

Tom McElabor
63 Cantle Court
Sheiter Cove - St. Pt.
Whitehorn, CA 95489

Dec. 10, 1985.

Dear Russell;

I'm an "Old-Timer" of the 369th
306th from its inception to 1945. I was
shot down over Lille, France on 1-13-43,
and spent the duration in various prison
camps.

I would like to get a 369th
jacket patch (fighter Britain). Could
you advise?

Thanks

Tom McElabor

P.S. Also enclosed is a check for \$20.00.
Please send me a copy of "First Over
Germany".

Thanks (over)

where could I get a copy of
"For Extraordinary Merit, The
Air Force Cross." by Jeffrey B. Floyd.

Please let me know.

Also - Have quite a few P.O.W.
pictures (slug shots) of POW's
that I copied from German
files. Perhaps you could use
them in your work?

18 December 1985

Dear Tom:

As to the book you asked about, "For Extraordinary Heroism-----", I think you could ask in almost any book store, and with the author's name and title they could establish the publisher and place an order for you. I am not acquainted with the book, but if memory serves me right it concerns primarily Vietnam, but may also include Korea.

I would be very interested in your collection of mug shots, especially if they are identified. It would be interesting to run a page of them in Echoes at some point.

Good to hear from you and your copy of First Over Germany will be in the mail this week.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

369th

TOM Mc Mahon
63 CATTLE COURT
SHELTER COVE, CA
95489.

Russ,
Enclosed is General
Order # I (1-5-43) and
General Order # 11 (2-1-43)
my file was destroyed
in the big fire - just
a few documents left.
Hope they will be of some
use to you.

Sincerely
Tom McMahon

would like to obtain a
copy of exactly how many
missions I flew, where & when.
Govt. just took a cluster to

my A.M. away! 43 yrs
later - would you believe
it? Some clerk with
nothing better to do, no
doubt. As far as I can
remember I flew 9 with the
36th and 1 with the 423rd
as a fill in -

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

GENERAL ORDER)

NUMBER 1)

5 January 1943

*** **

II. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August, 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 74, Hq., ETOUSA, 18 November 1942, the AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named Officers and Enlisted Man.

*** **

THOMAS D. McMAHON, 12041471, Sergeant * * * * * Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while serving as Tail Gunner on a B-17 airplane, on a combat mission over enemy occupied Continental Europe, 12 December 1942. The airplane was attacked at 20,000 feet altitude by enemy airplanes, whereupon Sergeant McMahon 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. Home address: 112-36 207th Street, St. Albans, New York.

***** ** *****

By command of Major General BAKER:

C. C. CHAINKEY,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.,
Chief of Staff,

OFFICIAL:

WILLIAM W. DICK,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

1 February, 1943.

GENERAL ORDER)

NO.....11)

	SECTION
AWARDS, POSTHUMOUS, OF AIR MEDAL.....	I
AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.....	II
AWARDS OF AIR MEDAL.....	III
AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER.....	IV
AMENDMENT TO G.O. # 10, HQ. EIGHTH AIR FORCE 1943.....	V

III. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL:

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August, 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 74, Hq., ETOUSA, 18 November 1942, the Air Medal is awarded to the following named Officers and Enlisted Men:

* * *

* * *

IV. AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER:

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 74, Hq., ETOUSA, 18 November 1942, the OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men, in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded:

* * *
THOMAS D. McMAHON, 12041471, Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (M), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious achievement while serving as Tail Gunner on a B-17 airplane, on five aerial combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe, 9 October, 7 November, 8 November, 17 November and 22 November 1942. The courage and skill displayed by Sergeant McMahon upon these occasions reflect highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 39 Whitehall St., Jamaica, New York.

* * *

By command of Major General EAKER:
OFFICIAL:

H. G. CULTON,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Actg. Adj. General.

C. C. CHAUNCEY,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.,
Chief of Staff.

11/15/84

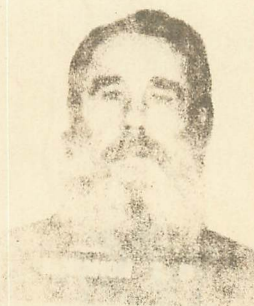
Russ:

Thought you might be interested in this. Tom was one of the originals, Johnsons (369th) waist gunner. Shot down with Johnson. Wish pic had reproduced a little better, for he has a "rip van winkle" beard. Seems to have found himself in the "mountains". Didn't seem to have been lacking on "wives" anyway.

