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# 306th Echoes



423rd Squadron  
42-31897  
Arr 25 Feb. 44 Dpt. 7 Aug. 44  
MIA with McNaught's crew

Dr Thurman Shuller  
1312 E Miami  
Mc Alester, OK 74501-6746



Part of the 306th contingent for medal presentations were: Curtis Oakes, Lawrence Wolfe, Kay Kisamore Manning, Claude Toyek and James Wirth, 369th bombardier.

## DFC, 3 Purple Hearts Awarded 52 Years After May Missions

One Distinguished Flying Cross and three Purple Heart medals were awarded to 367th men 9 Aug 95 at March AFB, CA. This presentation honored Leo R. Kisamore, KIA, and co-pilot on the Alden Mann crew, Lawrence E. Wolfe, navigator, and Claude V. Toyek, bombardier.

They had arrived at Thurleigh 23 Apr 43 as members of Alden Mann's crew, and all were on the mission of 15 May 43 to Wilhelmshaven when their plane was lost to enemy action. Kisamore was KIA, while Wolfe and Toyek survived to attend this special medal presentation.

All of this came about because of the dogged determination of Kay Kisamore Manning to see that her late first husband received his due. When she learned that neither Wolfe nor Toyek had received their medals, she included them in her efforts to clear up the matter.

Kisamore first came to the 306th as a mechanic 3 Apr 42, from out of Sheppard Field, TX, then quickly left for pilot training. He graduated in 42-K at Roswell, NM, becoming a flight officer with T104 as his serial number.

At crew training, these three men became a part of the crew of Alden Mann, and they all reported to Thurleigh for combat duty 23 Apr 43.

All three men flew their first missions on 1 May 43, the fabled trip to St. Nazaire that resulted in the Medal of

Honor and a host of other medals. And Nazaire that resulted in the Medal of Honor and a host of other medals. And for his work that day Kisamore was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, a rare happening for a first mission.

While Kisamore was killed in the cockpit 15 May 43, Wolfe, Toyek and Reginald G. Harris, an original crew member with the Group, were able to survive the ordeal and were rescued from the North Sea by the Germans.

After punching her way through Air Force red tape, Mrs. Manning chose to have the ceremony in California so that both Wolfe and Toyek, and their families could attend. At this point Curtis Oakes, onetime 423rd pilot, entered the scene. He has long been a volunteer at the March AFB Museum, and he agreed to help get a crowd together for this ceremony, as well as working on the local media.

The result was that some 70 persons were in attendance at the March Officers Club, introductions were made, citations were read and the medals were awarded in what was an unusual event in that four medals were presented and two recipients were there in person.

You can be assured that there were a lot of damp eyes in the room as a widow and two warriors smiled through a very meaningful morning.

## 400 Enjoy Busy Reunion in Knoxville; Many Newcomers

More than 400 306th men, spouses, friends, family and assorted guests came to Knoxville during the reunion season in the third week of September, spreading out through the spacious lobby of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and especially into the 11th floor hospitality room.

Despite a few shortcomings, the reunion attendees had a happy time with old friends and new acquaintances as a considerable number of additions to our mailing list in the past two years finally got the reunion fever.

The first travel buses left the hotel Thursday afternoon for the Museum of Appalachia, up I-75 a bit north of Knoxville, where they were educated, entertained and dined in a rustic setting. Later buses left for the waterfront on the Tennessee River where they boarded a paddle boat for a dinner cruise down the river and back.

On Friday buses left mid-morning for Dollywood at Pigeon Forge and for Gatlinburg, with a look at the high mountain vantage points along the way. In mid-afternoon the buses returned and for the dinner hour and early evening a Glenn Miller-type musical presentation was held in the hotel lobby, with some dining, while others danced, and many sat in the area to hear the music.

Many of the better restaurants in the immediate Knoxville area found among their patrons numerous representatives

of the 306th.

