

Robert K. Lavery  
60 West Lowell Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44310

Russell A. Strong  
Rt. #1 Scotch Meadows Drive  
Laurinburg, N. C. 28352

April 19, 1978

Dear Mr. Strong:

I am writing you in regards to your request for more information about planes of the 306th.

Plane 42-102578 of the 367th "We Promised".

On April 25, 1944, in Savannah, Georgia, we were invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Koontz who were friends of my pilot, William Wood.

They gave us a farewell party and at this time a question came up about naming our ship.

Mrs. Koontz came up with "We Promised" and wrote a short poem.

I am sending you a copy of the original with the names of my crew.

Pilot	-	William Wood	Radio	-	Louis Vanderplog
Co-Pilot	-	Wilbur C. Pensinger	Waist Gun	-	Hayward Noel
Bomb.	-	Robert Schweine	Ball Turret	-	Robert K. Lavery
Nav.	-	Rick Dominica	Tail Gun	-	William Trumbull
Eng.	-	Richard Miller	Waist Gun	-	Anthony Thro

I hope this has helped some. I think the Crew Chief was named Vandavier but of this I am uncertain.

Sincerely,

  
Robert K. Lavery

RKL/kl  
Enc:

## 306th Aircraft

Below are a few of many plane pictures which Russ Strong has collected. Unfortunately, we cannot always match plane numbers with names, etc. What data can you supply on these? Or any other planes?



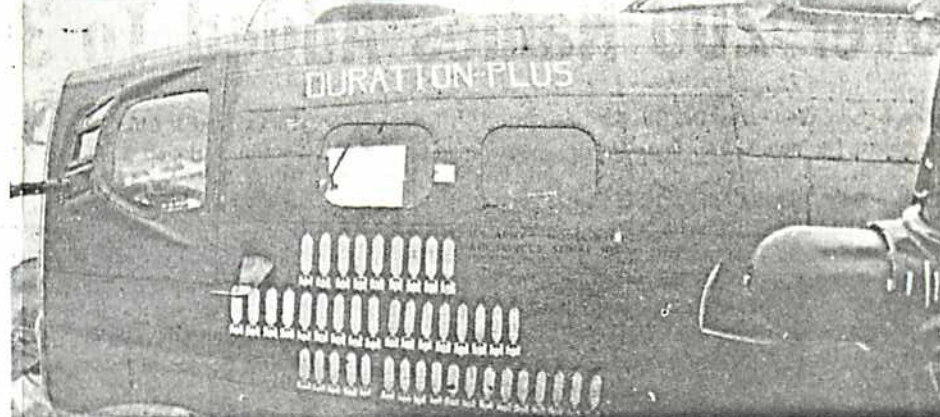
BANSHEE 41-24488, 369th, down 17 April 43, Bremen



WE PROMISED 42-102578, 367th



LITTLE AUDREY 42-29477, 369th



DURATION PLUS 42-31726, 367th



THE DINGLEBERRY KID

## 11 Commanded Other 8th Units

(From page 1)

commanded the 305th Bomb Group, Grafton Underwood and Chelveston, 6/4/42 to 5/15/43. He also was later Third Air Division Commander. **Delmar Wilson**, Group Executive Officer and the first group Air Executive, commanded the 305th for a brief period. **Henry G. MacDonald**, Group Executive Officer, was the 305th commander from 10/23/44 to 4/22/46.

Some even wandered in among the B-24s.

**William H. Cleveland**, Group Operations Officer in the early combat days, later ran the 466th Bomb Group, Attlebridge, 11/11/44 to 2/17/45.

**Hudson H. Upham**, the last combat Group C.O., also commanded

Freeman's **The Mighty Eighth**, but this editor and Freeman have reconciled them.

Of the group commanders, Putnam, Armstrong, Cleveland and Upham are deceased. Putnam, both Wilsons, Raper, LeMay and Armstrong all became general officers, although only Armstrong and LeMay were general officers with the Eighth.

