

(I FORGOT TO MAIL THIS)

PERSONNEL RECORD UPDATE  
306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to Russell A. Strong, Secretary,  
306th BG Association, 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205.

Date completed 6/18/94

LEAD RADIO-OPERATOR

LAST NAME: YODER FIRST NAME: RAYMOND MI: J TITLE: GUNNER

Street address: 104 JUANITA DR Telephone: (315) 4576405

City, State, Zip: LIVERPOOL NY zip + 4: 13090

Date of birth: 8/15/21

Wife's name: ANNE (WAR BRIDE) SCOTCH

College(s) attended: SYRACUSE UNIV Degree(s): Year(s): 3 1/2

Last employment & job title & retirement date: APRIL - 1984  
MORRIS DISTRIBUTING CO  
WHOLESALE CREDIT MANAGER & FIELD AUDITOR

Reunions attended: NONE (SO FAR)

Serial #: 32378405 Squadron: 368 TH Specialty: RADIO OPERATOR GUNNER

Date joined 306th: ~~SEPT 10 1944~~ SEPT 10 1944 If combat, what crew: 356

Special duties or assignments w/306th: SEND & RECEIVE MESSAGES (MORSE CODE WHILE IN FLIGHT - TAKE OVER ANY OTHER GUNNERS POSITION)

Number of missions flown: 35 Date of last mission: MARCH 2 - 1945

Date left 306th: MAY - 1945 Highest rank/grade w/306th: T/SGT

Other 8th AF units served with: LAST MISSION MARCH 2 - 1945  
MARCH 2 - 1945  
NONE

Top service assignment after 306th: NONE WARENDED BACK TO REALITY!!

USAF retirement date: OCT 4 - 1945 Rank/grade: T/SGT

I HAVE MY ORIGINAL COPIES OF THE MISSIONS & DATES I FLEW FROM SEPT 1 - 1944 TILL MARCH 2 - 1945 IF THEY WOULD BE OF ANY USE  
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 Federal files:

If you know of others who served with the 306th who do not appear in the current 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.

①

6/16/94

306TH ECHOES

Gentlemen

I must admit I was a bit sheptical when your represenative called & asked if I had flown in the 306th Bomb Group. I thought he was ~~saying~~ selling something. Please thank him for me, as I didnt write down his name.

My crew was one of the more lucky ones (if you can call any of us lucky)

We arrived at the Thurleigh base in Sept 1944, with a brand new B 17. We were thinking of what to name her. As soon as we landed they put her in the general pool. She never get a name

(2)

By the fall of 1944 we had fighter protection, most of the time, on all missions.

On our 18th mission our pilot (Joe) & myself were walking side by side, to the crew chief's shack.

There was suddenly 3 or 4 explosions & flashes of light (tracers) I looked for my pilot. He was on the ground, killed instantly by 3-50 caliber machine gun bullets.

It seems somehow there was live ammunition left in the ball turret, when our own gunner was checking it out.

Our crew was split up. I went on to complete

(3)

my 35 missions with several other crews.

I don't think any of them knew why I had replaced their regular radio operator, & I didn't want to tell them.

On landing after my 35th mission, I got down & kissed the ground. It didn't seem possible.

By the time I was re-assigned ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> the states, after flying back on a B 17 loaded with officers, they were sleeping all over the floor in the radio room.

The atomic bomb was dropped. I never had to fly any more combat missions.


(4)

The years have  
clouded all of our  
~~missed~~ memories.

I still have the occasional  
bad dream, as most of us do.

Have we learned  
anything from all of this  
devastation & death of  
innocent civilians, caught  
up in these troubled  
years? I hope so!!

<sup>FORMER</sup>  
(T/Sgt) Raymond J Yoder  
306TH GROUP  
368TH SQUADRON

P.S. If you still have the  
January issue of the 306TH  
ECHOES left over please  
send me one. Thanks  


