

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

Name JAMES LAINE
Address 1323 CLEARVIEW DR. GREENSBURG PA. 15601
Telephone 412-836-3419 Date 12/12/76
Occupation REAL ESTATE DIRECTOR Employer GULF OIL
Address 300 PENN CTE. BLVD
SUITE 800 Telephone 412-824-9900
PITTSBURGH PA. 15215

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

TRAINING IN U.S.A

After leaving the 306th:

P.O.W

RETURNED TO CIVILIAN STATUS

306th Record:

Arrival Date Nov. 29, 1942 Squadron or other unit 367TH

MOS BOMBARDIER Combat Status _____

Missions Completed 7

Promotions _____

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH Battle Stars _____ other _____

(OVER)

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?)

HIGHLIGHT WAS ^{THE} FIRST AMERICAN
DAYLIGHT RAID ON GERMANY - WILHELMSHAVEN
WE DROPPED OUR BOMBS ON TARGET -
HIT THE DECK FOR HOME

Name JAMES LAINE

Address 1323 CLEARVIEW DR.
GREENSBURG, PA. 15601

Telephone 412-836-3419

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot CAPT JOHN RYAN

Plane # and Name "SWEET PEAN"

Mission Date 3/6/43

Target LORIENT

Cause of loss: AA fire Fighter attack Other, explain

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can:

WE WERE IN GROUP LEAD PLANE.
GERMAN FIGHTER LOBBED ONE IN OUT OF
GUN - HIT NUMBER 3 ENGINE - FINIS

How and where did you leave plane?

JUMPER - PARACHUTED
OVER FRANCE - NEAR QUIMPER

What happened when you got on the ground?

HID IN DRAINAGE DITCH - DISCOVERED BY GERMAN
SEARCH GROUP AFTER SEVERAL HOURS.

Did you meet any of your crew mates?

YES - LT. BOB HERMAN

How were you treated, if captured?

RELATIVELY WELL -

Any additional details, reminiscences, letters, or documents of these events would be appreciated. If you do send such materials, I will copy them and put them back in the mail to you within 24 hours.

Do you know the present, or WW II, addresses of any of your crew or other 306th personnel?

ROBERT HERMAN
1715 ROYAL BLVD.
ELGIN, ILL.
60120

H. H. PRATT
RFD #6
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330

GLENN HALLY
400 IONIC CIRCLE
Box 604
ENON, OHIO 45323

JAMES C. CROUCH JR.
2829 LAS PALMAS
PT. ARTHUR, TEX
77640

TED JANKOWSKI
506 RIVERSIDE DR.
MELBOURNE BEACH, FLA.
32951

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR STORY OF THE 306TH
IT NEEDS TO BE TOLD.

Joe

DON'T FROGET
WE DID

SORRY



Enclosed check to support
the production and mailing
of the 306th Echoes

Jim
per T.A.L.

JAMES LAINE
1323 CLEARVIEW DR.
GREENSBURG, PA 15601

Jim enjoys each issue and
then shares with Grandson
in Atlanta. Grandson is a real
WW II Air Force buff.

JAMES LAINE
6706 11TH AVE W
BRADENTON FL 34209

DEAR RUSS:

MAY 29, 1988

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TROUBLE
TO CALL ME TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU
HAVE MY CORRECT ADDRESS - NOT TO
MENTION THE EXPENSE OF SENDING A COPY
OF THE "ECHOES" VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL.

I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE YOUR TIME
AND EFFORT IN PUBLISHING THE
"ECHOES". IT IS WELL READ IN OUR
HOUSEHOLD.

BOTH MY WIFE AND I LOOK FORWARD
TO RECEIVING IT AND READ EVERY
WORD. IT IS THEN PASSED ON TO
OUR SON WHO WAS A PILOT IN THE
306TH AFTER RECEIVING HIS WINGS
IN THE EARLY 70'S. HE SHARES THE
PAPER WITH HIS SON WHO HAS DEVELOPED
INTO A WWII HISTORY BUFF AND
NOW HAS PRETTY WELL MADE UP HIS
MIND THAT HE, TOO, WANTS TO FLY.
YES, THE 306TH BOMB GROUP

RESTAURANT IS STILL A GOOD PLACE
TO EAT AND WE ENJOY DINING
THERE.