## Historian Needs Help With Records

What is a historian looking for? More personal reminiscences, photos of people, planes, equipment, combat damage, etc.

" WE PROMISED "

We promised eternal loyalty  
We promised to do the thing we came here for  
We promised never to let anything let us forget  
We promised each to the other what is mine is yours  
We promised always to remember--you are always there  
We promised to remember that where ever you are we too are there  
We promised to remember to trust in each other  
We promised each to the other to make a better world for Jimmie and Joan  
and Jack and Betty  
We promised to believe in each other and to know that each believes in God  
And I who named this ship believe you all will return each to the other--  
because you said " WE PROMISED"

Say Kautz  
April 25 - 44

XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
522 Jennison  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Dear Bob:

I believe that at some time you indicated you might be able to give some assistance in searching for former 306th members who might be in Ohio.

On that premise I am sending along a copy of those names we have from Ohio that we have not located. These are in the main WWII hometowns as found in various records and reports.

We are looking to remove names from the list on one way or another. Most of these names I have checked in telephone books or through information, so we need something more than that.

One ploy I have used quite successfully in some other places, and when traveling, is to check the entire state list in such cities as Cleveland, or Dayton, or Columbus, or Cincinnati. This worked quite well in the Chicago area, turning up several. I am also interested in knowing if any of them may have died, as that helps get them off a search list.

I can give you some minimal more information, if you want it, or perhaps I could xerox my file cards which have serial #, Sqn., decorations, ranks, crews, etc.

By the time you receive this I will have arrived at my new job in Kalamazoo, in the alumni office at Western Michigan University, where you could reach me by phone during the day. I will be staying for several weeks with a sister-in-law 616/344-0803.

Sincerely yours,

Robert K. Lavery  
60 West Lowell Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44310

Russell A. Strong  
522 Jennison  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

November 6, 1979

Dear Russ,

The computer shoots back five names at a time. On the bottom where it says:

"For additional records, submit same inquiry with...."  
means that there are more names to be run.

Where there are so many with the same name we do not know which one is which unless you would have their date of birth or social security number.

I like to run by social security number because it pins it down to one person.

Take names like Kaminski and Taylor. There are so many that are the same and more to be run that you have to use a process of elimination by date of birth.

I hope that this has been of some help to you.

  
Robert K. Lavery

RKL/kl

24 October 1979

Mr. Robert K. Lavery  
60 West Lowell Av  
Akron, OH 44310

Dear Bob:

Your list came back today and I was overwhelmed by the job you did. It certainly cleared up a bunch of names.

As you might have guessed, in the meantime I have come up with another list. This is of men who ordered the 306th book in 1946, so represents their addresses at that time.

If you can do anything with this, I would be most appreciative.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

522 Jennison  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Robert K. Lavery  
60 West Lowell Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44310

Russell A. Strong  
522 Jennison  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

October 18, 1979

Dear Russell,

The following names are not in the computer:

JOSEPH C. SCHEMBER	DAVID R. SIEDERBERG	WALTER J. GRIBOVICH
VICTOR B. STEVENS	CLARENCE J. CROWL	STANLEY S. SILVERMAN
WAYNE W. HART	NICHOLAS PETRISON, JR.	MARK B. ARRIETA
KENNETH TWINEY	MITCHELL J. ANTOON	MIKE KOMA
STANLEY J. LAGERY	RAYMOND J. GRIMM	

Because these names are quite common a date of birth or social security number will be needed.

