RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

Date complete Sept 26 89

LAST NAME: FIRST NAME: TITLE:

Street address: DR. MATTHEW RADNOFSKY
138 DRIFTWOOD DRIVE
City, state, zip: SEABROOK, TEXAS 77586

Telephone: (713) 326 2028

Date of Birth: Oct 9 1924 Wife's name: Eunice

College(s) attended: Mass State Boston Univ, Univ of Houston Degree(s): AB MA, MS phd. Year(s): 1949, 1950 1964.

Last employment and job title: Director, Aircrew Eqmpt, NASA.

Reunions attended: (by year or location) all but first

Serial #: 0717500 Squadron: 423 Speciality: Navigator

Date joined 306th: June 1944 If combat, what crew: Alyea.

Special duties or assignments w/306th:

Number of missions flown: 26 Date of last mission: 21 Nov 44

Date left 306th: (shot down that date) Highest rank/grade with 306th: 1st Lt.

Other 8th AF units served with: 0

Top service assignments after 306th: Hospitals. Last, Walter Reed Wash.

USAF retirement date: Sept 47 Rank/grade: Capt.

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units, will be welcomed by the secretary.

If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search further for them.

RECORDS UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish to, fold and mail as per address on reverse side. Or, if obtained at a reunion, hand to Russ Strong)

LAST NAME: RADNOFSKY FIRST NAME: MATTHEW TITLE: Navigator

STREET ADDRESS: 138 Driftwood TELEPHONE: (713 - 326 2028

CITY: Seabrook Tex STATE: Tex. ZIP: 77586.

DATE JOINED 306th ASSOCIATION: 1982

REUNIONS ATTENDED: (Years) 5

WIFE'S NAME: Eunice

LAST EMPLOYMENT: Prof. Univ. of Houston, Tex.

COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED: Mass State, Boston University DEGREE(S): AB MA, MS, PhD DATE: 1949-1972
Un. of Houston at Cl. Lk.
Un. of T.

SERIAL #: 0717502 SQDN: 423 MOS: 6

DATE ARR: June 1944 CREW: Alyea.

DATE DEPARTED: Shot down 21 Nov 1944 HIGHEST RANK IN 306th: 1st Lt.

SERVICE RETIREMENT DATE: 1947 RANK or GRADE: Capt.

DECORATIONS WITH 306TH: Pur. Hrt. AM, 3 clusters.

TOP SERVICE ASSIGNMENT AFTER 306TH: —

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS WITH 306TH: —

QUESTIONNAIRE
CATERPILLAR CLUB - IRVING CHUTE COMPANY

NAME: MATTHEW RADNOFSKY.

COMBAT JUMP DATE & MISSION: 1944, Nov 21st Merseberg, Germany.

HEIGHT WHEN BAILED OUT: 27000'

ANY PROBLEMS WITH PARACHUTE: NONE

306th Bombardment Group. SQDN: 423rd.

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

Date completed Sept 9 1990

LAST NAME: RADNOFSKY FIRST NAME: MATTHEW TITLE:

Street address: 138 Driftwood Telephone: (713 326 2028

City, state, zip: Seabrook Tex 77586

Date of Birth: Oct 9 1924 Wife's name: Eunice

College(s) attended: Un. Houston, Mass State, LT. Degree(s): AB MA PhD Year(s): 1950-52 66.

Last employment and job title:

Reunions attended: (by year or location) all.

Serial #: 0717500 Squadron: 423 Specialty: Navigator.

Date joined 306th: June 1944 If combat, what crew: Algea, Shroer Bachler.

Special duties or assignments w/306th:

Number of missions flown: 26th Date of last mission: 21 Nov 44

Date left 306th: Shot down on 21 NOV 44 Highest rank/grade with 306th: 1st Lt.

Other 8th AF units served with: 0

Top service assignments after 306th: Walter Reed Hospital. Wash DC.

USAF retirement date: Sept 47 Rank/grade: 1st Lt.

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units, will be welcomed by the secretary.

If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search further for them.

16 Aug 91

Dear Kees,

Just a note to thank you for your prompt reply to my query. The 12 Sept Flight to Kirkland made fascinating reading. As I indicated, I had no records left, after I was shot down on the 21st of Nov. '44, and so your help was most appreciated.

From your records, is it possible to reconstruct the mission list I did fly? I arrived into the 36th in June of '44 and my 26th mission was my last as noted above. Of course, I would be happy to pay for the effort.

