

TO Bill NET \$446⁰⁰ FROM Jack
DATE 10 - 7 19 81

Subject: SAFHS Caps

Attached is self explanatory, and about all I can say is that I bleed it for \$446⁰⁰ of 306 P.G. money. Now I know I should have waited for an okay from Bill Flanagan too besides yours, but I didn't, and the caps have been delivered. About all I can suggest now is for me to bring them to St. Paul next week, show them to whomsoever is

Form C 2670 3-14-56

LITHO. IN U.S.A.

Subject: responsible for such things in the SAFHS P.G. in Miami, and see if they will bail us out. If this fails I'll reimburse the 306 P.G. for my stupidity.

See you next week.

All The Best

Jack (SCHMIDT)

LITHO. IN U.S.A.

COPY

LAW OFFICES
FLANAGAN & BRAEMER
3780 WEST FLAGLER STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33134

September 26, 1981

WILLIAM W. FLANAGAN
REAL PROPERTY LAW
CORPORATION AND BUSINESS LAW

HUGO H. BRAEMER
GENERAL PRACTICE

PHONE (305) 444-5722

Dear Jack,

I am returning herewith the 8th Airforce Historical Society cap. While yo ur efforts and suggestions are certainly appreciated, I do not believe that the 306th can rightly use this cap to promote their memorial. For one thing we do not have the right to use the Society's emblem . The cap with a 306th logo would be more acceptable, but that is up to the 306th reunion committee. I suggest that if you so wish, that you bring that up at the October mēeting at Minneapolis.

Best wishes, and thanks again.

Bill

COPY

TO Bill Collins

FROM Jack Schmidt

DATE

9-22 1981

Subject:

8th AFHS Caps

Good talking to you last week, and sure was glad you liked the caps. We talked about ordering 100 of them, which I did today. They gave me a price of \$4⁴⁶ each, delivered, so I mailed them a check for \$446⁰⁰ this morning. They require pre-payment, which I can understand, so if you haven't sent a check to me as yet, just make it out for \$446⁰⁰ instead

TO _____ FROM _____

DATE _____ 19 _____

Subject: of the \$500⁰⁰ we agreed on last week.
If your check is already in the mail
I will return the overage.

Feel sure we can sell all of them
in St. Paul, and can take orders for
more.

See you soon

All The Best

Jack Schmidt

TO Bill Collins FROM Jack Schmidt
DATE 9-23 1981

Subject: Caps Again!

Received your note + check today,
and am enclosing one for the
overage. (54⁰⁰)

We already have our reservations
made in St. Paul. Eagerly looking
forward to it. See you then.

All The Best
Jack

TO Rida Kaye FROM Jack Schmidt
DATE 3-22 1980

Subject: Glenn Miller Memorial

Didn't know exactly when
enclosed copies of the
note which is

McKinley and
a concert
in 1944.

As we are
on a trip to
Ray Mc Kinley



M^c Cook, Neb.
Wed 2/10/82

Dear Bill -

Enclosed you will find a hand-tooled, hand-painted 367th Squadron patch mounted on suede. I have found a saddle-maker here in M^c Cook who does this kind of work, and in my opinion he is very reasonable. He charges \$20⁰⁰ for the patch alone, or \$22⁰⁰ mounted on the suede suitable for framing, plus postage. There is no cost for the one I'm mailing, it is simply to show you the quality of his work. This one was copied from my original a-2 jacket patch, but if he had a reasonable facsimile

of the 368th - 369th and 4 x 3rd to work with he could also make them. I don't have any of these, and the ones on the front page of "Echoes" aren't enough to work with.

I realize that the "Echoes" should not be used for newspaper advertising, but I thought if you could get Russ to run a paragraph in a future issue I would take it upon myself to see that anyone who would want one, would get it.

Personally, I am not trying to sell them, or hustle anyone to buy them, and don't get a dime for my time or trouble, but I am now retired, and it gives me a little something

Swift Fresh Meats Company

Swift

to do. Besides, I think they are cheap at the price, and certainly a conversation piece.

Gail, and I are definitely planning to go to the re-union in October, and hope to see you & Betty there. Don't know if Ralph Bordner told you, but I am planning to free-lance the Cincinnati trip. We were not too happy with the way the Fein's handled it in St. Paul, so we are going to try to arrange our own meals and lodging, and see how it works out. Bordner also told me you were planning a 306th mini-reunion in Dayton, if so please include us. We are also planning to accompany the group to Thurligh.

