

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, 4900 Appleridge Ct., Dayton, Ohio 45424

I am endeavoring to put together a good history of the 306th bombardment group, an idea which has been in my mind for some years. I am working diligently on the matter, collecting all kinds of data and working through the official history and records of the group. I served as a navigator with the 367th quadron from June through November, 1944, and currently am director of news and information services at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. I solicit your assistance in my project.

I am interested in any special materials which you may have such as good photographs of personnel, battle damage, insignia, etc. I am also interested in commendations (other than the usual Air Medal and DFC) you may have received. I would appreciate receiving xeroxed copies of special stories which you may have in your possession that are highly descriptive of combat action, or any documents. I would appreciate receiving xeroxed copies if you do not have such facilities readily available. I would appreciate the loan of materials which I might copy and return to you immediately. I am also interested in many of memoirs which you may have prepared, particularly those were done within a couple of years of the events. I would appreciate copies or the opportunity to copy them.

Name Aram J. Nahabedian
Address 17941 Lucero Way, Tustin, CA., 92680
Res: (714) 838-1843
Telephone " 896-2710 Date _____
Occupation Contract Administrator Employer McDonnell Douglas
Address Huntington Beach, CA Telephone (714) 896-2710

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

Class 44B Pilot training - Freeman Fld, Seymore, Ind.
Graduated 8 Feb 44 as 2nd Lt while still 18 yrs old.
Combat Crew Training (B-17) Ardmore, Okla. Departed 18 May 44 for Kearney Neb., for plane pick-up and flight to Eng.
After leaving the 306th:
6th Ferrying Gp, Long Beach, CA. Pursuit Ferry Pilot; checked out in P-51, P-47 and P-63. Ferried Such until separation from service 6 Nov 45.
Univ of Mich, BBA, 1949.
Recalled to active duty 1 Apr 51; SAC and then Korean service.
306th Record:

Arrival Date 16 Jun 44 Squadron or other unit 423
MOS Pilot Combat Status CoPilot/Pilot
Missions Completed 35; 22 as CoPilot, 13 as Pilot(all while 19yrs old)
Promotions 1st Lt, 12 Dec 44
Decorations X AM 5olcs XDFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM
PH X Battle Stars four other _____

Other personal data:

After recall served as Intelligence Staff Officer; rec'd Sr Pilot Rating; rec'd Sr Parachutist Rating, completed 43 jumps; rec'd Regular Captaincy and served thru 30 Jun 60; reverted to Reserve and retired as Lt Col, 11 Nov 71. Awarded Air Force Commendation Medal and Meritorious Service Medal for service as Reservist.

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?)

20 Jul 44, Marburg, Germany; 9th Mission, lost three engines due to flak in IP area, had to ditch 8 miles off Ostend, Belgium, no crew injuries, rescued by British 26 hours after setting down.

22 Aug 44:; while flying as formation observer on Group Lead ship forced to bail out after take-off when smoke bomb ignited in bomb bay.

OFFICE OF THE GROUP SURGEON
306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 557

AAF Station 111

5 Feb 45

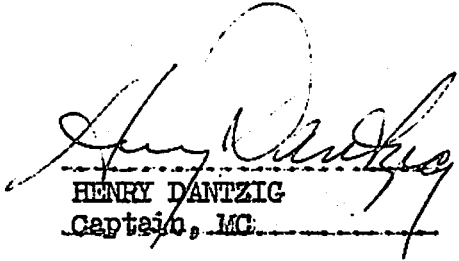
(Date)

C E R T I F I C A T E

As directed by Letter, Hq., Eighth Air Force, Office of the Commanding General, APO 634, Subject: "Personnel infected with Venereal Disease," dated 22 October 1944, This is to certify that:

NAHABEDIAN, ARAM J. 2nd Lt, A.S.N. 0-822062, 423rd Bomb Sq.

306th Bomb Group (H), APO 557, has been examined this date and at the present time shows no evidence of venereal disease, communicable disease, scabies, body lice, and other vermin infestation.


HENRY DANTZIG
Captain, MC

How ABOUT THAT!

O-P-E-R-A-T-I-O-N-A-L S-O-R-T-I-E R-E-C-O-R-D

NAME: MAHABEDIAN, ARAM RANK: 1st Lt. A/C NO: 0-822062
 DUTY: Pilot GROUP: 306th SQUADRON: 423rd

Date of Mission	Group Mission Number	Indiv. Mission Number	Geographical Location of Targets	Time	Total Combat Time	
June 29, 1944		--	Abandoned	5:50	CO-PILOT	
July 1, 1944		--	Abandoned	2:50		
2		1	No Ball France	4:55		
6		2	No Ball France	4:50		
7		3	Northwest Germany	4:45		
9		4	Bauchemaine France	6:30		
11		5	Munich Germany	9:30		
13		6	Munich "	10:00		
17		7	Jussy France	5:30		
18		8	Peenemunde Germany	9:30		
20		9	Marburg (Ditched) "	9:00		
Aug. 4, 1944		10	Anklam Germany	10:30		
5		11	Dollbergen "	8:00		
6		12	Brandenburg "	9:25		
8		13	Caen Area France	6:00		
16		14	Bohlan Germany	9:00		
24		--	Abortion BAILED OUT	1:20		
Sept 17, 1944		15	Volkel Holland	6:30		
27		--	Flying Spare	3:00		
30		16	Munster Germany	6:15		
Oct. 2, 1944		17	Kassel "	8:30		
5		18	Koln "	7:00		
6		19	Stralsund "	10:00		
7		20	Ruhland "	9:30		
14		--	Abortion	3:30		
19		21	Mannheim Germany	6:45		
23		22	Munster "	6:10		
Nov. 5, 1944		23	Frankfurt "	9:05		
9		24	Metz France	8:10		PILOT
16		25	Eschweiler Germany	8:50		
21		26	Merseberg "	8:45		
Dec. 5, 1944		27	Abortion	5:30		
6		27	Merseberg Germany	9:00		
9		28	Stuttgart "	9:25		
11		29	Frankfurt "	9:00		
15		30	Kassel "	8:45		
Jan. 7, 1945		31	Urskirchen "	7:00		
8		32	Speyer "	8:30		
10		33	Gymnich "	7:10		
17		34	Bielefeld "	7:15		
29		35	Koblenz "	8:05	29:05	