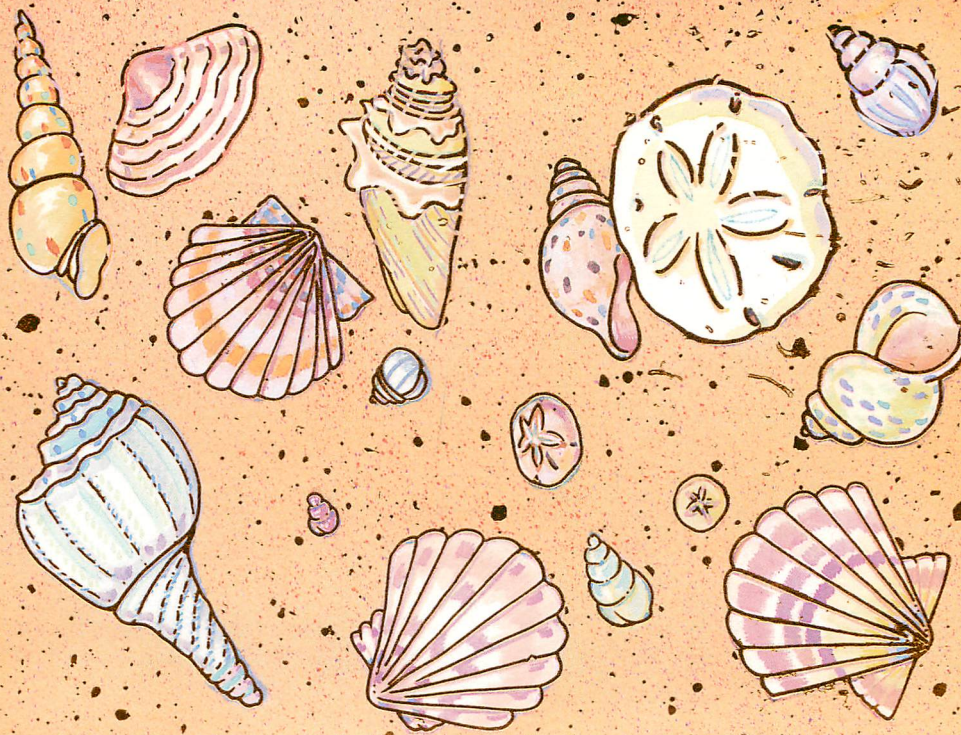
tele.  
315-457-6405

104 Juanita Drive  
Liverpool  
New York State  
13090

Russell Strong,

Hi, you certainly made Rays day when he received the July copy of echoes and his old B17 crew were in it, he is front center on Page 5 doubly valuable as his mother lost all his pictures when she went to Florida, I myself am a "war trophy" was a British nurse. I know our son and daughter will love to see the copies.

Since he has a birthday coming up August 15th I wonder if you could get me a copy of the original picture that is in the Paper I am enclosing 10 dollars to cover cost of copy if more please let me know as I would like to get it framed for him, The picture he is in - is on page 5



July copy: 2

368th Ray Yoder and send  
to my attention I would  
appreciate an echoes copy also  
but primarily a copy of the  
original crew picture - how on  
earth did you get it.

Sincerely

Anne Yoder

P.S. This letter for your info only.

AMERICAN GREETINGS

ALWN 2-4E

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315-457-6405

104 Juanita Drive  
Liverpool  
N.Y 13090

Hi Russell,

Following our telephone conversation, I had not received my bank statement and was sure your check had cleared, guess I should have waited until I received them, about now I generally transfer my money (such as it is) to my Florida bank leaving only a token in the bank here to keep it open, and I use Rays account, so I am reimbursing you right away, if your bank charges you any thing please let me know!

We head for our place in Florida the end of the month and return here in May. Once again my sincere apologies.

