

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: Reynolds FIRST NAME: John L. TITLE:  
STREET ADDRESS: 6005 Pino Real Drive TELEPHONE: (915) 581-4530  
CITY: El Paso STATE: Texas ZIP: 79912

DATE JOINED 306th ASSOCIATION: 1 Approximately 15 April 1985.

REUNIONS ATTENDED: (Years) 1985, 1986, & 1987.

WIFE'S NAME: None (Wife died 11 January 1985).

LAST EMPLOYMENT: Senior Engineer, Western Electric Company.

COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED: Wake Forest DEGREE(S): None DATE: 1962 & 1963  
(2 Yrs night school)

SERIAL #: 20346828 (Enlisted) SQDN: 368th MOS: Sq Sgt Major  
0-1044932 (Officer)

DATE ARR: Approx 15 Apr 42. CREW: None.

DATE DEPARTED: Approx 10 Jul 42. HIGHEST RANK IN 306th: Staff Sergeant

SERVICE RETIREMENT DATE: 31 January 1961 RANK or GRADE: Lt Col

DECORATIONS WITH 306TH: None.

TOP SERVICE ASSIGNMENT AFTER 306TH: Battalion Commandery, Guided Missile Bn

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS WITH 306TH: None.

QUESTIONNAIRE

CATERPILLAR CLUB - IRVING CHUTE COMPANY

NAME:

COMBAT JUMP DATE & MISSION:

HEIGHT WHEN BAILED OUT:

ANY PROBLEMS WITH PARACHUTE:

306th Bombardment Group. SQDN:

6 January 1986

LTC John L. Reynolds  
6005 Pino Real Drive  
El Paso, TX 79912

Dear John:

Your Wendover pictures have surfaced, and I am planning to use them in the January issue of Echoes. I am sure that will stir up some memories of those days on the salt flats.

You mention in the last paragraph of the letter you sent to Reginald Robinson in September 1984 that you have other pictures of Wendover. I would be interested in borrowing any that show the flying area, or the general base itself, as our files on Wendover are painfully slim.

If you would loan them to me, I'd be pleased to get them copied and returned to you.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

LTC John L. Reynolds, AUS-Ret  
6005 Pino Real Drive  
El Paso, TX 79912  
26 September 1984

Mr. Reginald L. Robinson  
P. O. Box #16917  
Fort Worth, TX 76162

Mr. Robinson:

I noted with interest your announcement in the September issue of "Military History Review" of the 9th annual reunion 25-27 October of veterans who served in England with the 306th Bomb Group. Although I am not a veteran who served in England, I decided to drop you a line anyway and to forward a couple of photographs from the Group's early days at Wendover Field, UT.

Just as a matter of background information, in June 1941 I was an artillery corporal with four years of service when I took a short discharge and reenlisted as a private in the Air Corps; I ended up in September 1941 in the Bomb & Gunnery Range Detachment at Wendover Field. I transferred from the B&G Detachment to the 368th Bomb Squadron (H) when the 305th and 306th Bomb Groups were activated at Wendover Field in early 1942. I became the Squadron Sergeant Major in early May 1942. At that time the Squadron CO was MAJ William A. Lanford, the Group Exec was LTC Curtis E. LeMay and the Group CO was COL Charles B. Overacker. The group was scheduled to finish training at Wendover and move to England in November. Since MAJ Lanford had made it clear to me that I wasn't going to get out from behind a desk for as long as he was CO of the outfit and since I had no desire to fight the war from behind a desk, I applied for OCS, was accepted, left the outfit in July 1942, and became an Artillery lieutenant in October 1942. That was the extent of my service with the 306th Bomb Group.

I thought that the enclosed pictures might be of interest to you and/or those reunion personnel, if any, that trained at Wendover Field, UT.

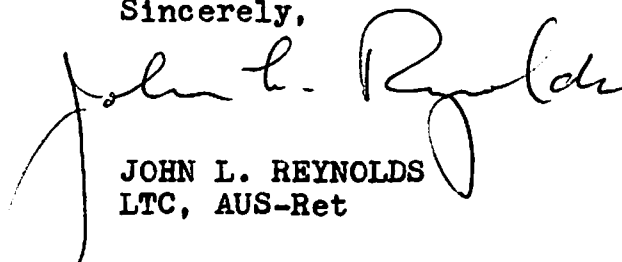
One of the pictures is of MAJ Lanford and the Squadron Adjutant, 2nd Lt Edward T. Miazza, in the CO's office. The large mural of a B17E painted on the wall was done by one of the men in the squadron, an artist, but I cannot recall his name. You might term the mural wishful thinking since, at that time, we did not have any B17's; we were flying B18A's.

The second picture is of the Squadron's administrative staff. The five enlisted personnel standing behind the CO and the Adjutant are from left to right: myself - Squadron Sergeant Major; Henry C. Cordery - 1st Sergeant; Corporal Orlie Parker, Jr.; Sergeant Warren H. Uttal; and Sergeant Marshal E. Baker. Sgt Baker later became an officer in the Air Force as I ran into him in the Pentagon in the early 1950's while I was serving on the Army General Staff. I do not know what became of the others.

The other two pictures were taken by either the Base or the Group photographer and show the interior of the squadron day room. The big guy at the ping-pong table is 1st Sergeant Hank Cordery.

I have a number of other pictures from Wendover in 1941 and 1942 but they are primarily of the field itself or from the old Bomb and Gunnery Range Detachment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John L. Reynolds". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and rank.

JOHN L. REYNOLDS  
LTC, AUS-Ret

26 January 1987

LTC John E. Reynolds  
6005 Pino Real Dr  
El Paso, TX 79912

Dear John:

Your treasure trove of Wendover pictures arrived today, and already I can see a center spread in a future issue of Echoes. There are some beauts there, and I am sure they will stir a lot of memories for a good many men when they get a look at them.

If you do not need any of them back I would like to keep them all for the tiles. If you want them back, then loan me the negatives and I can get them printed without difficulty.

Now, my next request is, how would you like to write a bit of nostalgia about Wendover from the orderly room viewpoint? I'll try to balance that off with some nostalgia about the flying end. There seem to be several quite loquacious flyers whom I have run in to from time to time who can expand on their airborne experiences.

I will be working on something from this collection for probably the July issue of Echoes, as I think the April issue is beginning to fill up with material. The January issue is on the press tomorrow and will be mailed this week, so that is moving along well at this point. Had so much stuff I had to do another 12 pager.

Many thanks for remembering our conversation.

All the best,

LTC John L. Reynolds, AUS-Ret  
6005 Pino Real Drive  
El Paso, TX 79912  
21 January 1987

Dear Russ:

Reference is made to your letter of 6 January 1986 in which you indicated a desire for pictures of Wendover flying area and the general base itself; and our conversations during the reunion at Dayton, OH, during which you expressed a desire for some pictures I showed you, and my promise to go through my files for any other that might possibly be of interest to you.

During the reunion at Dayton, Lee Kessler, an old Wendover buddy of mine, also requested to review any negatives I had and reproduce whatever was of interest to him.

After I returned from Dayton, I dug out the three rolls of 35mm film negatives covering the period Dec '41 through Jun '42 and sent them along with contact prints of each film to Lee for review. Lee ran into a reproduction problem. He stated that he could not get prints made in Canton, OH, of 35mm roll film and that they had to send them off some place for reproduction. He finally got reproduced what he wanted and returned the negatives to me earlier this month.

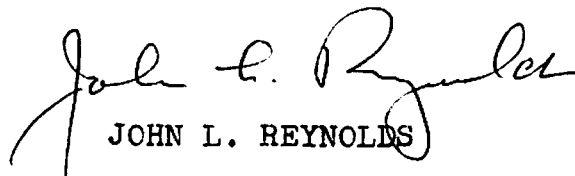
In order to eliminate the possibility of you running in to the same problem as Lee and since I had a source here in El Paso that could handle black & white 35mm roll negatives, I decided to have reproductions made of all pictures that I thought would be of interest to you. At the same time, I had additional copies made of some pictures that I thought Ed Gregory and Bill Lanford would like to have.

Enclosed are prints of all pictures I had reproduced. Each of the pictures are annotated on the back with a two-part number (Roman # denotes the film roll & Arabic # denotes the frame thereon) and a description of the picture per se. I am sorry that I cannot recall the names of some of the personnel pictured but all are from the 306th and most of them from the 368th. Maybe some of the old Wendover hands can identify a few of the unknowns for you.

Further, if you desire additional copies or enlargements of any of the enclosed pictures, just let me know and I will gladly forward the negatives for your use.

I hope the foregoing satisfies my Dayton OH promise and if I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN L. REYNOLDS

22 March 1987

LTC John L. Reynolds  
6005 Pino Real Drive  
El Paso, TX 79912

Dear John:

Thanks for your response. I would be delighted for you to write something about Wendover, perhaps a couple of thousand words. I would plan to use a great number of pictures, so would concentrate more on that than on the text.

But I know that few are aware of the roll that Wendover played, and know little of its background.

I don't have any definite time frame in mind, and will make use of the material probably in an issue soon after I receive it.

I look forward to hearing from you. I think that the prints I now have will be sufficient, but I will examine them again as to whether I want to borrow your 35mm negatives or not.

Also, I will want a little background on you: education, career before and after Wendover, etc.

Sincerely yours,

LTC John L. Reynolds, USA-Ret  
6005 Pino Real Drive  
El Paso, TX 79912  
17 March 1987

Dear Russ:

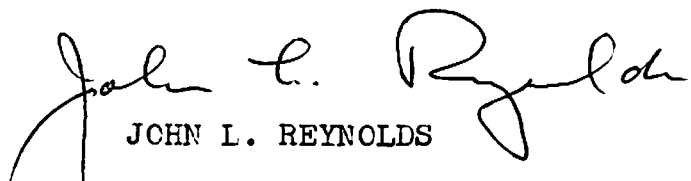
Sorry I am so late in replying to your letter of 26 January. I am a volunteer tax consultant for AARP and it has kept me pretty busy preparing tax returns for the poor, the elderly, and anyone else who walks in wanting their tax returns prepared for free. We actually do not have to accept the latter group but we do so if we have the time.

