

Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Mr. Strong,

In the spring of 1997 my family and I went to the Lone Star Flight Museum in Galveston, Texas. We spoke to a volunteer there by the name of T. C. Jones. We were interested in a B-17 that was on display. My husband's father was in the U. S. 8th Air Force, 306 Bomb Group in Bedford England. At the time we spoke to Mr. Jones we had little information about his service history.

Mr. Jones and I mailed information and he sent me your name and fax number. We would be interested in the picture you faxed to him with Elmond Richardson in Charles Toner crew Rpt. 21 August.

Before the spring of 97 we only had some information given by a friend in the service, but not in the same group as my husband's father.

Richardson's honorable discharge papers are also forwarded with this letter.

Langston Elmund Richardson was born 12/21/23 Jonesville, La.

He died 3/26/63 of a heart attack in Port Arthur, Texas where he was employed at Gulf Oil Refinery.

We would be very grateful for any other information that you might have about his time in the service of his country.

Sincerely,



Mary Beth and Danny R. Richardson
69 Longhill Ranch Road
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

24 March 1998

Dear Mr and Mrs Richardson. I am sorry that I could not answer your question earlier, ~~but~~ because of health problems and a trip abroad, I have not kept up with my mail very well.

Your brother, Elmond, arrived with the Group 21 Aug 44, as is indicated on a copy of the orders I am sending with this letter. Charles Toner was the pilot. Elmond probably began flying combat in late September or early October. He must have completed his 35 combat missions in mid-February.

He received an Air Medal and five oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal for his combat missions, indicating that he had completed his full tour of duty, and probably returned to the U.S. in February or March 45.

They were assigned to the 423rd squadron, and Elmond flew as a waist gunner on the crew. By the time he completed combat he had been promoted to the grade of staff sergeant.

Of the original crew I have only two people on our mailing list:

William J. McGonigle a gunner
338 Shagbark Ct
Bear, DE (302) 836-1286

John G. Ruegger Original copilot. Elmond later served on
2117 Victoria Dr Ruegger's crew.
Clearwater, FL 34623 (813)733-4937

Perhaps one of these men can give you further insights on Elmond's service in the 8th.

Sorry I can't give you more information, but perhaps this will be helpful.

There is a history of the 306th, First Over Germany, which is available. A check for \$38 made out to me will get you a copy. We also have a Squadron Diary. His name does not appear in either book, however. The Diary sells for \$17.

I am also enclosing a copy of our newspaper for Apr-93, and Elvond's picture, with his crew, airdats on page 5.

Sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong