

PERSONNEL RECORD UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Date. May 11, 1997

Complete this form and return to Russell A. Strong, Secretary, 306th BG Assoc., 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205, to be filed with 306th records.

LAST NAME: Lempenau FIRST NAME: Virgil MI: W. TITLE: Mr.

Street Address: 497 South 40th St. Telephone: (316) 632-4220
McCune, Ks. 66753

City, State McCune, Kansas Zip + 4: 6 6 75 3 - _ _ _ _

Winter Address: Telephone: ()

City, State Zip + 4: _ _ _ _ _ - _ _ _ _

Date of birth: August 13, 1923 Wife's name: Elizabeth #c #gc #ggc

College(s) attended: Baker University Degree(s), & when: A.B. May 1950
Wheaton College

Last employment & job title & retirement date:
Pastor Kimball Bible Church - Jan. 5, 1992

Serial #(s): 37 506 545 Squadron: 1208 QM Specialty: Driver

Date joined 306th: Dec. or Jan. 1943 or 44 If combat, what crew?

Special duties or assignments w/306th:

Coal and Coke detail for 11 months & then supply department

No of missions flown: Date of last mission:

Date leaving 306th: Discharged March 2, 1946 Highest rank/grade w/306th:

Other 8AF units served with, and when:

Top service assignment after 306th:

USAF retirement date: Rank/grade:

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the Squadrons or other units serving with the 306th, are sought by the secretary, as many of these do not appear in any collections of materials in National Archives or the Air University.

If you know of others who served with the 306th and who do not appear in the current 306th Directory, please add their names and current/WWII hometowns or other addresses to the back of this sheet so that searches may be implemented to add them to our present 306th roster.

497 South 40th St.
McCune, Kansas 66753
May 11, 1997

Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Russell,

What a pleasant surprise your phone call was to me. I had wondered if anyone had started an organization of our air base.

Enclosed is an old roster of the 1208 Quarter Master Co. I also have a picture of the whole group with the officers included standing in front of a B-17. Do you want one of these? Also enclosed is part of the Rushden Echo & Argus news paper that has a full article covering most of the front page and some of the back page. If you want the full story I'll be glad to send a copy.

I do not know how much you know about the 1208 QM. Co. It's primary function was supplies for the whole base which included beds and etc., clothing, fuel for stoves, food, and one department dealt in shipping and handling. I really do not recall all our company did. Our Captain's name was Sawyer and a Lt. Reitmeier

was second in command. I believe there was another officer but I do not recall his name. I was the second driver for the officers and also drove trucks to other depots for supplies we needed. As indicated on sheet I spent the first 11 months helping to shovel coal and coke for the whole base, although a dirty job I did not transfer to another job when offered at that time but waited until a job opened up in the furniture department and clothing department. Sergeant Buehner was in charge and at the end of the war I became sergeant in his place.

You surely have record that at the end of the War we were no longer in the 8th Air Force but put in the 9th Air Force. Also 1208 Qm was deactivated and we became the 664th Air Material Squadron. We left England in the fall of 1945 and crossed the channel by boat and drove through France to Germany arriving around Christmas 1945. Our Air base was in the mountains near Wurtzburg, Germany. I left for home sometime in February and was discharged at Leavenworth, Ks. on March 2, 1946.

I marked the roster enclosed and found only 16 names in the directory you sent me.

Although I am unable to send a lot of money to help out I do enclose \$10.00 and will try to send more in the future. I do appreciate being put on the mailing list.

Another last thought - I believe John J. Giballi was the 1st Sergeant of our company. He was called a Pollock. He was the only one I communicated with for several years until his wife wrote that he had died. I do not know her address.

All for now.

Sincerely,

Mr. Virgil W. Lempenau

Mr. Virgil W. Lempenau

497 So. 40th
McCune, Ks. 66753
Jan. 4, 2006

Greetings!!

I have appreciated receiving the 306th Echoes. The stories of the various men has been interesting.

The 1208 Quarter Master Corp. had two barracks located close to the Commander of the 40th Wing. One early morning the planes were flying over us as they headed to Germany. One crash landed in the field 30 seconds from our barracks. Shrapnel from the explosion hit the ground as one of the men was walking between the barracks. I never did hear what made the plane go down.

Another evening as our planes were returning from bombing mission. The weather was foggy and another plane from a nearby field collided with one of our planes. I saw it happen as we stood in line at the mess hall.

I arrived sometime in January at 306th Bomb Group the year was 1944. The first job I had was to work with the coal and coke crew. We went to Thurleigh rail station and shoveled either coke or coal on our trucks and hauled it to a fenced in area where we again unloaded with shovels. I always enjoyed being out early in the morning shoveling coal or coke and looking up and see our planes circling to gain height before heading to the continent. Although the job was dirty and especially the coke got in one's eyes we still after delivering fuel to each groups site had time to clean up and drive to the hangers and watch the planes return. After 11 months new recruits came and so I transferred to the warehouse where beds, mattresses, dressers and etc. were available for the supply Sergeant of each group could get what was needed. Also I drove a truck to pick up other things from warehouses that were needed on the base.

I had my first plane ride as the war ended. Airmen would be returning from prison camps and DDT was needed so I was flown to a distant warehouse. When airmen were either killed or missing in action each supply Sergeant would gather the Airman's belongings and put them in a sealed box and then deliver to our warehouse. One time Sergeant and I drove to Liverpool with a truck and a trailer loaded with these boxes. The fog was so thick that Sergeant Beaner would stand in the center of the cross roads and listen for vehicles coming before we crossed.

I have many memories of being in England but I learned two things while in the 1208 Quarter Master Corp.:

1. Do not drink intoxicating beverages. It gets you into trouble.
2. I was taught to swear, in fact to well one time.

After being discharged in March 1946 a Sunday evening at church changed my whole life. So for 70 years I have not cursed and I still have never known what beer tastes like.

Waiting for the Master's Call,

Virgil Lempenau
Virgil Lempenau

PHONE No. ON CHECK:

620-632-4220

\$500 CONTRIBUTION