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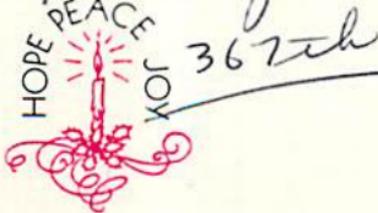
Dear Bill,

Rec'd the Dec issue of 306 ECHOES today & glad to have it. Sorry I couldn't make it to the get together in Wash D.C. but family problems prevented it. I know you folks enjoyed yourselves. Examining the attendance roster I see the names of old friends.

Enclosed is my input plus a check to help the 306 FUND along Bill.

Best to you and yours for the holidays. Hope to see you along the way somewhere.

Your friend  
Mike Stepenaskie



1000

May the spirit  
of the season  
Fill your home  
And remain there  
with you  
Throughout the year

Ornbe

Dear Bill,

Sep 3, 1979  
MIDWEST CITY, OKLAH

am in receipt of the "Echoes" for  
July and as always happy to have it.  
all's well here - same to you and yours.  
wife and I are intending to be  
a Colo. Spgs for the 306th reunion  
- will drive up about 600 mi. we've  
decided not to go on to Phoenix.

Hope to see you when Bill

Mike S

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P.S.

Something for Echoes Fund.

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STEPANASKIE

Dear Bill

1000,

Mar 10, 1980  
Midwest City, Ok.

Just a few lines saying all is well here - same to you. I was just browsing through my past copies of the Echoes and noticed I had not responded to your appeal for financial assistance. Sorry for the delay Bill - see you in the ECHOES. Keep up your good work - best regards.

Mike Seperaskee  
6201 SEVENTH ST.  
Midwest City, Ok 73110

NOV 17, 1977  
MIDWEST CITY, OKLA.

Dear Bill,

I am in receipt of your letter and literature on the 306th Bomb Gp. Very glad to have it - many names bring back thoughts of old friends and buddies. Hope you put me on your mailing list - sure hope to be able to attend future get-togethers.

After looking over the list of 306 members I began thinking - how many of these men are charter members dating back to Wendover in April 1942? I didn't find too many from my outfit - the 367th - the memory is getting a little fuzzy after all these years, I guess.

Enclosed is a small check to help the project along - let me know if there is an annual levy on us.

I am retired now and living the good life now - do a bit of space available travel every so often. Hope to get to Hawaii in a little while for a visit for old time sakes. Had a couple tours at Hickam + Johnston Island out that way - most enjoyable and best diving stations of my AF <sup>CAREER</sup> ~~career~~. Haven't been back since 1956 to Hawaii - can't visit Johnston - NASA has it + is off limits.

I know you must be busy keeping up with keeping up with the 306 doings - along with making a living. Appreciate your help. Close with best wishes + if you are ever out this way come by + let's talk Army Air Corps talk - 306 type.

6201 SE 11TH ST  
MIDWEST CITY, OKLA. 73110  
PH. 737-4643

Best wishes  
M. J. Stepenaskie

FR) OCT 21, 1977

Dear Bill

Your name has been passed to me by Keith Paull, Clapham, Bedford. I had visited England in Sep. this year and while in Bedford attempted to get on to the base at Thuleigh to relive years long past but due to a misunderstanding was unable to - the line of communications got crossed a little & through really no ones real fault, I didn't get on the base at Thuleigh. However I did get a cab to go out to visit the neighborhood. It brought back memories.

According to Keith Paull the PTH AF had a reunion the end of Aug<sup>chore</sup> - I arrived in Eng 2 Sep so I missed that - it would have given pleasure to visit with some of our PTH Buddies. His letter didn't arrive till Oct 18 so I missed the reunion Oct 8 in St. Louis.

I have had no contact with any of the boys from my Squadron (367th) or any 306's since returning in 1945 - that's a long time.

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I have been scanning AF Times, Legion mags & other sources for any word of 306 or 8th AF. Is it possible to attain a list of men preferably 367th that I may get in touch with - also is there any get together planned for the group on 8th AF. I definitely am interested in any news.

I also have the 8th Hist. Society address, so I'll be dropping them a line for any news they could let me have.

After the war I went on in the service to complete 20 yrs & retire in 1962 - am settled in Okla. now enjoying the good life of a retired gent?

Close now with a wish for continued correspondence with you or other buddies, if possible. Best wishes Bill looking to word from you

Michael J. (Step) Stepenaskie

367TH SQ  
CLAY PIGEONS  
AUG 42-45  
AT THURLEIGH.

MICHAEL J. STEPENASKIE  
6201 SE 11TH ST  
MIDWEST CITY  
OKLA. 73110



## 306th Bomb Group Historical Association

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

KEITH PAULL  
2 THE LODGE  
HIGH STREET  
CLAPHAM  
BEDFORD MK41 6AJ

4 October.

Dear Michael,

First of all, let me introduce myself. We should have met about a month ago, but due to a rather sorry mess-up we didn't. You see, I work on the airfield at Thurleigh and, as a member of the above association in fact its founder member, I try to help any ex-306er who I come in contact with. Perhaps I had better explain further. Some seven years or so ago I discovered on the walls of a few tumbledown huts, pencilled lists of missions, names of men and aircraft, etc, and the names of those who didn't make it back from a mission. I felt then that here was a piece of Anglo-American history that should be recorded, and, from then, I have become more and more involved with the 306th BG. My wife is as involved as I and together we are members of "Friends of the Eighth"- a group of people with a common interest in the 8thAAF, and also we are members of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, a Stateside organisation for members of the 8th. Within this society there are strong group associations of veterans from nearly every base there was in Britain, and one of the strongest is the 306th.

