

April 20-2000

TO- Russell Strong,

I am Writing you to first off Thanks for the sending me the 306 Echoes every  $\frac{1}{4}$  Yr. as I enjoy reading it. The Jan. issue surprised me to find my crew navigator's Obituaries Namee Philip Tomasella has passed. Yes, he was with Charles Trigg crew, and darned good pal, He did something for me when I was WIA on a raid over Germany, Apr. 24, I was pretty bad shape when a ME 109 shell exploded through the bomb bay and nailed me in the R.Hip and L. Buttock, But I was very lucky tyey missed thæ bones. I spent about 3 wks. at the 49 Sta. Hospital. After all these years they found some Bits still in me although I feel , only cronic back achs almost daily. I go to the VA hospital regularly. Now, About Phill, Hehelped ease the worrying by sending my family a letter explaining my injuries. The WAR Dept, don't give much information.

Allthese years gone by and I cannot remember all the crews names, I do know that our Ball Tr. was a guy by name of Murdock, He was taken POW,,flying witu another crew. I was also flying with a differant crew, but I still don't know which they were, I was ROMG , filling in for a man on Sick call. We were anew crew just starting in combat, I only flew 2 missions, it was the second one for me. It all happened on The 24 Apr, 44. We were to drop bombs over An Aircraft and the Enemy fighters came after us,The name was Oberhephen ??.

I lost my wife to cancer in --92 and I am Getting on in age 80+. We were with the 168 Sq. andI was sent to the USA in Oct. of that year, Once back, we were sent to Radio school for refresher training. then the A Bomb was dropped, almost over , just waiting discharg.Out in Oct. 30-45

If you have any information,as to Names,lost planes, or any thing about my Combat History, I would appreciate the Info.

I live alone, have two kids, one in Reno and the girl in Texas

PS- I type cause my hands are disabled-Tremors

Yours Truely,  
Frank Mercurio  
211 Kennedy Ave.  
Munhall, PA. 15120

To - Russell Strong,

I am writing you to first off thanks for the sending me the 300 photos every 1/2 yr. as I enjoy reading it. The 1st issue surprised me to find my crew navigator's Optician's Name Phillip Tomasselli has passed. Yes, he was with Charles Trigg crew, and named good pal, He did something for me when I was WIA on a raid over Germany, Apr. 5th, I was pretty bad shape when ME 109 shell exploded through the bomb bay and nailed me in the R.Hip and L. Buttock, But I was very lucky they missed the bones. I spent about 3 wks at the PG Sta. Hospital. After all these years they found some bits still in me although I feel, only chronic back ache almost daily. I go to the VA hospital regularly. Now, about Phil, He helped ease the worrying by sending my family a letter explaining my injuries. The War Dept, don't give much information.

All these years gone by and I cannot remember all the crews names, I do know that our Ball Tr. was a guy by name of Murdoch, He was taken POW, flying with another crew. I was also flying with a different crew, but I still don't know which they were, I was BOMG, flying in for a mission on 2nd Oct. We were new crew just starting in combat, I only flew 2 missions, it was the second one for me. It all happened on the 21st Apr, 44. We were to drop bombs over An Aircraft and the Enemy fighters came after us, The name was Oberbacher ?? I lost my wife to cancer in --92 and I am getting on in age 80+. We were with the 108 Sq. and I was sent to the USA in Oct. of that year. Once back, we were sent to Radio school for refresher training. then the Bomb was dropped, almost over, just waiting to be discharged. Out in Oct. 30-45 If you have any information, as to Names, lost planes, or any thing about my Combat History, I would appreciate the info. I live alone, have two kids, one in Reno and the girl in Texas

PS - I type cause my hands are disabled-Tremors

Yours Truly,  
Frank Mercurio  
511 Kennedy Ave.  
Muhall, PA. 17120