See you in England.

Mat.

Affirmative response
8 Dec 91

M. I. RADNOFSKY
138 DRIFTWOOD DRIVE
SEABROOK, TEXAS 77586

May 4, 1993

Russ Strong
5323 Cheval Pl.
Charlotte NC 28205

Dear Russ:

Enclosed please find $ 25.00 donation, plus photo of my crew:

HARRY ALYEA, pilot (KIA)
JOHN MURPHY, co-pilot
MATTHEW RADNOFSKY, navigator (POW)
CHARLES MUELLER, Bombadier (KIA)

S. MILLER, engineer (KIA)
DON COLEMAN, radio (KIA)
VINCE O'BRIEN, gunner (KIA)
TERRY CAPPS, gunner (KIA)
HASTINGS S. KEY, tail gunner (POW)

Regards,

7 June 1993

Mrs. Matthew Radnofsky
138 Driftwood Dr
Seabrook, TX 77586

Dear Eunice:

Please let me express my condolences to you and your family.

I had come to know Matt well through reunions, and had always enjoyed being with him. However, during the reunion in England last fall I had the distinct feeling that his health was not good.

I have received this morning by FAX from one of our Houston members a copy of the Houston Chronicle obituary, and have changed our listing to your name on the Echoes mailing. If you would prefer that it go to one of the children, that would be perfectly acceptable. I would just need a name and address.

Many other members of the 423rd squadron and of the 306th will be saddened to learn of Matt's death, I know.

Sincerely y0urs,

TAKE CARE OF TEXAS.

(It's the only one we've got.)

EG&G ROTRON
REGENERATIVE BLOWERS & ACCESSORIES
SAUGERTIES, NY 12477

FORREST E. SWEENEY
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE (713) 723-3476
FAX (713) 723-8951
5703 CERRITOS DR
HOUSTON, TX 77035

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

TO: _____

AT: _____

FROM: _____

RE: _____

Number of pages including cover: _____

Facsimile Number: (713) 723 8951

Date Sent: _____

MESSAGE: _____

FROM HOUSTON CHRONICLE
6/7/93

RADNOFSKY

MATTHEW RADNOFSKY a 59 year resident of Timber Cove (Taylor Lake Village) died on Saturday, June 5. He was born in Boston in 1924 and attended Boston University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Master's Degree in Physical and Biological Sciences. He served as a Navigator in the 8th Air Force during World War II, was shot down over Germany and interned as a prisoner of war. He escaped to England and was returned to the U.S. in May of 1945. After completing his education, he worked as an Aviation Survival Equipment Technologist for the U.S. Navy Aeronautical Medical Laboratory in Philadelphia, doing research in the development of personal protective equipment for Navy pilots. In 1961, he was invited to join the Space Task Group of NASA and was instrumental in the development of space suit systems and non-flammable materials for incorporation into spacecraft. After his retirement from NASA Johnson Space Center, he taught at the University of Houston in the College of Social Sciences. He has received the Flight Safety Foundation's Distinguished Service Award and numerous NASA awards for work performed in the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Skylab programs. He was a member of the National Research Council's Committee on Airliner Cabin Air Quality, and served on the Space Rescue Studies Committee of the International Astronautical Federation, as well as on the Fire Safety & Health Standards Committee of the National Fire Protection Association. He was named an Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Taiwan for his accomplishments in the field of textile technology, and he earned a Master's Degree in Humanities from the University of Houston/Clear Lake in 1975. An ardent philatelist, he was a member of the JSC Stamp Club, the Texas Philatelic Association, and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Eunice Eisenberg; his sister Carolyn and her husband Jerome Hoffman; his nephews, Shepard Hoffman, Marc Hoffman and Chad Hoffman; his daughter Mary and her husband Guy Spielmann; his daughter Barbara and her husband Dr. D.E. Supkis Jr., his son Kenneth and his wife Nancy, his son Stuart and his wife Bente; his grandson Max David Supkis; his granddaughters, Danielle Esther Supkis, Michaela Sarah Supkis, Lauren Elizabeth Radnofsky, Julia Anne Radnofsky, Louise Helen Radnofsky and Caroline Maud Radnofsky. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, June 8, at 11:00 a.m. at Temple Emanu EL, 1500 Sunset Blvd., Houston, Rabbi Robert I. Kahn officiating. The family will receive friends at home immediately following the service and throughout the day. JACK ROWE FUNERAL HOME, 1625 E. Main St. League City, 832-1571.