Good to see you at reunion. Think most had an enjoyable time.

The best

"Lighty"



1-707-986-7606

Tom Mr Mahon
63 Cantle Court
Shutter Cove, Ca
95459

1-707-986-7606

Hi Buddy -
don't know whom I'm
writing to because I simply
can't read your signature!
Nevertheless, I enjoyed you
most welcomed letter. Got
to many ex P.O.'s write
to me. Have kept in con-
act with Pete Mills (my
Boxing Trainer), also made
a copy of my letter, Tom
Cuppen, made one escape with
him; Don Williams, and
Don Biven. Met Jack-strap
Jones" and Charlie Bangs right
after the war but haven't
heard from them in years

2

Culkin came out to Calif.
and visited me last year.
Correction (3 years ago)
Mills is coming out in
a few months. We both
went to the [unclear] for
department. I left same in
1958 to practice law and
teach college. Retired in
1972 from everything and
found myself in the
woods. Peace of mind,
finally, after all these
years. 10 kids, three
swans and a great assort-
ment of horses of all
ages and sizes. I loved
them all! Met a gal named
Hattie 4 years ago and have
been together ever since.
She is just what I needed.

we built a house by
 the sea, surrounded by
 national forests, away from
 everything — we are
 now partners in a small
 cattle ranch ("Pahojie
 Spring Ranch). We haven't
 stocked it yet because
 we just purchased it
 last March. Spent the
 last 6 months on the land
 getting to know it. Really
 a great experience — from
 putting out fires to ranch-
 ing — Even though I've
 lived in the woods since
 '72 and considered a
 "mountain person" by most
 people, I'm still a city kid
 at heart. Have no desire
 or reason for going back

4

to N.Y. I have every-
thing here that I need.
Health is excellent
and emotionally sound
for the first time, since
we were forced to survive
in the corporate world
only becoming an expert in
hiding our true feelings.
Finally, letting it all out.
I believe my own person,
once again. Happy day!

P.S. My kids can see
ages 31 - 4 years - the
last named James, married
McMahon who is living
with his mother in a
small town near by -
Thanks for writing, he
happy to hear from you
again - Friend Tom.

Thomas D. McMahon, Esq.
McMahon Enterprises, Inc.
P. O. Box 582
Redway, California 95560
1-707-986-7606

Mr. Russell A. Strong, Secretary
306 th. Bomb Group Association
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205.

June 11, 1997.

Dear Mr. Strong:

Attached is an undated letter from one Lee Kessler, a member of the 306th. Bomb Group Association. I emphatically question the ethical use of the Association's letter head by a member for the single purpose of expressing his hate. Perhaps some form of professional help would benefit Mr. Kessler! There are certain legal steps that could be taken in order to prevent a recurrence of this misconduct of infringement. Please be advised of the serious ramifications that this matter encompasses.

If you attended the Tucson reunion and have knowledge of the alleged letter that was "passed around" please offer me the courtesy of a complete explanation of the following:

1. To whom the letter was addressed and date.
2. Who brought the letter to the reunion?
3. Was the letter used as part of the reunion format?

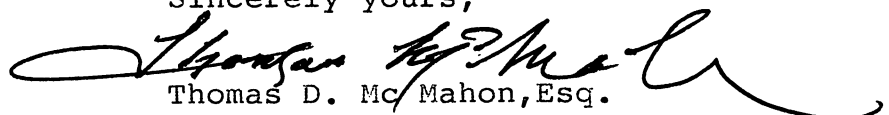
I don't ever remember writing to the Purple Heart Magazine and therefore, haven't any idea of what Lee Kessler is talking about. This is not a defense, by any means, of my past writings or present beliefs because, I stand firm in that area and experience absolutely no regrets. My motto has always been, "If the shoe fits wear it". Regardless, the point of fact is that Mr. Kessler is very angry and full of hate but, that doesn't under any circumstance, eliminate or disaffirm the opinions and judgments of others. This is America and free speech does prevail. Perhaps in Mr. Kessler's case having once been persecuted as an Ex-POW has now become the persecutor! If that indeed be the case, I shall pray for his troubled and confused mind.