Officers and directors of the Association were also meeting during this period to handle various business matters concerning the 306th, and preparing for the annual business meeting held Saturday morning. Once again, among those attending, were Ralph and Daphne Franklin of Keysoe, Bedfordshire, who serve as our representatives in the area surrounding Thurleigh. While the base is now closed, Franklin is able to get visitors inside and to help them orient themselves to "our" base of the 40s. There is still no disposition of the land occupied by the 306th and later by the Royal Aircraft Establishment and its successor organizations. Following WWII the actual land area of the base was increased to better serve the experimental work carried on by the British over 40 years or so.

The concluding event of the reunion was the Saturday night banquet, at which time B/Gen. Walter J. Bacon, a onetime USAF fighter pilot entertained the audience with some light humor while he also addressed cogent remarks concerning the present state of defense policy in the United States, as well as comments on the political scene.

As is typical, goodbyes came at breakfast Sunday morning while travelers packed their cars, or scurried for transportation to the airport.

## Col. Lanford, First 368th C.O., Dies

Col. William A. Lanford, pilot and first commander of the 368th Squadron, died 26 Jun 95 in Fresno, CA, where he had been a stockbroker for some years.

Named 15 Mar 42 as 368th commander, he served until relieved by Gen. Ira Eaker in Jan 43 over an incident involving the mission of 3 Jan 43 in which the Group failed to return to Thurleigh, but landed on the south coast. In a failed attempt to reach Thurleigh later, a 306th plane was lost over the water and the British lost two planes looking for the 306th craft.

Lanford was returned to the U. S. after having flown nine of 306th's first 13 missions. He later joined the cadre of the 483rd Group and returned to combat with the 15th AF. On his 17th mission his plane was shot down, and for a second time he lost his squadron command.

Years later Lanford told the editor that upon walking into Stalag Luft III he felt



Col. William A. Lanford

like he was going to a 306th alumni meeting as he met so many officers from our Group.

His later USAF career was spent entirely in fighters, and he retired as a colonel in 1964.

He leaves his wife of 55 years, Betty Joe, one son, a daughter and two grandsons.



Ed Danaher, Left, Inspects Lee Kessler's B-17 Model at Knoxville

# Obituaries

**LTC Herbert J. Avise**, original Group weather officer and until transferred to 8th Bomber Command 13 Aug. 43, died 14 Aug. 95 in Nokesville, VA. He was a USAF retiree Sep. 65. He leaves his wife, Lorraine.

**Robert F. Brenner**, 449th Sub Depot, died 2 Sep 94 in Florence, KY. Among other duties, he worked in the Prop Shop.

**Elvie C. Deal**, 369th mechanic and crew chief, is reported to have died in Redwood City, CA. An original with the Group, he left 9 Sep 45. He later worked for United Air Lines. He leaves his wife, Illiene.

**The Rev. Norman Eilar**, 367th navigator (Joseph Pedersen crew), died 11 Jul 95 in the Wright-Patterson AFB Hospital. He flew his 35-mission combat tour in mid 1944, and retired USAF in 1967 as a lieutenant colonel. He then returned to college, and entered the ministry of the United Methodist Church from which he retired in 1983 after 15 years as a pastor. He was a graduate of Ball State University, held an MA degree from Columbia University, and earned MDiv and DMin degrees from the United Theological Seminary in Ohio. He leaves his wife, Helen, two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Billy H. Drennan**, 369th radio operator in the original Group, died 7 Sep 95 in Little Rock, AR, while preparing to attend his first 306th reunion. He was the 47th EM to complete a combat tour. Postwar he ran the family furniture business in Little Rock. His wife died in 1980, and he leaves one son.

**David E. Fiske**, 369th mechanic, died 23 May 95 in Alburg, VT. He was a graduate of the University of Vermont, Montpelier, and taught in a Hyde Park, VT, school. He leaves his wife, one daughter and a grandson.

**Jacob J. Gehrlein**, 1628th Ordnance Co., auto mechanic and supply clerk, died 6 Sep 95 in Tehachapi, CA. He served with the 306th from Dec 42 to Jan 46. He leaves his wife Sandy and four children.