Alumnus made trek from POW to space tailor

By CASEY COBURN
Staff Writer

The downed B-17 pilot floated down to German territory and discovered he was not dressed for the occasion.

As bullets whistled through his supposedly bullet-proof flak vest, he discovered he had lost his boots somewhere between 13,000 feet aloft and the ground, and when he opened his parachute his escape equipment (maps, compasses, chocolate bars) escaped him.

That's when Matthew Radnofsky decided to change careers.

He had earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Boston University in 1948 and had discovered there wasn't much money in teaching the subject, so he'd been looking for another field anyway. He had not counted on finding it, however, by being shot down over enemy territory and facing an uncertain future.

As it turned out, Radnofsky spent the rest of the war as a chilly prisoner of war, since the Germans "liberated" his jacket. That remembrance may have inspired some projects he's recently been involved in—such as designing Arctic survival clothing.

But that's getting ahead of Radnofsky's story.

After the war and after he obtained another degree at Boston University in

> The astronauts were very concerned that their uniforms looked macho.

genetics, an additional master's in humanties from the University of Houston and a Ph.D. from the University of Taiwan in textile technology, so armed, Radnofsky joined the space task group at Langley Field, Va. The task force later became part of NASA's Manned Space Craft Center in Houston.

Radnofsky's mission was to develop

> Radnofsky's students have designed the jogger's bra as well as growing clothing for growing children.

clothing and textiles for the astronauts—aircraft uniforms as well as their spacecraft gear, their underwear, and anything else they might wear and use in space travel.

Lest the public think that astronauts were concerned only with their space mission, Radnofsky reports they required flattering as well as functional clothing. "They were very concerned about their appearance," he says, "especially looking macho."

Radnofsky designed, in the now-familiar "NASA blue," coveralls the Gemini astronauts wore when they stepped handsomely before the nation's television cameras. (The coveralls weren't used in space—they were strictly for looks).

After the tragic 1967 fire when three astronauts were killed, Radnofsky was asked to develop material that was fire resistant, durable, and comfortable for space travellers. Unfortunately, this limited his choice of colors. "All the materials that met the specifications came in various shades of dark brown."

This has changed, however, since spacecraft environments have a reduced oxygen content and are not as flame-supporting as in the early days.

Radnofsky was involved in more than clothing design at NASA. One of his assignments was to design an emergency water container. It had to be small and made of soft goods, since metal had not worked. Not too difficult—except he had only two weeks to design, develop, test, and correct problems. He and his colleagues came up with a product of rubber and coated fabric.

RADNOFSKY

The only problem was the water picked up the rubbery taste and "it was awful."

The solution was to add a few drops of oil of wintergreen to the water. After the container was finished and the astronauts had taken it into space, Radnofsky discovered oil of wintergreen is an extreme laxative. "Thank God they didn't have to use it," said Radnofsky.

There have been many spinoffs on NASA's clothing developments, said Randofsky, including an accelerated production of durable, flameproof materials for clothes and upholstery. A new airport in Saudi Arabia is also utilizing space-age technology in its Teflon-coated "Beta" fabric which covers the entire airport. The material is "incredibly" strong, rot-resistant and relatively impervious to damage from the Arabian sun.

Radnofsky retired from his NASA work in 1972, but he still had all this energy and a wealth of experience and knowledge. He decided to teach.

At the University of Houston he combines his engineering and couturier skills in a course that teaches his students to approach clothing design from a "systems" point of view. Over the years Radnofsky's students have designed the jogger's bra, firefighting gear, children's clothing that 'grows" with the child, a suitcase that turns into an overcoat, and an Arctic-wear suit weighing about a pound.

The systems approach, says Radnofsky, is scientific as opposed to the helter-skelter, non-specific, generalized approach that most people take to solve problems. "In the course we define clothing as anything that can be attached to the body. Clothing design at its best involves a blend of aesthetic, technical, psychological, historical, and functional aspects."

> The solution to the taste of the water was to add oil of wintergreen—a powerful laxative.

One of Radnofsky's course objectives is to stimulate innovative thought processes.

His projects have included specialized medical and police garments and gear; energy efficient clothing; and clothing for the elderly, the handicapped, children, sporting enthusiasts, nursing mothers, and scuba divers.

Radnofsky's aim, he said, is to get students to think about what could happen before it does happen—like losing escape equipment in the middle of an escape.