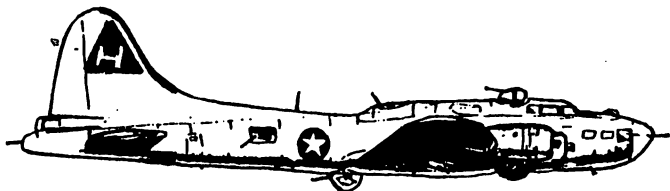
May I offer a simple solution for this problem?

1. Send me a copy of the alleged letter.
2. Answer the aforementioned three (3) questions.

Any action taken on your part will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas D. McMahon, Esq.



306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

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

Lee Kessler
170 Saratoga Ave. N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708

AMERICAN FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR



Thomas McMahon
Box 582
Redway, California 95560-0582

I have just returned from the Stalag 17-B reunion in Tucson, where all there had a great time. Your letter from, I believe, the Purple Heart Magazine was passed around. You were referred to by many names along with mine after reading it.

In the first place your memory has gone astray. There were only two buildings (as you called them). I didn't realize you lived any other life style than the rest of us. I was one of those you refer to who lived in one of those buildings of "that mentality".

I suppose my mentality was not as good as should have been otherwise I should have let you croak on that train from Dulag Luft to VII-A. Thank God there were few of your type in camp. As a quote from an old movie; "If by chance we should ever meet, please pass on by"

Lee Kessler

I am not afraid of tomorrow, For I have seen yesterday, And today is beautiful. An ex-P.O.W.

17 June 1997

Dear Tom:

I did not attend a Tucson reunion, so have really no idea about what a letter Lee Kessler may have written. I was not a POW, so do not go to their meetings. Thus, I am unable to answer your three specific questions about the letter.

I also do not read the Purple Heart Magazine, as I never got a Purple Heart medal.

That is not a 306th letterhead that he uses. It is something he contacted some years ago for his own uses. He did borrow three lines of type from the 306th letterhead.

I appreciate your concern, but feel that there is no way in which I can help the situation at the present.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. McMahon, Esq.
McMahon Enterprises, Inc.
P. O. Box 582
Redway, California 95560
1-707-986-7606

February 10, 1996.

Mr. Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charootte, NC. 28205

Dear Russ:

Upon reading the January 1996, 306 th. Echoes, I came across an unidentified picture (7-x) of the 'Adams' crew of which I was the tail gunner. This picture was taken upon completion of one of the early raids in 1942. Incidentally, this ship and crew were 'downed' on the January 13, 1943. Lille, France mission. Individual identification, to the best of my knowledge, from left to right is as follows:

Tipton BTG; Morrison LWG; Mc Mahon TG; Stevenson RO; Bennett TTGE; (UNK Zadoblick RWG?) (UNK Jones?) Adams P; (UNK Casey?) (UNK) MY memory for officers is very poor due to the fact that I didn't socialize with them in any manner as an enlisted man.

Those killed on the raid were: Tipton, Adams and Duggar (Ground Operations Officer, 369th) in the capacity of CP. and not shown in this picture. Morrison, Stevenson and myself were wounded.

I would appreciate an 8x10 photograph displaying more of the air craft and thorough identification of all the parties. My eleven (11) children and twenty seven (27) grand children would be impressed.

Take care old buddy! "Keep your head low and your powder dry", and may God bless.

I remain, one of the originals,



Thomas D. Mc Mahon, Esq.

P
Y
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

5 January 1943.

GENERAL ORDER
NO. 1

E X T R A C T

II. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 74, Hq., ETOUSA, 18 November 1942, the AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named Officers and Enlisted Men.

THOMAS D. McMAHON, 12041471, Sergeant, ***** Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while serving as Tail Gunner on a B-17 airplane, on a combat mission over enemy occupied Continental Europe, 12 December 1942. The airplane was attacked at 20,000 feet altitude by enemy airplanes, whereupon Sergeant McMahon 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. Home address: 112-36 207th Street, St. Albans, New York.

By Command of Major General EAKER:

C. C. CHAUNCEY,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

WILLIAM W. DICK,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General

GENERAL ORDER

NO.

AWARDS, POSTHUMOUS, OF AIR MEDAL.....	I
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THOMAS D. McMAHON, 12041471, Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious achievement while serving as Tail Gunner on a B-17 airplane, on five aerial combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe, 9 October, 7 November, 8 November, 17 November and 22 November 1942. The courage and skill displayed by Sergeant McMahon upon these occasions reflect highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 59 Whitehall St., Jamaica, New York.

* * *

By command of Major General EAKER:
OFFICIAL: C. C. CHAUNCEY, Brigadier General, U.S. Army, Chief of Staff
H. G. COLTON, Colonel, A.G.D., Actg. Adj. General.

Thomas D. McMahon, Esq.
McMahon Enterprises, Inc.
P. O. Box 582
Redway, California 95560
1-707-986-7606

4-18-98.

Mr. Russell A. Strong, Secretary
306th. Bombardment Group Historical Association
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205.

Dear Russell:

On January 30, 1986, I received a notice from the Department of the Air Force, Manpower and Personnel Center, San Antonio, Texas, that as a result of 'Correction of Military Records' one of my Air Medals was taken away. Copy enclosed.

A letter followed stating: "The correction was accomplished administratively without referral to the Secretary of the Air Force Board of Correction of Military Records".

Needless to say I was astonished that a pencil-pushing-clerk had the balls and the authority to accomplish this injustice. Accordingly, my service record fails to support a second oak leaf cluster to the air medal. I learned that the 'Loading Lists' for each mission flown by the 306BG, prior to my being a POW, would be solid evidence in proving just what missions I had flown, with what Sqdn, date etc. My total is eleven with several more to research.

INTERESTING FACTS: THREE QUESTIONABLE MISSIONS.

(Will I be credited with these three questionable missions?)

Nov.17, 42 St. Nazaire.....Abortive; dropped bombs in Channel..enemy fire encountered.

Dec. 06.42 MOCK DIVERSION: No fighter escort. Should be counted as a mission.

Dec.30, 42 Lorient U Boat Pens.."Turned Back" Enemy fire encountered.

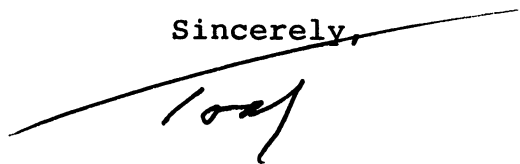
Air Medal: General Order #11 (For five Missions).

Oak Leaf Cluster: General Order #1 (Enemy fighter destroyed on Dec.12, 42 Lorrient mission while flying with the 423rd.Sqdn.

Second Oak Leaf Cluster: Sould be for the next five missions, PROVIDED TWO of the abovementioned QUESTIONABLE missions are counted.....Whats your opinion on this thinking? I'm getting ready to present all this evidence as supporting documentation verifying my entitlement to the second Oak Leaf Cluster to HQ HFMP/DPMSA, Randolph, AFB, Texas 78150-6001.

Any advice that you may have for me will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



**HONORABLE DISCHARGE
WD AGO FORM 53-55**

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES

ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS RENDER FORM VOID

1. NAME (Last, first, middle) MCMAHON THOMAS D.		2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH AC AUS		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (Also, Service Number if applicable) PSN: 12-041-471	
4. MAILING ADDRESS (Include ZIP Code) 112-36 207 St., St Albans, Queens County, NY					
5. ORIGINAL DD FORM 214 IS CORRECTED AS INDICATED BELOW					
ITEM NO.		CORRECTED TO READ			
33		SEPARATION DATE ON DD FORM 214 BEING CORRECTED - 1945 November 17 AS READS: EAME Service Medal W/1 Bronze Star CORRECTED TO READ: European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars AS READS: Air Medal W/2 Oak Leaf Clusters CORRECTED TO READ: Air Medal with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster * * * * * NOTHING FOLLOWS * * * * *			
		Copy 3 to VA Data Proc Ctr, Austin, TX 78772 Copy 5 to Dept of Labor, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 Copy 6 to Dept of Veteran Affairs			
6. DATE 30 Jan 86		7. TYPED NAME, GRADE, TITLE AND SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN CHARLES E. MCLAURIN, MSGT, USAF, CHIEF, ANALY & CERT			

DD FORM 215
1 JUL 79
S/N 0102-LF-000-2150

PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM ARE OBSOLETE.