**Raymond E. Hartline**, 367th, who worked in supply and armament, died 31 Oct 88 in Clifton, NJ. He joined the Group 3 Apr 42, and leaves his wife, Jane.

**Jack S. Henley**, 369th pilot and POW, died recently in Pomeroy, WA. He had flown more than 12 missions when he was shot down 14 Feb 45 on a raid to Dresden, Germany.

**Richard L. Jones**, 369th copilot and pilot, has died recently in Madison, TN, where he had been a Third National Bank officer until retirement in 1984. He leaves his wife, Mary.

**Charles H. Huffman**, 367th, died 7 Mar 95 in Washington Court House, OH, where he had lived much of his life. He leaves his wife.

**Harry I. Miller**, 367th tail gunner (Robert Cardon crew), died 5 Aug 95 in Bruceton Mills, WV. He came to the 306th in mid-1944, and leaves his wife, Joan.

**Winton H. Nelson**, 423rd ball turret gunner (Robert Horn crew), died 7 Jul 95 in Long Beach, MS. An electrical engineer, he had retired from a telephone company after 32 years of service. He leaves his wife, Myrtle, three children and four grandchildren.

**Raymond Paolini**, 423rd radio operator (Jack Millette crew), died 3 Sep 93 in the VA hospital at Reno, NV. He completed his combat tour in Sep 44, having come to the Group 30 Apr 44.

**Lee Roy Patterson**, 368th first sergeant, died 12 Jan 95 Savannah, TN. He had retired from the Christian ministry, and leaves his wife, a son and two daughters.

**John H. Reagan**, 449th clerk and typist, died 12 Jan 95, having suffered from Parkinson's Disease. His wife is now living Hawaii with their daughter.

**Richard W. Sprunger**, 423rd copilot and pilot, died 26 Dec 94 in Birmingham, AL. He joined the Group 21 Aug 44 with Douglas Schrack's crew and completed 35 missions in Feb 45. A graduate of the University of Alabama, he leaves his wife, two children and one grandchild.

**The Rev. George Vogt**, 367th engineer and POW, died 2 Feb 95 in Siloan Springs, AR. He came with the Craig Powell crew 31 Aug 43 and was shot down 24 Apr 44 at Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, with the Gilbert VanderMarliere crew. His wife had died in 1991.

**Gerald W. Walczak**, 423rd tail gunner (Wilmer Schultz crew), died 28 Mar 95 in Milwaukee, WI, from cancer. He retired in 1986 as a dispensing optician. Prior to combat he was a gunnery instructor in Las Vegas, NV. His plane went down 9 Feb 45, but the crew made its way through the front lines to Liege, Belgium, and returned to Thurleigh. He leaves his wife, Toni, three children and five grandchildren.

**William Walsh**, 367th copilot (Leonard Smith crew), died 5 Jul 95 in Toledo, OH, where he had been the Lakefront Dock operator. He flew 24 missions in 1945 and then served with the Casey Jones Project. He leaves his wife, Nancy.

**John G. Weber**, 368th bombardier (Habert Underwood crew), died 16 Jul 95 in Casper, WY, after a short illness. A graduate of the University of Wyoming in civil engineering, he had been associated with construction until retiring in 1985. He leaves wife, four children, four grandchildren and his mother.

**LTC Maurice F. Youngs**, an original 306th pilot and who was transferred before the Group left Wendover, died 15 May 95 in Phoenix, AZ. He later served in the 96th and 100th BGs in the 8th. His pilot class was 42-C, Stockton, CA.

## 306th FAMILY

**Pauline Clarke**, wife of Alexander Clarke, 367th bombardier, died 19 Apr 94 in Dallas, TX.

**Mrs. John K. Hedberg**, 423rd widow, died recently in Arvada, CO.

**Lillian Winter**, widow of August Winter, 369th bombardier and evadee, died 7 Mar 95 in Vallejo, CA.

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# Quick Glances At 4 Books

**My War**, by Andy Rooney. NY, Times Books, 1995. 318 pp. \$25.

An interesting "read" for 306th people, as much of his air combat story centers around our group, with numerous people mentioned.