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Thomas F. Witt
 THOMAS F. WITT,
 Major, A/C,
 Oprns. Officer,
 306th Bomb. Gp. (H)

Russell A. Strong
Rt 1, Turnpike Rd
Laurinburg, North Carolina
28352

Dear Russ:

I'm truly sorry for the long delay in getting back to you with this; I had completely forgotten about your letter and just recently came across it as I was catching up on my filing.

I hope my contribution is "not too little, nor too late" to be of help.

I'm also enclosing my history questionnaire and related data (orders, etc.)

I'm really looking forward to seeing the group in Phoenix.

Happy research and writing,



Aram J. Nahabedian

ARAM NAHABEDIAN

10/13/50

Nahabedian

at Huntington
Beach CA

July 20 - 9th mission

Ellis O Porter - P down on mission to
Hamburg

Had checked out pilots as test pilots.

Malcolm Frazier was pilot
On way to Hamburg
low alt, low speed.

Hit just before 1P
1st burst got 1 & 2, feathered.
dropped bombs. lost 5-6 000'

started for home, 5 minutes lost #3 feathered.

Tried to re-feather 1 or 2, unable,
P-51 piled up.

down at 110' min.

threw everything out, not ball turret.

Small arms fire in Belgium

Ditched 8 mi off coast of Ostend, Belgium.

George plunger, waist gun, had Gibson fuel between legs. On impact flew out hatch, & lodged under his stabilizer.

Plane down 1/2 mi. Plane cracked at ball turret, lost G.I. May have been good.

Early next a.m., beginning to see search planes.
Ditched abt 3.

Saw Beaufighter before search planes, fired
flares. Etc'd, & waggled wing.

Fired flares at search plane.

Wingey came over & dropped life boat.
Had problems because of excitement.
Wing of chute tangled w/propeller.
Water rough.

1/2 hr later British search plane picked up.
10 miles off Dunkirk.
Saw life boat, because see G rough. Took to Dunkirk.

Went to Naval Hosp for checkup

At RAF Sta for 2 days before picked up.

Bail out later Aug 24
Chaffant leading Mickey slip

Naha as observer in tail.

Sitting in waist, noticed smoke seeping
thru bomb bay door.

Smoke bomb detonated in plane.

All bailed out from back of plane

People in front stayed, bailed plane.

Naha landed in brush sprout patch.
Sprout able, unscathed.

Met rest of crew at police station.

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

12/10/81

Dear Russ:

I am one who contributed
\$100 (June 79) to the research
fund, but I haven't as yet
received a letter confirming

6-20-90

Dear Mr. Brescoe

I am sorry to write that my husband Aram J. Nahabedian has passed away 6-13-90. Please cancel his reservation. If it is too late to return his deposit I will understand.

Sincerely
Addie Nahabedian

P.S. I have cancelled his hotel reservation.

A. J. NAHABEDIAN
17941 LUCERO WAY
TUSTIN, CA 92680

June 1, 1990

Dear Russ:

As mentioned in our conversation the other night, here are some items for your information, or use as you deem appropriate:

Belated Obituary - George "Rusty" Johnson (423rd)
Passed away 30 May 1987 - heart failure. Originally Asst Radio Operator on Ellis O. Porter/Nahabedian crew, then promoted to Radio Operator on Hutchinson'crew. A third string, Notre Dame quarterback (dropkicker) in late thirties, Rusty was a member of the 306th team.

DEATH OF DONALD J. CASEY (423RD)

Details unknown. Paul Reieux (808)879-0090 may have details.

NEW FIND - PAUL H. WEHUNT

Ball Turret Gunner on Porter/Nahabedian crew.
400 Hiram Page Rd. # 15, Yreka, CA 96097.
Would you please send him last issue of ECHOS; he plans to go to San Antonio.

YOUNGEST PILOT?

My birth date: 3/27/25.
Called to active duty for aviation cadet training on 4/2/43 at age 18 yrs, 7 days.
Graduated from pilot training and commissioned on 2/8/44 at age 18 yrs, 10 mos and 11 days.
Checked out as 1st Pilot on 10/15/44 at age 19yrs, 6 mos and 18 days.
Promoted to 1st Lt on 12/12/44 at age 19 yrs, 8 mos and 15 days.
Awarded DFC on 1/6/45 at age 19 yrs, 9 mos and 9 days.
Completed tour on 1/29/45 at age 19 yrs, 10 mos and 2 days.
Separated from active duty on 11/6/45 at age 20 yrs, 7 mos and 9 days.
Being from Michigan, all above before I was eligible to vote or drink.

So long for now,

*Nobby, Naha
or whatever*

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS



A. J. NAHABEDIAN

*Branch Manager – Contracts
Special Activities*

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS ASTRONAUTICS COMPANY
5301 Bolsa Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

RES

(714) 896-2441

(714)-838-1843