If you would like to send this patch to Russ Strong for his okay please do, but when you are all finished with it please send it to that restaurant in Sarasota which is using the 306th motif, with my blessing.

Hope this finds both Betty, and you in the pink. Gail and I are still chuggin' along. Stay well, keep happy

All The Best
Jack Schmidt

TO

Rida Kaye

FROM

Jack Schmidt

DATE

3-22

1980

Subject:

Glenn Miller Memorabilia

Didn't know exactly where to send the enclosed copies of the English pound note which Glenn Miller, and Ray McKinley autographed for me. They gave a concert in a 306th B. G. Kanzen in 1944.

As we all know Glenn Miller vanished on a trip to France in late 1944, but Ray Mc^e Kinley returned to the States after

TO _____ FROM _____

DATE _____ 19____

Subject: the war and re-organized the band.
Thirty two years later he played for a
Shilness ladies night in St Louis.
Being a Shiner, I attended, and you
will note he re-autographed it for
me with that date included.

As a favor to me please send this
on to the proper place.

you're a gem.

Thanks

Jack Schmidt

M. C. Cook, Neb.
Wed. 3/23/82

Dear Russ -

Enclosed please find my check in amount of \$1750 for "First Over Germany" a history of the 306th P. G. I'm sure this in no way resembles the original "First Over Germany" which I've had since 1946. I am not using the order blank printed in the Encloses because I save all of my copies of that, and the 8th A. S. News. You will find my address attached to one of my business cards.

you don't know me, but
I'm the fellow who dreamed
up the idea of having the
8th A. F. H. S. caps made
which I ordered, and took
to St. Paul. The gals had
a great time selling them,
and besides we made a
buck for the Group. Saw
our treasury report in the
last issue.

Sorry you couldn't make
St. Paul, but Bill told
all of us the reason. Looking
forward to meeting you in
Cincy.

All The Best
Jack Schmidt
(OVER)

Just noticed your address. I was in Kalamyos one time in about 1964. At that time I was buying cattle for Swift + Co. I bought a big string of about 750 head of heifers from a big drug company at a place they called a "Horse Farm".

M^c Cook, Me.
1/22/53

Dear Russ -

First let me establish that this is in no way a sales pitch, I don't get a dime out of it, and do it only for the satisfaction of contributing something for members of the Group.

There is a saddle-maker here in M^c Cook that in my estimation is an artist. He has made about 20 leather patches that I've sent all over the Country to our guys, and all I've heard back have been raves.

Until now he has only had a model of 367th, and 369th, but now can make all four. At the re-union in Cincinnati I was able to acquire a menu from the 306th restaurant in Luanda. It had a replica of all 4 squadron patches on the back in color. We took this to a local photographer, had them blown up to size, which he copied on onion-skin paper for models. He just finished one of each for me, which I sent to a

Collector in M^c-Kiss Rock
Par: who is an 8th A.F.
buff. Huss, I honestly
hated to part with them
they were so good, and this
is no snaw job!

These patches are as
follows with price per patch

PLAIN A-2 TYPE 5¹/₄" DIAMETER

HAND TOoled - HAND PAINTED - AUTHENTIC COLORS

GENUINE LEATHER \$7⁰⁰

LARGE PATCH - 6³/₄" DIAMETER (SUITABLE
LETTERED IN OUTER RING FOR
FRAMING)

SQDN. NO. - GROUP NO. - 8TH AF
PRISON CAMP NO. (IF APPLICABLE) \$3⁰⁰

LARGE PATCH - SAME AS ABOVE
MOUNTED ON 9" X 14" GEN. SUEDE
ALL ABOVE ADD \$1⁵⁰ FOR MAILING

Personally, I would recommend this to any one of our people as a real conversation piece, nostalgia, or what have you.

If it isn't against the rules, I'd appreciate your running a little item in a future copy of the "Echoes". If you need a reference for this mans' work, please ask Bill Collins, had one made for him last year.

Looking forward to Annaba in September, in fact I'm already registered.

Please reply - All The Best
Jack Schmidt

M. C. Cook, Mel.
8-19-82

Dear Russ -

Please add my name
to the list that thinks
your book is great!

I was in your camp
367th Sfldn from May to
November 1944 as an
R. O. G. in Charley
Wegen's crew.