If you haven't heard about this organisation, I had better tell you a bit more then give you the addresses so that you can get in touch if you wish. Basically the 8thAFHS organises reunions and publishes a Newsletter three or four times a year, acting as a kind of blanket facility within which each Group has its own Association and organises its own functions and events. There was a big Eighth reunion over here at the end of August when we had about 16 306ers over, and on the 8th October there is the Annual Reunion of everyone in St Louis. As I say, if you don't know about all this, then the man to contact is :- Bill Collins, who is the 306th Contact man. His address is :- 2973 Heatherbrae Drive, Poland, Ohio 44514.

The membership secretary for the Eighth Air Force Historical Society is:- A.V.Kaye, 495 NE 157th Terr. Miami, Fla 33162.

X Well, now to apologise for the mix-up that prevented you from visiting Thurleigh the other week. My first involvement came the day I returned from leave when the phone in my office went at about 9.30 with the Security Officer telling me that an American had been in contact and he would give permission for him to be taken round the site if I undertook to escort him. I said I would be pleased to do so and he then said that it was a Mr Stepenaskie who was staying at the Embankment Hotel and he gave me the telephone number to ring. I did this immediately and was told by the desk that Mr Stepenaskie had gone out. I asked them to pass a message, but, as I had heard nothing during the day I rang them again in the late afternoon and again the following morning, but each time I was told that Mr Stepenaskie was out. I asked the receptionist how long he was booked in for and she said a further nine days so I didn't worry too much. That evening, however I decided to drop in the Hotel and introduce myself.

Actually I am a little bit ahead of my story, because, when I phoned the hotel the first time and mentioned the room number, (Ten, I think it was),

PTO.

she said they didn't have a room of that number in the place. I then realised that she had said "Swan" Hotel when she had answered the phone, but I didn't at that time worry because she obviously had your name in the register and as the two hotels are close to each other I thought our security officer had just muddled hearing the name. Well, as I say, the following evening I called into the SWAN and asked to see Mr Stepenaskie. "Sorry" the reply came, "He has gone out". The receptionist said that she had given him my message to ring me at the base but all he had done was grunt and walk on. She then said something about him not speaking English very much!

Anyway, to cut a long story down to a reasonable length, she showed me the name in the register, a Mr Stepnowski, who, together with about twenty more Polish gentlemen, were over here on a trade conference!!!!

I rushed round to the "Embankment Hotel" where a very helpful girl behind the desk said that a Mr Stepenaskie had booked in for one night a couple of days ago and she kindly gave me your address from the register after I explained what had happened. It seems that our Security clerk had looked up the phone number to help me get in contact and had given me the wrong one, whilst I, on the other hand, had assumed that you had passed the number of the hotel over the line when talking to the security officer and the mistake had been in the name of the hotel! Truly, Michael, I feel pretty bad about disappointing you like this. If only I had thought to check the phone number against the hotel name in the first place, then I might have rung the Embankment first! And, to crown it all, who would have expected to find two different people with a name as unusual as yours is in England, to be staying in two hotels next door to each other! As it happens I am glad the Polish gentleman didn't ring back.... it would have been awkward if an Iron Curtain representative were found to be calling me in a government airfield at my request!!!! The whole episode might well be used as the startingpoint of a rather good spy story!

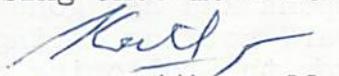
Anyway, the point is, should you find yourself over this side of the Atlantic again, get in touch with me so that I can get the security sorted out -they like seven days notice really - and I shall certainly take you over the field and introduce you to other friends who are equally concerned with the 306th and all who served there. Were you, by any chance, an officer. -and if you were, did you go to the Key Club in Bedford and did you put your name on one of the maps which hung on the wall. Those maps are now in the care of a friend of ours and Stella, the lady who ran the club, is also a friend of theirs.

Well, now I am going to ask if you would be kind enough to help June (Thats my wife) and me even though I was unable to help you this trip. As we are trying to build up as clear a picture as possible of life in the 306th, I wonder if you would tell us when you were there, what your job was and what was your rank, and could you please tell us about any little stories you can remember from those days, -it doesn't matter if they are funny, sad, big or little, we would love to hear them. My experiance of 306ers is that, although some are not too keen on sitting down and writing long letters they can all tell interesting stories, so, if you prefer, we have a small cassette tape recorder over here and we would love to exchange tapes with you. Either way, we hope you will keep in touch now that we have established contact at last.

Before I close, if there is anything at all you would like done over here, like photos taken, people contacted or anything like that, please don't hesitate to tell us and it will be our pleasure to do it for you.

The end of the paper is getting close, so I will close this letter and wish you all the best, and apologising once more for the mix-up.

Yours sincerely,

  
Keith Paull.

PS What Squadron were you in, please... we might well know some of your colleagues and may be able to put you in touch with some.