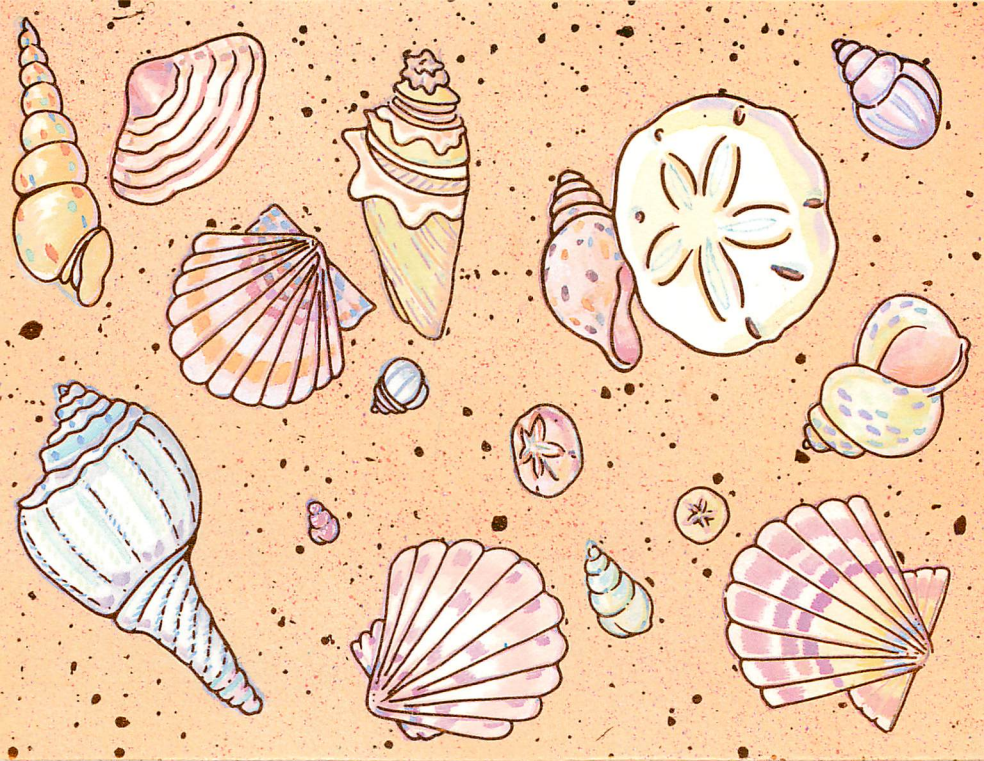
Very Truly  
Yoder's  
Anne

Florida Phone 813-783-7194



Winter Home Of  
Raymond J. & Anne Yoder  
6326 Fairlawns Drive  
Zephyrhills, FL 33541





AMERICAN GREETINGS

ALWN 2-4E

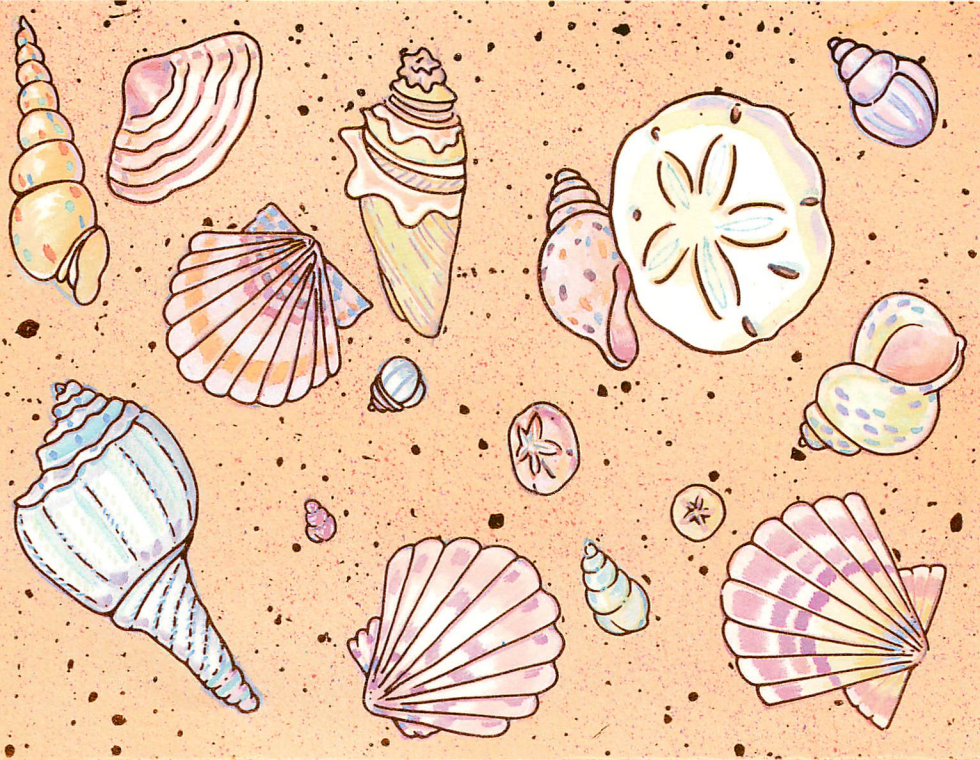
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P.S. Wonder just how  
many of that crew  
are still around, havent  
noticed any of their names  
on any thing in the echo.