The purpose of this
letter is to ask you of
the whereabouts of a
2nd Lt. Ray W. Ryther
mentioned on page #182.
Your account notes that

Luftwaffe fighter-pilot
who shot him down, took
his 367th devils-head
patch. Here in M^c Cook,
I have found a saddle-
maker who is an artist
in leather tooling. If
this man would want one,
I'd gladly have one made
for him, pay for it
myself, and he can send
any donation he wants
to Bill Collins for the
group fund. He charges
\$25⁰⁰ for them, they're
hand-tooled, hand painted
in five-colors, in genuine

16 April 1983

Dear Jack:

When I dug down through the debris on my desk I found two unanswered letters from you, so I am about to rectify that situation. Between work, the 306th, and another book I am working on I have been just snowed under. A bit of unhealth on my part is contributing a bit more time for a few days, so I'll take advantage of it and get some things taken care of right now.

Ray Ryther has passed from our view at the moment. We have dropped his name off the mailing list. I did some telephoning and could not come up with any valid information for him. I'll keep trying.

I will promote the leather patches in the July issue of Echoes. The April issue goes to the printer Monday and I can't squeeze any more into it at this moment. But, be patient, and I'll get the job done. I've seen the work and think it is great.

Please forgive my tardiness. See you in Omaha.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

Fri. 9/1/53
M^r E. Cook, Me.

Dear Russ -

Enclosed you will find
a mounted 367th patch.

The saddle-maker made this
one for you in appreciation
of the piece you put in
the Echoes. For your info,
that little item brought
orders for about 25 orders
from all over the Country.
He sends his thanks.

Don't know what you
will do with it, but I
have one exactly like it.
I took mine to a local

photographer who put it
in a nice dark oak
frame, and I have it
hanging in my living
room. Quite a conversation
piece.

We have all our
arrangements & reservations
made for Omaha at the
end of the month, and
hope to see you there.

All The Best
Jack Schmitt

13 September 1983

Dear Jack:

Many thanks for the leather tooled 367th patch.

I will have to secure a frame for it shortly and place it on the wall of my study along with other mementos of 8th AF duty.

Its almost time to pack the bags for Omaha. I hope I can get there without difficulty, although my car is in the body shop right now after a serious collission a week ago.

Look forward to seeing you then, along with a host of Clay Pigeons.

Sincerely yours,

M^o Cook, Me.

June. 2/26/85

Dear Russ -

Had a note from my son
John over in Marshalltown,
Iowa saying he had received
a call from you wanting
to know if he still wanted
a copy of Echoes. You
probably didn't know who
he was, but keep him on
the mailing list, and I'll
make sure my contributions
will cover him. Thanks!

Another thing I'd better
explain is about your
book "1st Over Germany" that

I had you send to Andy
Rooney. My daughter gave
me his latest book "Pieces
of My Mind" for my
birthday. In the article
"Reunions", which by the
way is in the Current
Readers Digest, I recognized
the tail-gunner as P. D.
Small. P. D. and I go
all the way back to
Huntington. In fact we
came back from the E. J. O.
on the same ship. After
reading the book, I wrote
to Andy Rooney, and asked

that he send an autographed
copy to P.D. A couple of
weeks later I received a
very nice letter from him,
in which he told me he
had sent the book to P.D.,
who later called me saying
he had received it. For a
man of his stature to do
this renewed my faith. He's
my kind of guy! Funny
thing about it, P.D. and
Virginia had stopped at
our home for a couple of
days visit on their way
home from California while
all this was in the works.

Nothing more from here.
Gail and I are both fine.
Hope you & yours are too.
Eagerly looking forward to
our next re-union.

Thanks for Everything

Jack Schmidt




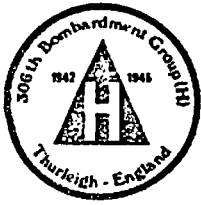
M^c Cook, Jr.
5/1/25

Dear Russ -

Enclosed is copy of a letter I received from Connie Richards.

Didn't know if you knew about this, but thought you'd like to tune in.

All The Best
Jack Schmidt




306th BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

An Association formed to commemorate the history of the 306th Bomb Group of the U.S. Army
8th Air Force and the achievements of its personnel based at Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England 1942-45.

14 Pavenham Road
Oakley
Bedford
MK43 7 SY

April 26th 1985

Dear Jack and Gail

This will be just short for now as want to get in the post
to you hope it gets there in time

On May 6th on your CBS News Broadcasting Station
at 7 Am in the morning there will be a programme about the American Anglo
Relations and to do with VE day what its called I dont know but we have just had
yesterday a 306th guy here called Sheldon Beigal who was in the 369th and we
have had CBS here at the house filming him at back at Thurleigh and us here at
the house it took them all day to do this thing so how long it will be on we dont
know but they said its an hour and a half programme if its good you might like to
video it

We have not yet gotten the Readers digest but will let you know when it
arrives we have had a postal srikehere in the last week so mail was held up
Will send off the dolls to your daughter as soon as I can get a box to put them
in

Weather here now lovely but still cold winds. Lloyd sends his love to you both
and we shall look forward to seeing you when you come you will keep us informed
of your trip wont you

I have my cousin and his wife coming here in May and its their
first trip here Sorry forgot to say we did get your letter with the 10\$ in for the
postage I only hope this letter gets to you in time for you to see the film
Ill write more next time our love to the General when you see him

All for now

Connie and Gordon and Lloyd

M C Cook, Jr.
11/4/85

Dear Russ -

My son has been receiving a copy of Echoes for about a year now. He has moved from 1010 S. 9th St.

Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

to his new address JOHN T. SCHMIDT
4119 DESERT VIEW
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
78217

Please keep him on the mailing list. He enjoys -

Thanks

Jack Schmidt

M^{rs} Cook, Me.

Wed. 3/6/25

Dear Bill & Betty -

Enclosed please find something for the Ground. Haven't contributed lately so thought it was about time.

Have the fellows made any decision about the location or date of the re-union as yet. Whenever it is we'll be there of course, but we'd like to know.

Russ Strong called my son John over in

Marshalltown, Iowa a
couple of weeks ago, and
asked if he wanted to
continue to receive Echoes.
He said yes, Russ thanked
him, and hung up. Don't
think he ever realized he
is my boy. He was very
nice and said the paper
would keep coming.

We're both fine, hope
you are too. See you
both in the Fall.

All The Best
Jack + Gail



(over)

Get the current "Readers'
Digest" - Page 107

"Re-Unions" - The tail-
gunner mentioned is
Darby Small

JS

M^c Cook, Ne.
5/1/55

Dear Bill -

Enclosed is copy of a letter I received from Connie Richards yesterday.

Don't know if you know about this, but thought you'd like to tune in.

Hope to see you in Colorado Springs.

All The Best

Hi Betty



M^c Cook, Ne.

1-1-86

Hi Bill & Betty -

Missed you both at
Colo. Spge., but Dayton in
Sept. isn't too far away.

Enclosed please find check
for \$100. My son was
receiving an issue quarterly,
but has since moved, his
new address - JOHN T. SCHMIDT
4119 DESERT VIEW
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
78217
~~11030~~
11030

Also last year I sent a
contribution for a newly-found
member FRED A. PUCKETT. I
noticed in the newly-found
column his address was listed

M^c Cook, Me.

Wed. 3/6/85

Dear Bill & Betty -

Enclosed please find something for the Grant. Haven't contributed lately so thought it was about time.

Have the fellows made any decision about the location or date of the re-union as yet. Whenever it is we'll be there of course, but we'd like to know.

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Marshalltown, Iowa a
couple of weeks ago, and
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continue to receive Echoes.
He said yes, Russ thanked
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think he ever realized he
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both in the Fall.

All The Best
Jack + Gail



(OVER)

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Don't know if you know about this, but thought you'd like to tune in.

Hope to see you in Colorado Springs.

All The Best

Hi Betty Jack



M E Cook, Me.

1-1-86

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for Echoes. My son was
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4119 DESERT VIEW
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
78417
~~11030~~
11030

Also last year I sent a
contribution for a newly-found
member FRED A. PUCKETT. I
noticed in the newly-found
column his address was listed

as 515 HIGHLAND DR. #133
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70808
FRED A. PUCKETT

it should be listed

NEW 5115 HIGHLAND DR. #133
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70808
NOT ON MY LIST.

Have a pleasant and
prosperous New year

Jack Schmidt

Bill - I bought a bottle of
liquor the other day that had
a refund form for \$200. I
filled it out for W^m COLLINS ECHOLS
so if you receive it in a couple
of months you'll know what it is.