CORRECTION TO DD FORM 214, CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

MEMBER - 4

ENLISTED

AND REPORT OF SEPARATION ABLE DISCHARGE

1. NAME (Last, first, middle initial) Thomas		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 12041471	3. GRADE T/Sgt	4. ARM OR SERVICE AG	5. COMPONENT AUS
6. ORGANIZATION 1010 AAF BN		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 17 Nov 45	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION GHQ Greenberg N C		
9. HOME ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 112-36 207 St St Albans Queens Co N Y			10. DATE OF BIRTH 19 Jan 25	11. PLACE OF BIRTH New York N Y	
12. SOURCE FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT See item 9			13. COLOR EYES Brn	14. COLOR HAIR Brn	15. HEIGHT 6' 0"
16. RACE See item 9			17. NO. DEPEND. 162 lbs.	18. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Student H Sch (0-1)	
19. MARITAL STATUS SINGLE			20. U.S. CITIZEN YES		

MILITARY HISTORY

21. DATE OF INDUCTION 9 Jan 42	22. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 9 Jan 42	23. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 9 Jan 42	24. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE New York N Y
25. REGISTERED AG	26. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO.	27. COUNTY AND STATE Queens Co N Y	28. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Base as item 9
29. SPECIALTY AND NO. 611		30. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) 1st Sgt	

31. AWARDS AND CITATIONS
**Service Medal w/ 1 Bronze Star Good Conduct Medal Purple Heart
 Medal w/ 2 Oak Leaf Clusters American Theater Medal WW II Victory Medal**

32. RECEIVED IN ACTION
Wounded over France Leg Arm Knee & face injuries

33. LATEST IMMUNIZATION TESTS		34. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN	
TYPHOID 25 Jan 42	TETANUS 7 Mar 42	DATE OF DEPARTURE 6 Sep 42	DESTINATION England
OTHER (specify) Chol 5 May 42 YP 28 Jan 42		DATE OF ARRIVAL 11 Sep 42	DATE OF RETURN 29 Jan 45
35. HIGHEST GRADE HELD T/Sgt		36. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE	
		DOMESTIC SERVICE MONTHS: 0 DAYS: 7	
		FOREIGN SERVICE YEARS: 2 MONTHS: 9 DAYS: 24	

37. AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION
AG 115-065 & 115-10 AAF Subj: "AAF Separation Rules" dated 6 Sep 45

38. SCHOOLS ATTENDED			42. EDUCATION (Years)		
			Grammar	High School	College

43. PAY DATA		44. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER	
THIS MONTH	TOTAL	179.77	AG

45. INSURANCE NOTICE				46. INTENTION OF VETERAN	
NOT PAID THE LAST MONTH... ONE DAY THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE U. S. AND TERRITORY COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.				Continue Only	
INSURANCE	PAID	50. Effective Date of Last Month Discontinuance	51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50)	52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH	53. INTENTION OF VETERAN
Govt.	Yes	Nov 45	Dec 45	\$ 6.50	Continue Only

47. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives)
**Lapel Button Issued 17 Nov 45
 8 days lost under AN 107
 AGR (2 Sep 45) 103**

48. NAME OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED Thomas	49. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) STANLEY S. RUTT Captain AG
---	--

1945

SUBJECT: Affidavit for Awards and Decorations

TO: The Adjutant General
Awards and Decorations Branch
Washington, D. C.

1. Forwarded herewith is affidavit for awards and decorations of the following named returned Prisoner of War for verification:

Thomas D. McMahon	12 041 471	Sgt	369th Bomb Sq., 306th Bomb Gp
Name	ASN	Grade	Overseas Org.

I, Thomas D. McMahon, being first duly sworn according to law, do depose and say that I believe that I am authorized to wear the following awards and decorations:

Name of Award	Organization and inclusive dates of duty
<u>Air Medal, 2 Clusters</u>	<u>306th Bomb Gp, 369th Sq</u>
<u>Purple Heart</u>	

Basis of Claim for Award: Flak in legs and left heel chronic Sinonitis of both knees. Injury to left arm caused by binding, fracture of right arm below elbow, two broken teeth and cut lips.

REMARKS: (concerning Purple Heart)

- Date of wound: 13 January 1943
- Place of wound: Legs
- How incurred: Day shot down
- Treatment: Civilian treatment (Trench)

October 09, 42	Lille
November 07, 42	Brest
November 08, 42	Lille
November 17, 42	St. Nazaire
November 18, 42	La Pallice U Boat Pens
November 22, 42	Lorient U Boat Pens
December 06, 42	Mock Diversion.(Enemy Fire Encounted).
December 12, 42	Rouen/Scottervilles
December 30, 42	Lorient U Boat Pens
January 03, 43	St. Nazaire U Boat Pens
January 13, 43	Lille (POW # 112502)

PS. Forgot to ask.....How many BATTLE STARS did the
306th.BG. earn during WW2 ?

Tom Mc Mahon