104 Juanita Drive  
Liverpool  
N.Y 13090  
Saturday Sept 9 - 1994

St Russell

Thank you so very much, we received  
your wonderful inscribed (Thank you) book today  
Ray is delighted and feels very nostalgic about  
it, one story in it especially brought  
back memories, The story of the pilot who was  
shot just prior to leaving on a mission, this  
pilot's picture is in the crew picture with Ray  
it was his pilot. The two of them were  
walking and talking when Ray saw flashes  
go by and the pilot dropped to the ground  
apparently the "Ball Turret gunner" also in  
that picture was doing something at the  
gun and accidentally fired it, Ray can't  
understand why he also wasn't killed  
he has spoken of this so many times, the  
ball turret gunner was a replacement  
and he was immediately transferred  
Ray said he never "bought" the ~~rocket~~  
ricocheting bullet story as the pilot  
walked on the inside. Small world  
They were all (The crew) given a weeks  
leave and the mission cancelled, the sad  
part the pilot's wife was pregnant  
and he was never able to see his child.  
scope The original crew picture copy  
comes soon as he is caught up now in  
the past, it was in Stone, England prior



To returning to <sup>2</sup>the U.S. I was transferred  
as a nurse to Evesham not far  
away however we got married in  
New York - I came over on the  
beautiful Queen Elizabeth 1 -  
Since we weren't married until I  
landed - (he had been back about  
2 years) I had to pay my own way -  
not exactly like the GI Brides married  
in England. His family always call him  
by his middle name James - so when he  
told me his name was Jim and I heard  
his friends call him Ray I wondered what  
this Yankee fly boy was up to. Since I was  
a Scot I was cautious he he. Thanks again  
Anne Yorks

AMERICAN GREETINGS

ALUM 2-4E

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7/22/94

306 TH ECHOES

5323 CHEVAL PLACE

CHARLOTTE NC 28205

ATTN RUSSELL A STRONG

Dear Sir:

I was very surprised, and elated, to see a picture of my crew, on page 5 of your July issue.

It was next to the bottom on this page. We must have just returned from a mission, as we all had on maywest life jackets

Oddly enough I don't remember having this picture taken. If possible could you send me 2 more copies of this edition. Also are glossy copies available at any cost?  
Thanks Raymond J Yoder

11-22-94

we would have been happily married  
for 50 years in February and they said  
these marriages wouldn't last !!! believe  
the paper meant 306 group not Troop. he  
was a wonderful artist.

Just a short note to let you  
know my husband Raymond J. Yoder  
died Sept 6th he had Leukemia had  
been in the hospital and was due  
to come home when he took a bad  
turn. "fun" and I met in England  
I was a Scottish nurse and a  
was bride, we were getting ready  
to go to our place in Florida  
for the winter, he had been in  
touch for the last couple of  
years with two members he flew  
with Donald Schertz and Ralph  
Bocian  
found them through your Echoes  
Ray was a Radio Operator and had  
the Air Medal.

1/5/51

Thank you  
Anne Yoder.

## Raymond J. Yoder

Raymond J. Yoder, 75, of 104  
Juanita Drive, Liverpool died Fri-  
day at university Hospital after a  
long illness.

A native of  
Carthage, Mr.  
Yoder lived in  
Syracuse before  
moving to Liv-  
erpool 40 years  
ago, and Zeph-  
yrhills, Fla. for  
the past few  
years. He was a  
veteran of  
World War II,  
serving in the 8th Air Forces 306  
Bombardment Troop. He com-  
pleted 35 missions in a B17 bomb-  
er. Mr. Yoder retired from Mor-  
ris Distributing as the credit man-  
ager.



YODER

He was a member of the Artist  
Guild, Syracuse University Alumni,  
and The Moose Lodge 404 in  
Baldwinsville. Mr. Yoder was a  
member of the Danforth United  
Church of Syracuse and its  
Kupples Club.

Surviving are his wife of 49  
years, Anne; a son, James R. of  
New York City; one daughter,  
Beth Hawley of Syracuse; one  
brother, Bob of Camillus; three  
grandchildren; one aunt; one coun-  
sin, and several nieces and neph-  
ews.

Services are 10 a.m. Tuesday at  
the Onondaga County Veterans  
Memorial Cemetery Chapel.

There will be no calling hours.  
Contributions may be made to  
the American Cancer Society.  
Maurer Funeral Home in Liver-  
pool has arrangements.