Mr. Cook, Me.
7/20/85

Hi Bill -

Found another 306' ev.

LESTER L. PLUMBTREE

805 IRVING ST.

FULLERTON, NEBRASKA

68638

Waist gunner from the
369th, shot down at St.
Armer, France 3/26/44.

Enclosed find check for
a few copies of Echoes.

See you in Colo. Spgs.

All The Best

Jack

Love ya' Betty

M^c Cook, Ne.
10/4/86

Dear Russ -

Enclosed are some shots
I took at Dayton. If you
can use any for Echoes,
please do. Keep any you
wish for yourself, and
if there are any you can't
use, please return them.

As usual, we had a
great time at the reunion.
It was very well handled,
and of course we are
looking forward to
Washington in 1987!

All The Best
Jack Schmidt
H

M^c Cook, Ne.
8/15/87

Dear Russ -

Received your letter requesting input concerning the Museum Fund, and I have a few comments. Maybe you won't approve of them, however I have some things to say.

First, I don't know how these monies should be used, and think the membership should hear it openly discussed at our Washington re-union. I feel the rank, and file of our Group are extremely uninformed about the Fund, and most issues where we are concerned. In my opinion our business meetings each year are a shambles. The officers

and directors meet privately before the Group Meeting, all important items discussed, and agreed upon, after which the president walks into the business meeting, announces what has been done, and the meeting, for all intents and purposes is over.

Damned little attention is paid to any comments from the floor. This is not to say the officers are not dedicated, or are not doing their best, but maybe a few intelligent thoughts could come from a more enlightened membership. Why not try it?

Now for the matter at hand. During the past three years, I have been back to Thurligh twice. On both

occasions I have talked at length with the Richards concerning the Museum. Naturally their views are one-sided, but nevertheless they are enthusiastic, and as long as they are able, I'm confident they would care for the Soc^y's interest. Here again though, when they pass out of the picture, what then? Personally, I think we have some tough decisions to face. My total contributions so far as I can recall have been around \$700⁰⁰, and I'm agreeable for it to be used as the majority votes, however I do not want it returned.

Unbeknown to any of the group, I have been corresponding regularly with Mrs. Judy Stanton, who is

head-mistress of the Thurlough Tower
School. Each Christmas, Easter, and
for their school closing field trip
I have mailed a check for their
activities. This came about when I
learned that, at their own expense,
they place flowers on our (306th)
Commemoration stone on each
British Memorial day. For that, I
also have mailed a check. Please
Guss don't mention this to anyone
else, 'cause I don't want to stand
out. Last year they sent me snap-shots
at the stone, and included a sound-
tape of the services at the local
church including the children singing
songs, and each child offering a
prayer for the "Yanks who came to

save their village during W. W. #2." It
may just be fitting that a living
memorial such as this may be
more proper than a museum. This
tape is very impressive, I'll bring
it to Washington for your personal
hearing.

Russ, I've rambled somewhat
here, and every-thing is far the hopper.
Please don't think there is any
intended personal criticism, as
I'm only interested in the welfare
of the 306th. No-one knows but you
and I that I've written this.

All of our reservations have been
made for Washington, and God willing
we'll see you there. All The Best
Jack Schmidt

19 August 1987

Dear Jack:

I always enjoy getting a letter from you, even when you take me to task.

As to the democratization of the 306th, I think it is slowly coming around. You know, for years we ran it without much of anything and got along pretty well. Only recently has it tended to get more complicated, and sometimes I worry that we may get into things that will lead us away from what I think the organization is all about--remembering good times with old friends and old friends of more recent vintage.

I hate to see us get embroiled in issues that are really only side lights to what should be an enjoyable experience.

I fear that at Washington we will get into one or two issues at the general business meeting that may cause considerable heat and a lot of discussion. One of them is the Museum issue. The other is a proposal initiated by Don Ross and several others to offer me some pay for the things that I do.

As to the Museum, I have never been in agreement with it because I think that small private museums are generally disasters.

As to the pay, I'm pretty ambivalent about it.

Basically my real concern is that neither issue become a divisive event in the life of the 306th. I think any and all of us have too little time left to spend it in arguing and taking sides.

Glad you wrote, and although my first inclination was to send a copy of your letter to Don Ross, I will stick by your admonition and keep it to myself.