With reference to the package of Wendover pictures that I sent you earlier, they are all for your files; I do not need them back. Incidentally, if you do decide to use some of them in a future issue of "EHCES", let me know and I will gladly loan you the negatives to work from. That way you probably will get a better reproduction than from rephotographing the prints that I sent you since the prints were not the best in the world. Besides, using the negatives may save you some time and money also.

Now with respect to your query as to how I would "- - like to write a bit of nostalgia about Wendover from the orderly room viewpoint", I have been mulling that question over in my mind for the past six weeks as to whether I can recall enough items that would be of interest to a number of personnel, not just the personnel present or involved. I now think that I can put together something but not just from the orderly room viewpoint. It probably would contain a good bit of background on how Wendover Field developed from early 1941 until July of 1942 when I left to go to OCS. If you are interested in such an item, please let me know as to what size article (1000, 2000, 3000 words), and the time frame you desire same and I will attempt to comply.

Again, if you desire to use the 35mm picture negatives I have, let me know and I will get them off to you pronto.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN L. REYNOLDS



LTC John L. Reynolds, Aus-Ret  
6005 Pino Real Drive  
El Paso, TX 79912  
6 April 1987

Mr. Russell A. Strong  
2041 Hillisdale  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

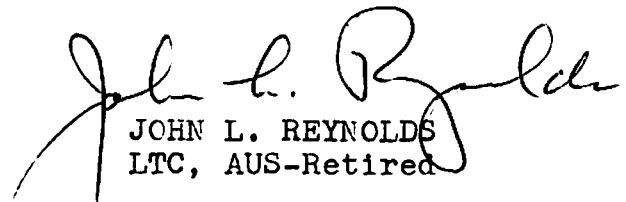
Dear Russ:

Reference is made to your letter of 22 March relative to my writing a couple of thousand words regarding Wendover and Wendover Field early in World War II. I put some thoughts down on paper and then started writing. I guess I got a bit carried away as I ended up with nearer three thousand rather than two thousand words. In any event, my thoughts on this subject are appended at Inclosure No. 1. Feel free to toss them in the trash can if they are not what you are looking for.

With reference to your request for a little background information on myself - education, career before and after Wendover, etc. - appended at Inclosure No. 2 is a resume of my life to date. Please feel free to use whatever part of it you desire. After my retirement from WECO in February 1983, I have not been doing much, taking care of the house and yard and after my wife died, travelling some and doing volunteer work.

Let me know if I can be of any further assistance to you and if you desire to use my 35mm negatives.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN L. REYNOLDS  
LTC, AUS-Retired

2 Incls: a/s

6 April 1987

RESUME

Born Turbotville, PA, 12 June 1920.

Son of a Master Mariner.

Military Career:

Raised age 2 years and enlisted in Infantry Citizens Military Training Corps (CMTC) 1936.

CMTC Artillery 1937.

Enlisted service 110th FA August 1937 to June 1941.

Enlisted service Army Air Corps June 1941 to October 1942.

Commissioned 2nd Lt of Artillery from OCS 9 October 1942.

Overseas service in Pacific Theater November 1942 to August 1945.

Student Command & General Staff College 1945 - 1946.

Regimental Adjutant 1946 - 1947.

Student Advance Artillery Course 1947 - 1948.

Division Artillery, 82d Airborne Division 1948 - 1949.

G-4 Div Staff Officer, Hq, Fort Bliss, TX, 1949 - 1950.

Artillery Battalion Executive Officer, Japan Sep 50 - April 51.

Artillery Group Operations Officer, Korea May 1951 - May 1952.

Army General Staff G-2, Pentagon, July 1952 - July 1955.

Student Guided Missile School, September - December 1955.

Commander Guided Missile Battalion February 1956 to June 1957.

U.S. Army Europe General Staff, Advanced Weapons, Jul 57 - Jan 61.

Retired from U.S. Army as LTC 31 January 1961.

Civilian Career:

Employed by Western Electric Company (WECO) as an engineer June 1961.

Planning Engineer, Gvmt Systems Div, WECO, North Carolina 1961-1969.

WECO Liaison Engineer at ARADCOM, Colorado Springs, CO, 1969 - 1975.

WECO Gvmt Communication Consulting Engr, Washington, DC 1976 - 1979.

WECO Engr Supervisor, NAMSA Training Center, Fort Bliss, TX 1980 - 1983.

Retired from WECO as a Senior Engineer February 1983 when Training Center job was completed.

Education:

Science & Math High School graduate.

Three years science & math, Wake Forest Night College, 1962 - 1965.

Family:

Married 27 December 1945 at Salt Lake City, UT.

Wife died January 1985.

Three sons; John III, age 40.  
James, age 32.  
Jeffrey, Age 29.


One grandson.

Hobbies:

Building furniture.

Stamp collecting.

Building model sailing ships.



LTC J. L. Reynolds, AUS-Ret.

6005 Pino Real Drive

El Paso, TX 79912