SHOULD YOU FIND YOURSELF IN
THE BRADENTON AREA GIVE US
A CALL - I WOULD ENJOY MEETING
YOU. PERHAPS WE COULD BREAK
BREAD AT THE 306TH.

MUST ALSO TELL YOU THAT
"FIRST OVER GERMANY" WAS JUST GREAT.

SINCERELY
Jimmie Lane

DON'T FROGET



We did forget
to send you a
check during the
moving year.

you are doing a wonderful
job!

After Jim reads each issue,
he forwards it to our son,
Jim, who also served the
306th when he was in
the Air Force.

Both are hoping to
attend the reunion this
year.

Virginia Lane

P.S. I read each
issue first - then
the "boys" see it!

8/5/85

J. M. LAINE

~~*****SECRET*****~~

~~SECRET*****~~

6706 11th Ave., W.
Bradenton, Fl.
34209-4023

August 2, 1994

Mr. Russell A. Strong, Secretary
306th Historical Association
5323 Cheval Pl.
Charlotte, N. E. 28205

Dear Russell:

About six months ago I was contacted by a Mr. Francois Cadic of Douarnenez, France. He is in the process of preparing data on people who were shot down over Brittainy while doing their utmost to free the French. Apparently such information will be placed in a future museum.

Somehow he found out that I was the Bombardier on the John L. Ryan Crew of the "Sweet Pea" which failed to return from Lorient on March 6, 1943.

I have done my best to comply with Mr. Cadic's request for information and photographs.

Most recently he asked that I contact you to see if you could possibly furnish photographic prints of the enclosed newsprint photos. If you can I would be most appreciative and will be happy to send you a check to cover the cost of same plus postage.

One other thing - do you have any information on S. Sgt. Glenn A. Blakemore (17 032 540). He was our Flight Engineer. Was he taken prisoner? Is he still living? If so what is his address?

Thank you very much - and, many thanks for all your work and effort on behalf of the 306th.

Sincerely,



Jim Laine

JL:vm

Enc.

JAMES LAINE
6706 11TH AVE W
BRADENTON FL 34209
Former Prisoner of War



at

Stalag Luft III

8/25/97

DEAR BUSS:

RE: YOUR INQUIRY AS TO
HOWARD PRATT, 367TH

MY GOOD FRIEND HOWARD PASSED
AWAY ON JANUARY 31, 1991.

AS OF EARLY THIS YEAR HIS
WIDOW MARY STILL RESIDED

AT:

RD #6 HIGHLAND ACRES LOT 38
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330
TEL. 1-207-626-3168

I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE AND
ENJOY EACH ISSUE OF THE "EDITORS"
AND PASS IT ALONG TO MY SON
WHO WAS A 306TH PILOT DURING
THE VIET NAM ERA. MANY THANKS
FOR YOUR TIRELESS EFFORT.

KINDEST REGARDS

Jim

11/05

Russell Strong

From: <jimlaine@mindspring.com>
To: "Russell Strong"
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2002 9:15 AM
Subject: Re: Father

Dad worked for the Gulf Oil Corporation for 36 years in various capacities and various cities in the Northeast; retiring as Real Estate Director. Since retirement from Gulf in 1982 he and my late mother lived in Bradenton, FL. His actual place of death was a nursing home near our home in Snellville, GA where he spent his last few weeks.

Many thanks for your long years of work with the 306th organization. I will miss the newsletters, which Dad always shared with me.

Jim Laine

On Fri, 1 Nov 2002 23:25:18 -0500 Russell Strong
<russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net> wrote:

> Please send me the date and place of death, as
> well
> as
> employment. Many thanks for first
> message.

11/6/02

11/05