Look forward to seeing you and your wife in D. C.

M^c Cook, Me.

8/28/87

Dear Russ -

Just had a long talk with
Don Ross, and among other
things we discussed the
Museum Fund. He suggested,
and I agree, that I amend
my request in which I
stated that I wished my
contributions go the way
the majority voted, to be
marked for the 306th General
Fund, and that you would
notify Biscoe. Actually

I'm not sure what my
contributions have totalled,
but he said Flannagan
has a record. So be it.

We had a nice
conversation, and are in
agreement on practically
everything. He mentioned
that the Group meeting this
year was going to be
handled entirely different
from previous sessions. I
heartily concur.

See you in D.C.

All The Best
Jack

M^c Cook, Me.
8/24/87

Dear Russ -

Thanks for answering so promptly. Really didn't expect it quite so soon. Honestly, I wasn't trying to take you to task, just expressing a few thoughts on the business meetings which I still think are too cut, and dried. One other thing, please don't say such nice things about Gail, I have enough trouble keeping her in line the way it is!

Appreciate your respecting my wish to remain anonymous about my correspondence with the Shurligh Middle school, as this is something private. However, I am enclosing some of the items they have sent to me. Didn't want to bring them to Washington, but I did want you to read them, and

listen to them. Both Gail, and I had a bit of a time talking when we listened to the tape, it may have been one of the most touching things we ever heard.

Their Memorial Day comes in October, as you will note from the foliage. The little girl placing the large wreath on the stone had finished at the top of her class the previous semester.

The large print, of course, is the annual Christmas play. Have also included their Easter Card to us.

Russ, please return all of these mementoes, as they are our treasures.

We think our small contributions help to preserve the memories of the 306th, and remind our British friends that we haven't forgotten.

It just may be the way to go instead of a museum. If a small

interest bearing fund, administered by
Shirleigh Middle School officials, could
be set up, these school activities could
go on indefinitely. Just tossing it
in the hopper. Your views?

Nothing more from Nebraska
See you in D.C.

All The Best
Jack Schmidt

7 January 1988

Dear Jack:

You were in luck!

"First Over Germany" has been out of print for at least six months, and I have been turning back orders regularly. But a couple of weeks ago I came up with an extra copy, and had held it here trying to decide whom to sell it to.

Then your request came in, and it is now winging its way to the Thurleigh school. Ought to be there next week some time.

Thus, you will need to send a check, made out to me, for \$28.98. That covers the air mail postal fee as well as the cost of the book.

Glad you came along, because I did not want to get it to just anyone.

Look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas.

M^{rs} Cook, Me.
1/13/88

Hi Russ -

So glad you were able to find a copy of "First Over Germany". I'm sure Judy Stanton will make good use of it at the school in Thurlough. As a point of information, it was also successful in finding a copy of "First Over Germany" by Arthur D. Dove originally issued in 1946. I found it at The Battery Press, Inc.

in Nashville, Tenn., and had it sent to Mrs. Stanton last week. I have one of the 1st printing copies, which Gail gave to me for Christmas in 1946. It is one of my prized possessions.

Had a nice letter from Mrs. Stanton at Christmas, a card signed by all the pupils at the school, plus a note from each one thanking Gail, and me for the contributions for

Easter, their spring field
trip, Memorial wreath, and
Christmas party. I'm certain
they appreciate it, and we
intend to do so in the
future.

By the way I bought
some Black Velvet liquor
a while back, and had a
refund sent to the 306th at
your address. It was only
for \$4⁰⁰, but thought it
would help a little.

Don't know if you ever
heard, but Parley Small
passed away in November

of heart, and diabetes
problems. Fortunately he
was able to attend the
D.C. re-union.

No mail from here. Weather
both fine. Nice & cool
in Nebraska, -14° last
nite with 6" of partly
cloudy on the ground.
Hope it's warmer in
Vegas next fall. See you
there.

All The Best
Jack

M^c Cook, Me.

12/28/87

Dear Russ -

book
received
12/5/87

Please mail a copy of
"First Over Germany" to

Mrs. Judy Stanton. Enclosed
you'll find an addressed
mailing sticker, and cards
to be enclosed. Whatever
the charges, please mail
me the bill.

Bushels of good stuff to
you, and yours for '88.

See you in Vegas

Jack Schmidt

M^{rs} Clark, Ke.

