

PERSONNEL RECORD UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Date:

Complete this form and return to Russell A. Strong, Secretary, 306th BG Assoc., 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205, to be filed with 306th records.

LAST NAME: SPENCER FIRST NAME: GORDON MI: A TITLE: COL.

Street Address: 313 TAMWORTH DR Telephone: (210) 341-2790

City, State SAN ANTONIO, TX Zip + 4: 78213-1942

Winter Address: _____ Telephone: () _____

City, State _____ Zip + 4: _____

Date of birth: 5-29-18 Wife's name: Patricia #c 4
#gc 6
#ggc 0

College(s) attended: HARVARD → AB 1953 aa of 1960
U of OREGON → MA 1971
Degree(s), & when:

Last employment & job title & retirement date: Colonel, USAF 10-31-67

Serial #(s): 12021821, 0-429300 Squadron: 367 Specialty: Radar
0-53256, 7991A PFF

Date joined 306th: ? FLEW FIRST MISSION If combat, what crew? Svede Hansen,
ON 4 Aug 44 ANKLAM, GER.
Special duties or assignments w/306th: mostly

Group PFF

No of missions flown: 28
I had 9 missions before coming to 306th. 24 MAR 45 VECHTA, GER.
Date leaving 306th: ~ 1 JUN 45 - when Date of last mission: ? I was at the
all the PFF people left. FLAK HOUSE FOR R+R ON VEDAY
Highest rank/grade w/306th: CAPT.

Other 8AF units served with, and when: 3 Kimbolton AND CHELVESTON
All in 1944 before assignment AND ALCONBURY

Top service assignment after 306th: Chief, Ballistic Missile Training, 14th AFG
USAF retirement date: 10-31-67 Rank/grade: Colonel, O-6

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the Squadrons or other units serving with the 306th, are sought by the secretary, as many of these do not appear in any collections of materials in National Archives or the Air University.

If you know of others who served with the 306th and who do not appear in the current 306th Directory, please add their names and current/WWII hometowns or other addresses to the back of this sheet so that searches may be implemented to add them to our present 306th roster.

I had a good science and math background so I kept getting into technical areas like A-bombs, missiles, Bio. Warfare. Also I was a good teacher and school administrator so I had lots of training jobs. It was a very OVER wonderful 27 years.

Dear Russ;

That was a long time ago! It all seems very foggy at this distance. I remember that, in late 44 and early 45, I had a hard time keeping enough PFF people combat ready. I'd get 1 or 2 fresh from the states, get them trained and up to speed, only to lose them on their first or second mission.

I wanted to finish my tour - put it behind me - but the brass wouldn't let me fly unless it was an 8AF or 15th Div lead. Finally, toward the end, there really weren't any PFF targets left. On one mission, perhaps my last, we dropped to 12,000 ft and flew around looking for something to bomb.

Somewhere, perhaps in the 367th history, there is an account of a PFF bombing at Frankfurt that was very effective. I think this was one of my missions, (25 Sep 44 or 5 Nov 44). The weather was bad, almost 10/10 coverage. We made the approach to the target and dropped the load. As we continued across the target a small break appeared in the clouds and the camera recorded the bombs right on target. This was widely publicized, I got the DFC, and most of the talk about killing women and children and other claims of senseless destruction died down. That made it a lot easier to get on with the job.

I looked at the list of PFFs you included. I've talked with Dames on the phone a couple of times. The only other contact was about 35 yrs. ago when I ran into, if memory serves, Dick Wessler, in the LA airport. He owned a hardware store in the San Fernando valley. This surprised me because he had played bassoon in a symphony in Ohio before entering service. The war did strange things to us all.

Regards, Spence

COL. GORDON A. SPENCER, RET.
9229 RUSTLERS CREEK
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78230

11-9-88

Dear Russ;

I enjoyed the Oct 88 issue of 306th Echoes very much, particularly the piece on "The Mad Russian" Koskavitch.

A slight correction to your listing of Navigators: I was a Radar Op. I left my instructor slot at Hondo in Jan '44 and went to Langley, VA, to the 1st Sea Search Attack Gp., which turned out to be airborne radar training. I arrived at Alconbury Apr. 27th and underwent more training, then to Kimbolton, and finally, after D-day, to Chelveston, where I started flying missions. In 4 to 6 weeks there were enough Mickey planes to allow some at each group and I was transferred to Thurleigh. I flew most of my 28 missions with Swede Hanson. I left the 306th in late May '45.

I didn't find the name of Al G. Damico. He preceded me as Group Mickey and went from the 306th

to 40CPW. He lives at:
319 Forest Hill, San Antonio, TX 782~~15~~⁰⁹
He is writing a book about Radar
Bombing and has asked me for
anecdotes connected with it.
Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Nelson C. Gincer

6 February 1989

Col. Gordon A. Spencer
9229 Rustlers Creek
San Antonio, TX 78230

Dear Gordon:

Writing for myself and for Don Ross and Reg 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 be hearing more
from us on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

William F. Houlihan
President

Amount received: \$25.00

Sortie Record

9 missions with 305th Group.

1. 4 Aug 44 Anklam, Ger.
2. 5 Aug 44 Dollburgen, Ger.
3. 15 Aug 44 Frankfurt, Ger.
4. 16 Aug 44 Bohlen, Ger.
5. 30 Aug 44 Kiel, Ger.
6. 3 Sep 44 Ludwigshaven, Ger.
7. 5 Sep 44 " "
8. 8 Sep 44 " "
9. 11 Sep 44 Eisenach, Ger.
10. 25 Sep 44 Frankfurt, Ger.
11. 2 Oct 44 Kassel, Ger.
12. 6 Oct 44 Stargard, Ger.
13. 9 Oct 44 Schweinfurt, Ger.
14. 15 Oct 44 Koln, Ger.
15. 5 Nov 44 Frankfurt, Ger.
16. 6 Jan 45 Koln, Ger.
17. 22 Feb 45 Grabow, Ger.
18. 11 Mar 45 Bremen, Ger.
19. 24 Mar 45 Vechta, Ger.

COL. GORDON A. SPENCER, RET.
9229 RUSTLERS CREEK
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78230

5-18-91

Dear Russ;
Enjoyed the Apr. '91 Echoes. A LOT!

Re: "Seven Officers on Lead Crew": That
was my 26th mission and my "Operational
Sortie Record" says we were leading
the 1st Div, we got 9:20 flying time,
and the target was GRABOW, Germany.

Since Swede Hanson was the
pilot I suspect we were
flying in "PUNCHY" - which might
be another named A/C for your list.
Swede didn't want his A/C
named; perhaps some superstition.
He was quite unhappy when he
found that the crew chief had
named the A/C.

In getting into my files I found
the enclosed piece of PR, and
thought you might like it. I
hope it doesn't fall apart on the way.
Regards,
Gordon