our crew.

9/6/42 - Took off for Prestwick Scotland  
11 hour ocean trip. Lost one ship and  
crew on crossing. Sgt. Wiley a buddy  
of mine went down with it. (LT. LEAHY) <sup>PILOT</sup>

9/9/42 - Took off for our permanent base  
in England (Thunleigh). R.A.F. gave us  
a brief operational training  
course.

10/4/42 - Went on first bombing mission  
into France. No one lost, but the  
planes shot up pretty bad. Lille was  
the target. We ran into fighters  
(Me 109 & F.W. 190) Hobbs, Gibson  
and I got one each.

10/16/42 - Went to London on a 3 day  
pass. The blitz certainly left its  
marks. Had a swell time though.

10/21/42 - Briefed for mission. Target was  
Lorient. We turned back on French

CORRECTIONS: CAPT JOHNSON 367 <sup>45</sup>  
SHOT DOWN - MAKING A CHASSE  
1ST PIGEON ROW

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date

coast. The weather was terrible.

10/22/42 - During the afternoon we done a  
little hedge-hopping. St. Barnett hit  
a tree. Nobody injured.

10/26/42 - During hedgehopping today  
Lt. Check ran into a tree. The nose  
and ball turret were sheared off.  
He made a crash landing. Johnson  
was injured slightly.

10/28/42 - Briefed for a raid. St. Nazaire  
was our target - Mission called off.

10/29/42 - Another day-run today. Same  
as yesterday.

11/2/42. Ditto.

11/8/42 - Briefed and took off for target  
(Brest, France). We got over the target  
and ran into fairly heavy flak. Target  
was covered with clouds so we returned  
with bombs. No fighter opposition.

11/9/42 - Bombed Lille today. Very heavy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date

~~flak~~ flak. Spits escorted us. Very few bombs got in at us. 367<sup>th</sup> lost one ship and several more wounded

"10/42 - Went to St. Nazaire. A low altitude job. We lost ~~two~~<sup>3</sup> planes & crews. Quite a few of my friends went down with their ships. Flak was very heavy and intense. More patches for our ships.

"11/42 - While on pass in London the Benz raided Lew Pullies. No losses in our squadron.

"11/17/42 - Raided St. Nazaire again today. Flak heavy as usual. We were attacked by fighters. Capt. Williams <sup>PLANE</sup> was hit pretty bad. Houston his waist gunner was hit in a leg by a 20 MM. Audenbock. The engineer got in the head. He died just after we landed. St. Shively was hit

CHENAULTS PAPPY

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date

in the leg and face by fragments. Eddie Capitlier had his radio room on fire. We all managed to land back in England though. - RAF FIELD

I was presented with the Air Medal Tonight by Gen. Coker. Hobbs and Gibson also got one.

"11/18/42 - The out-fit went out again today. Brest was the target. Another crew used our ship. 368<sup>th</sup> lost a plane.

"12/5/42 - Was grounded today. My arm is acting up. Went to the hospital for a day or so.

"12/8/42 - Our crew went to a party at Harlington manor. It was given by some English pictorial magazine for Fortress crew members. One crew from each squadron went. We had a swell time. Plenty to drink and eat.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date

12/20/42 - Another raid today.  
Romilly-sur-Seine was the  
target. Kern got a Focke Wulf 190  
367<sup>th</sup> lost 3 planes.

12/30/42 - Started out to bomb  
Orient dock. So many ships aborted  
that the whole group had to turn  
back. Capt. Brady got separated  
from us and joined another group.  
I think he managed to get over  
the target.

1/31/42 - New Year's Eve. We had some  
bad news today. Capt. Brady was  
one of the 3 bombers shot down  
yesterday. Nisbett (Radio operator)  
was a close friend of mine.

1/3/43 - We made another raid on  
St. Nazaire today. Flak heavy as  
usual, several ships were crippled.  
On the way back we were attacked

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS ARIZONA HARRIS

Date

by fighters. Capt. Lamer caught it  
this time. He went down in the  
sea. We landed at St. Eval. <sup>(FOR</sup> BATTLE REPAIRS

1/5/43 - Started back to base as a  
group but weather caused us to  
break up. We got lost and finally  
ended up over France. A couple  
fighters attacked us but we fought  
them off. Landed back at St. Eval.

1/6/43 - Finally returned to base.

1/9/43 - Our crew went to London on  
a 2 day pass.

1/13/43 - The squadron bombed  
Lille today. On the way back  
two planes collided. Mac Mahon  
tail-gunner from the 368<sup>th</sup>  
went down with one. 2/2/43 (K-1-A)

2/1/43 - Went to the hospital  
at Dickington. My sinus is acting  
up due to fast a descent over



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date

St. Nazaire Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>. I might be grounded permanently, at least for high altitude. While in the hospital the outfit raided Tessel, St. Nazaire and Wilhelmshaven. We lost Warner + his crew over St. Nazaire.

3/10/43 - Was grounded ~~from~~ permanently by the medics. I expect to be sent as instructor to Bowington.

3/18/43 - Was awarded the Oak Leaf - Clister.

3/22/43 - Henn our waist gunner was killed on a raid over Wilhelmshaven. A 20 mm. cannon shell hit him in the face. He didn't know what hit him. That is the second one of us to catch it. Lt. Kirseberth was wounded in the leg Feb 16

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date

over St. Nazaire.  
 3/23/43 - I took charge of Henn's body and brought it to Brookwood Cemetery. ~~He will be buried tomorrow~~  
 3/25/43 - Went with the rest of the crew to Henn's funeral.  
 3/28/43 - The group raided Rouen France today. One casualty, Lt. Tibbony navigator of Lt. O'Hares ship, hit in the side with flak.  
 3/31/43 - A raid on Rotterdam.  
 No losses.  
 4/  
 4  
 4/16/43 - The group raided Lorient. No losses in our squadron.  
 4/17/43 - A big one today. Bremen was the target. Our group lost 10





Copies of Diary Excerpts  
~~for~~ <sup>FOR</sup> Clay Wilson +  
306<sup>th</sup> ECHOES

Dear Russ (Russell?)