3/21/88

Hi Russ -

Just received a package from Judy Stanton, Headmistress of Hurleigh Tower school thanking me for the book. She was very appreciative, and said she reads excerpts to the children, and it helps them to understand why they decorate the ^{MEMORIALS} 306th each Memorial Day.

She also gave me the address of a former 306'er

who stopped for directions
to the base recently. He has
lost all contact with the
Group, and I feel sure
he would like to get back
in the fold. His name and

address MARK SCHARTZ
HC 03 Box 7-A
CIMARRON, KANSAS
67835

No more for now. See
you in Vegas

All The Best

Jack Schmidt

Belleville, Ark.

11/16/88

Hi Russ.

I thought maybe you
could use some of these
for Echoes.

Maybe the hotel
wasn't the best, but
thanks to you all for
a just re-union! It's
still the people who
make for a good time.

See you in Little Rock

All the Best

Jack & Gail

Belleville, Ill.
3/10/89

Dear Russ -

Enclosed you will find a couple of photos that I would hope you could use in the next edition of Echoes. However, if you do, please do not use my name, as I want to remain anonymous. It would also please me if you would add Judy Stanton's name to your mailing list, if you do

please advise if there is any
additional postage, and I'll
take care of it. Please
return the photos whether
you use them or not.

Accidentally, Judy Stanton
is the lady kneeling with
the two little girls.

Everything fine here, both
Gail and I enjoying life.
Hope you and your bride
are too!

See you in Little Rock

Jack Schmidt

BEDFORDSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
LOWER
THURLEIGH COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
High Street, Thurleigh, Bedford. MK44 2DB.

Telephone BEDFORD 771252
Headmistress: Mrs. J. A. STANTON

24th January, 1989.

Mr. J. M. Schmidt,
8011 W. Main Street,
Apartment 3,
Belleville,
ILLINOIS 6222,
United States of America.

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

Thank you very much for your last letter and for the money you sent to us. I used the money to buy the children's presents from Father Christmas.

Thank you also for having the Geographical Magazine sent to us. The first one arrived about two weeks ago and the children have enjoyed looking at it.

The enclosed photographs were taken when the children took flowers to the Memorial in Keysoe Road on October 5th last year.

The children enjoy your letters and hope that perhaps you will be able to visit us in school one day.

With very best wishes from us all.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Stanton

J. A. Stanton (Mrs.) Headmistress

13 March 1989

Dear Jack:

Thanks for the Thurleigh school materials, which arrived this morning.

I'll make use of it in the April issue of Echoes, without attribution.

I have also added Judy Stanton's name to the mailing list. I will handle it directly from here so that it does not go through our Bedford people, who might begin probing around. They sometimes butt in where they shouldn't!

All of our other British Isles copies of Echoes are shipped in bulk to Bedford and are mailed from there to the people who are on our mailing list. This will be the exception.

Thanks again. Hope to see you in Little Rock.

All the best to both of you,

Belleville, Ill.
3/20/89

Dear Gus -

Received your answer about the Thurligh material, and want to thank you for using it for Echoes. Also noted your comments on our Bedford friends, of course that will remain confidential, but the feelings are mutual.

Just so you will know a bit of background on this Thurligh Lower School thing,

here is how it all began.

Five years ago Gail, and I, went to England, and while there we spent several days in Bedford. We were well received by the 306th folks, taken out to the Base, and enjoyed their hospitality. While there we learned that the British have their equivalent of our Memorial Day in October. We also learned that these children took up a collection each year to decorate our 306th stone. We were told

Judy Stanton, Headmistress
at the school, was mostly
responsible for this, and
although we never met her,
we did obtain her name,
and address. When we
returned to the States we
decided to send a check
the following year to pay
for the flowers. She sent
us the nicest letter, and
photo's, which of course
pleased us no end. Since
then they have continued
each year, and now it has
become an honor for the
best student of the term to

place the large wreath
each fall.

We know these people
appreciate this gesture, and
we also feel it is a good
way to keep the 306th
spirit alive over there. We
also send them a check at
Christmas, Easter, and for
their Spring field trip. As
I mentioned in my last
letter, we want to remain
completely anonymous in
all this, but wanted
you to know how, and why,
it has all come about.

No more from here for
now. Enjoy life, and be
good to each other.