RALPH D. BROWN	WILLIAM H. MORRIS	CHARLES R. CROW
EDWIN D. CRAMER, JR.	CARL G. JONES	JOHN D. KING
ARTHUR E. WARD	CHARLES O. SMITH	WILLIAM E. SCOTT
RICHARD M. BOWMAN	GEORGE B. RICHARDSON	

These names and addresses were verified in the computer:

OAKLAND V. BITTEKOFER	
168 Shady Lane Circle	DOB: 12/2/19
Warren, Ohio 44483	SOC: 284 12 9654

PHILLIP FOSTER	
403 Plain Street	DOB: 2/18/15
Bethel, Ohio 45106	SOC: 289 03 7478

X JOSEPH ELGIN	
13019 Ridge Creek	DOB: 3/2/20
Strongsville, Ohio 44136	SOC: 277 16 0152

CHARLES B. KAELIN	
1036 25th Street NW	DOB: 4/23/09
Canton, Ohio 44709	SOC: 287 03 0681

X DONALD C. MARSH	
10385 McWilliams Road	DOB: 12/29/19
Greenfield, Ohio 45123	SOC: 296 16 1375

513

WALLACE P. POWERS  
2644 Castleton Street  
Grove City, Ohio 43123

DOB: 2/15/23  
SOC: 706 18 6513

GEORGE ROBERT SCHWEIN  
736 Northland Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio

DOB: 8/24/26  
SOC: 285 20 3126

JOHN P. FOULKES  
154 Blymer Avenue  
Mansfield, Ohio

DOB: 10/27/06  
SOC: 297 09 7696

ANTHONY J. IMMORMINO  
15571 Remora Blvd.  
Brook Park, Ohio 44142

DOB: 5/20/25  
SOC: 299 12 4192

RAYMOND KAMINSKI  
1384 F. Street  
Lorain, Ohio 44052

DOB: 2/7/13  
SOC: 276 03 9807

CHARLES K. RUSSELL  
8234 Findley Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44006

DOB: 6/27/23  
SOC: 288 12 2088

PHILLIP A. WAGNER  
2423 Tampa Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

DOB: 12/6/13  
SOC; 271 01 3176

ANDREW YEHODA  
9164 Perkin Road  
Novelty, Ohio 44072

DOB: 11/29/25  
SOC: 269 20 0172

Hope this is of some help to you.

Sincerely,

*Robert K. Lavery*

*P.S. George Robert Schwein was my Bombardier  
on We Promised*



1 February 1988

Mr. Robert Lavery  
60 West Lovell Ave  
Akron, OH 44310

Dear Bob:

I have run into one of those little puzzles where some of the pieces just don't match, and I am wondering if I can prevail upon you to verify it one way or the other?

Clifford B. Dobson, was a gunner in the group, and came from Akron, to the best of my information. He was reported as KIA 8 August 44 on a raid to Caen, the only man in the plane to be killed that day.

Now I have in my possession orders of 25 September 44 shipping him home.

Obviously, this has caused some concern on my part.

Can you do a bit of sleuthing? Perhaps a call to the research desk of the library could be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

January 25, 1997

Dear Russ,

When I left Las Vegas after the reunion was over, I stopped on the way home in Cottonwood Cove, NV at the home of Richard V. Miller, my engineer and top turret gunner. We were on William M. Wood's crew.

Mr. Miller retired from the Santa Fe Railroad and is very active in his community. He is also a very talented writer of poetry.

He wrote this poem about the ball turret and dedicated it to me. I think it is such an honor that I would like to share this poem with all the ball turret gunners of the 8th and 15th Air Force, if you can find space in the 306th Echoes.

Your Friend,

*Bob Lavery*

Bob Lavery

new missioner

"We Promised." 367<sup>th</sup>

Standing:

H. J. DOMENICA - N  
W. H. PENSINGER - CP  
R. G. SCHWEIN - B.  
W. M. WOOD - P.

Crew

6-F-47

Kneeling:

H. M. NOEL - ARMOR  
R. H. LIVERY - ASST ENGR. - BATT TOWER  
A. J. THYCO - ASST RADIO  
R. U. MILLER - ENGR. - TOP TOWER  
W. C. TRUMBULL - ARMOR - TAIL

RADIO MAN L. E. VANDER PLOEG  
was absent under pictures  
over taken