First off, I would like to thank you very much for taking the time to answer my letter so promptly. Also thanks for the info on the 10/9/42 mission to Lille. Yes, 4460 was our plane.

I have enclosed several copies of material pertaining to the 306<sup>th</sup>. These copies were made in the early eighties and I will try to find the originals. They were misplaced in our move to Redding from San Francisco.

I understand that the information on the original Wexlover crews are rather sketchy. I hope this helps fill the void.

I will definitely attend the Seattle '93 re-union.

On the side, do me a favor using confidential information please pass on to POW Bevan I had the pleasure and

honor of having a date or two with  
Brady's lady after his and Dons  
Demise. Nothing was out of order  
it was a pleasant and serene  
relationship -

Please keep in touch -

Jerry Krusk

P.S. - I also have an original  
Grim Reaper Patch on my A 2  
jacket.



6/30/92

Dear Russell;

Due to unforeseen priorities (Family etc) I am unable to attend the 50<sup>th</sup>. As a member of Mack M<sup>c</sup>Kays crew I really looked forward to the re-union.

I intended to bring a news item to the re-union but as it stands I would appreciate it if it can be followed up for the 306<sup>th</sup> records.

The 306<sup>th</sup> is known for several notable "Firsts". First over Germany and Norkovitz the first enlisted man to complete a tour - Or it possible that I am the first Radio Gunner to destroy an enemy A/c (Focke Wulf)?

It was on our groups first mission to Lille Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 1942. Where I witnessed our first loss, Olson and crew. Several fighters attacked us, one came in at 7 o'clock high,

his 20 mm evidently were fired early enough for me to see puffs approaching the plane. He closed in and got a few light caliber machine gun bullets into the radio room causing minor damage and shooting my pen off the tab on my jacket collar. We were firing at each other head-on when at about 50 yds from us he exploded. Ray Henn our left waist gunner yelled over the intercom. "What the hell was that?" He said he was firing at a plane coming at 8 o'clock level or low.

I realize that a Radio Gunner has the least chance of destroying an enemy A/c. I was a machine gunner in the ground force prior to the war outbreak that plus the fact that this type of air battle was just as new to the German fighter

as it was to us. I believe Harry  
Alleman our top turret gunner  
witnessed the explosion. He is  
attending the re-union,

With Thanks  
Gerald J. Krue

423rd



4 July 1992

Dear Jerry:

Got back from the mountains last night and found your letter and the cartoon waiting for me. I'll be using the cartoon at some point in the October or January issues of Echoes very likely.

Don Bevan has agreed to be the principal speaker at our reunion in '93 in Seattle, and will use this as a bit of promotion for that event. Another series of his cartoons will be in the July issue, which will be mailed sometime this next week.

After reading over your account of the fighter attack as seen from the radio room, I went back to the Mission Report for 9 October 42. At the moment I do not have the crew interrogation reports so I cannot identify your plane, but it was likely 4460.

4460 is mentioned on page 2, and Ray Henn is mentioned on page 5. Does any of these match your description?

We may just run it up the flag pole anyway, and see what happens.

Good to hear from you. Many reunions have passed since we last met. Sorry that you can't make England, and its understandable that many things intervene. Family priorities rank right up there with physical problems in preventing attendance. But, hope to see you up the coast in Seattle a year from September.

All the best,

"GRIM REAPERS"

LI

(Concl)

men who I do not remain bel and the vig are not to too wearily ing what v to welcome so much t strange.

But of certain: it of the tu America th future will the resurr controversi between th lationists progressive dealers ar will find, becomes m are no'lor things, and about inte to the ge back from as amiable eccentric a: reling in Battle of E



"Grim Reapers" is the title Sergt. Donald Bevan of Springfield, Mass., gives these drawings of U. S. Army Air Force men who are in service in the European theater.

Lieut. George Horner, formerly of Springfield, Route 4, is among the U. S. Army Air Force men who are making a name for themselves in war operations in Europe. Lieut. Horner is a Springfield High School and Wittenberg College graduate, and was commissioned a second lieutenant and graduate bombardier at the Victorville Army Flying School. He joined the air

an artist on the staff of the New York Daily News. Those listed in Sergt. Bevan's report were: Capt. John Brady of Denver, Colo., pilot; Lieut. George Horner of Springfield, O., bombardier; Tech. Sgt. Gerald Kruszynski of Chicago, Ill., radio-gunner; Staff Sgt. William Williams of Jasper, Fla., and Staff Sgt. Hubert Houston of Johnson City, Tenn., all gunners. Others listed in the report

Now; JERRY KAUSE REDDING CA.

ONE OF THE MANY DRAWINGS BY DON BEVAN PRIOR TO BEING SHOT DOWN OVER BREMEN AND WHO LATER CO-AUTHORED "STALAG 17"

GERALD J. KRUSZYNSKI, 6916649, Technical Sergeant, 423rd Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while serving as Radio-Gunner on a B-17 airplane on a combat mission over enemy-occupied Continental Europe, 9 October 1942. The airplane was attacked at 20,000 feet altitude by enemy airplanes, whereupon Sergeant Kruszynski, destroyed one enemy airplane of the FW-190 type. The courage, coolness and skill displayed upon this occasion reflect highest credit upon this Soldier and the Armed Forces of the United States. Residence at time of enlistment: 2301 North Maplewood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

GENERAL ORDERS #57 NOV. 13 1942