See you in Fittle Rock

All The Best
Jack + Gail

6 February 1989

Jack Shmidt
8011 West Main ST., #3
Belleville, IL 62223

Dear Jack:

Writing for myself, and for Don Ross and Reginald Roi Robinson, let me express our thanks to you for your recent gift to the 306th BG Project Fund.

Your interest in the Association, as evidenced by your gift, is much appreciated and you will hear further from us on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

William F. Houlihan
President

Amount received: \$100,00

Belleville, A.L.

10/24/89

Dear Rose -

One of the reasons I have waited this long to send this snap-shot is that I'm sure Hurricane Hugo was taking a lot of your time. Both Gail, and I, hope and pray you were spared most of it. We also commend you for keeping your cool in Little Rock, knowing what was happening in Charlotte.

The enclosed photo is of
the six surviving
members of the Charley
Wegener crew. Some of us
had not seen each other
since 1944. We noted how
well we looked after
all these years, but also
noticed how the rest of
you turkeys had aged!

The Lord willing, will
see you in San Antonio -

All The Best
Jack Schmidt

(OVER)

I would be remiss
if I neglected to say
what a great re-union
Little Rock was!

Many, many thanks
for your efforts!

J. M. S.

29 October 1989

Dear Jack:

It was good to hear from you, and I appreciate the picture you sent along. I had made mention of your crew in the October issue of Echoes, and will be delighted to use this picture of such decrepitude in the January issue. It will tell the rest of us to shape up, or it could happen to us too!

Of course, it all comes from that decision to walk home 12 Sep 44 near Berlin!

We lucked out that day, losing a wingman, but taking only one 20 mm cannon shell in a wing tip ourselves. My roughest!

As to Hurricane Hugo, it was kind to us. The devastation in some neighborhoods is almost unbelievable. We had a patch of shingles blown off and our yard trashed. Any trees down on our property were from the neighbors. I cut off the offending branches and threw them back across the fences! Our neighbors cleaned up our front yard and the trash was hauled away before we got home.

From Little Rock we headed out to Kalamazoo and stayed there for 10 days before coming home at all. One of our sons rescued the meat from our freezer, so we only lost incidentals in that area. Power was out for about 10 days, but was on before we came home.

Have been off to Pittsburgh last week, working for half a day on arrangements for 1991 there. Looks good.

Thanks for your nice comments on my performance at Little Rock. We thought it most enjoyable, but have had a letter from one man who thought it deplorable--no one gave him a button he could put on his hat!

Tell your good wife to put up with you another year, no matter how tough it is, and we look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

June 6, 1991

Some sad news - Jack Schmidt and I have been good buddies for years. Visited or called each other once or twice per month. I made arrangements for two night games at Comiskey Park in July, just two weeks prior to his death.

He had a quad-bypass and somehow couldn't wake up. This kept up for approximate 10 days. It was a blood clog in his brain that done him in.

JACK SCHMIDT, AGE 74, LIVED IN BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS. DIED MAY 26, 1991. RADIO OPERATOR ON CHARLIE WAGNER'S CREW. 367 SQDN.

Ed Ronzy

10 June 1991

Mrs. Judy Stanton
Thurleigh School
High Street
Thurleigh, Beds MK44 2DB
England

Dear Judy:

I don't know yet whether you have learned of the death of Jack Schmidt, 26 May 1991. He had undergone quadruple heart bypass surgery and responded well until a blood clot in the brain caused his death.

I know that you and the Schmidts had a special relationship, and I am sure you will hear from her in time.

We will continue mailing the Echoes directly to you, and I look forward to seeing you in August, 1992.

Sincerely yours,

10 June 1991

Dear Gail:

I just received a note from Ed Ronczy with the sad news of Jack's death.

I had enjoyed knowing Jack from the day I first met him, and always looked forward to seeing the two of you at reunions.

Although we were in the same squadron at the same time, I don't remember meeting Jack at Thurleigh, but I did know other members of his crew then.

I know I express the condolences of many who knew Jack and the many who had come to know him at reunions. We will miss him.

Of course, I shall continue your name on the Echoes mailing and hope that we may see you at a reunion now and then.

Sincerely yours,

1-21-92

Dear Alice -

The enclosed check is a small donation in Jack's memory. Please continue to send me the 306 Echoes. Would appreciate your keeping my son, John T. Schmidt of San Antonio on your mailing list. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Gail Schmidt