

MR WILLIAM COLLINS
2973 HEATHERBIRD DR
YOUNGSTOWN OH. 44514

DEAR SIR

I AM LOOKING FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING ^{369 SQN} MY
BROTHER WHO SERVED IN THE 306TH BG 41 EARLY
1943. - STAFF SGT. CHARLES R TIPTON ASN 20346830

HIS A/C, B17-F TN 41-24471 WAS LOST OVER LILLE,
FRANCE ON 13 JAN 1943 DUE TO ANTI AIRCRAFT FIRE
AND A MID AIR COLLISION. MY BROTHER WAS KILLED
AT THIS TIME

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE CREW MEMBER ON
THIS FLIGHT WITH THEIR HOME ADDRESSES AT THIS
TIME

1ST LT	FRANK JACKNICK	CHICAGO, ILL.
CAPT	JAMES A. JOHNSTON (KIA)	OKLAHOMA
1ST LT	JAMES E. SHADRIK	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
CAPT	DALE L. DUGGAR (KIA)	BLOOMFIELD, IND.
S/SGT	CLYDE M. BENNETT	PITTSBURG, PENN.
T/SGT	ROBERT L. STEVENSON	KIRKLIN, IND.
S/SGT	JOHN P. MORRISON	NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.
SGT	FRED J. ZDABYLAK	ADDRESS UNKNOWN
SGT	CHARLES R TIPTON (KIA)	BALTIMORE, MD
SGT	THOMAS McMAHON	SANT ALBANS N.Y.

THESE DATA WERE TAKEN FROM A MISSING AIRCREW
REPORT. SINCE THE REPRODUCTION QUALITY WAS
VERY POOR, THERE MAY BE SOME DISCREPANCIES

MY BROTHER WAS A CAP. IN THE 110TH FA MD NG
WHEN THEY WERE CALLED INTO FEDERAL SERVICE
ON 23 JAN. 1941. SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE TRANSFERRED
TO THE A.F.C. AND WAS ASSIGNED TO GUNNERY
SCHOOL AT WENDOVER UTAH. AT THE COMPLETION
OF HIS TRAINING HE WAS ASSIGNED TO A
CREW WHICH PICKED UP AN A/C AND DEPARTED
FOR ENGLAND FROM WEST OVER MASS.

I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU COULD
GIVE ME CONCERNING MY BROTHER'S SERVICE
AND HIS UNIT AND ALSO ANY OTHER POSSIBLE
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

SINCERELY

Lee W. Tipton

LEE W TIPTON
13471 W. 25TH AVE
GOLDEN, Co. 80401

1 March 1987

Mr. Lee W. Tipton
13471 W. 25th Avenue
Golden, CO 80401

Dear Mr. Tipton:

There is little additional information that I can give you concerning your brother. A mid-air collision did occur, a not infrequent happening in heavy bomber formations. Formation flying is hazardous at best and near misses were the norm. Pilots were relatively inexperienced with their aircraft and formation flying was demanding and a difficult exercise to handle.

There were seven survivors off your brothers crew, and we do have good addresses for several of them. I cannot in anyway assure you that you will get responses or information from any of these men. Some want to totally forget the experience, and because of the nature of the air war, so much happened in a few seconds that these men had little or no chance to observe what was happening to other people about them, their own survival being paramount. That they did survive a mid-air collision is probably due to good fortune than anything else.

Frank Jacknick is now deceased
Shedrick Jones, 2325 E. Vickery, Fort Worth, TX 76104
Robert L. Stevenson, unknown
John P. Morrison, unknown
Fred J. Zdobylak, 9831 Soreng, Schiller Park, IL 60176
Thomas D. McMahon, Box 582, Redway, CA 95560

My guess is that you will get more information out of Zdobylak and McMahon, as they were both enlisted and served in the plane more intimately than did Jones, who operated from the nose.

Jones and McMahon were both on Johnston's original crew with your brother, so they had a longer association, and flew the Atlantic together.

Another Johnson crew member who was not on this mission was Wyndom Haynes, 7601 Canyon Ct., Tampa, FL 33615. He may have some recollections. Johnston's original co-pilot was Dr. Charles Flannagan, Rt. 1, Box 438, Tell City, IN 47586.

I hope some of this may be useful information.

Sincerely yours,

3-20-87

MR. RUSSELL A. STRONG
2041 HILLSDALE
KALAMAZOO, MI 49007

DEAR MR STRONG,

THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION YOU SENT ME
CONCERNING THE PEOPLE WHO SERVED WITH MY
BROTHER SGT TIPTON IN THE 306TH BG.
I AM WRITING ALL OF THEM ASKING FOR
ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THEY MAY
HAVE.

I GATHER FROM YOUR LETTER HEARD, THAT YOU
HAVE WRITTEN A HISTORY OF THE 306TH.
IF IT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO
GET A COPY OF THIS BOOK

SINCERELY

Lee W. Tipton

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