**Courage and Air Warfare**, by Mark K. Wells. London, Frank Cass, 1995. 240 pp.

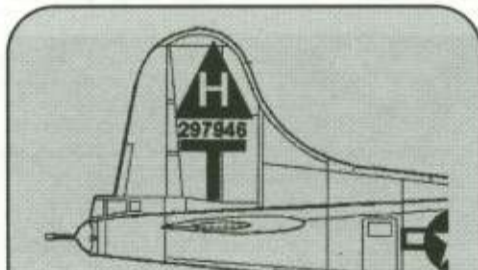
Done basically as a doctoral thesis for the University of London, Dr. Wells is a USAF Academy graduate and on the faculty there now. There is some problem with facts concerning the Eighth. It is subtitled "The Allied Aircrew Experience in the Second World War." A couple of quotes are taken from the 306th experience.

**Claims to Fame, The B-17 Flying Fortress**, by Steve Birdsall and Roger A. Freeman. London, Arms and Armour Press, 1994. 224pp. \$24.95.

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The 306th Bombardment Group Historical Association: MGen. James S. Cheney, president; Robert W. Seelos, vice-president; Russell A. Strong, secretary; Robert N. Houser, treasurer. Directors: Joseph R. Hathaway, John K. Hickey, Wallace Peckham and Donald N. Snook; C. Dale Briscoe, past president; Edward J. Hennessy, 1996 reunion chairman. Ralph Franklin, Keysoe, Bedfordshire, England, is our British representative.

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The 306th Bomb Group Historical Association is a Federally tax-exempt organization and as a veteran's group is classified as 501(c)(19).

# The Long Road from Berlin

Ken Yass relates a day full of incidents to one of his crew members who was a POW. *by Kenneth Yass, 423rd*

28 January 1946

Since you related the story of what occurred in the rear of the ship that fateful day, I'll give you a brief resume of what happened in the front, in case you haven't heard.

We received a direct hit on #3 engine right over the target. Half the engine was shot away. Both #3 and #4 caught on fire. Flak from the same burst entered the ship, pierced the hydraulic accumulator, which exploded and an oxygen bottle went with it.

**There was a terrific flash in the cockpit which stunned me completely. Smoke, heat and flame just filled the small space. The initial flash died down almost instantly, but the burning hydraulic fluid covered the floor.**

Morgan was knocked out of his turret to the floor and his clothes caught on fire, his mask ripped off his face. I couldn't breathe or see, the windshield was black with soot and I thought I was blind. My face was burned above my right eye. I was trying to open my window to let some of the smoke out. Morgan had the presence of mind to grab an extinguisher and tried to put out the fire. Carlson was trying to reach the alarm bell on my side, but when he couldn't he gave up and tried to stop the burning engines.

They wouldn't feather, but he cut the fuel off and the fire died out in both, with both props continuing to windmill.

I scraped off a little black from the windshield and attempted to somewhat fly the ship. Morgan almost had the fire out, when he passed out. I slapped my emergency mask on his face and he shortly came to. By the time we recovered a portion of our senses we had fallen from 27,000 to 20,000 feet and the formation was out of sight.

#### "STILL FLYING"

For a while we managed to hold our own and I remember Dusty saying "We're still flying, aren't we?" We were, but we didn't know for how long. The instruments were acting crazy and it was hard to assess the damage.

After a while we were flying at 115 indicated and alone in the sky. Carlson's rudder pedals were shot out and he couldn't help me fly very much, so he turned his attention to babying the engines, transferring fuel and doing what he could to keep the ship in the air. We shot a flare when we saw a P-51, and he stuck to us. We were down to 14,000 feet when we flew over Osnabruck—and all hell broke loose. They were plastering the ship full of holes and we couldn't take any evasive action because of our almost stalling air speed.

Carlson's interphone had gone screwy, and I had taken off my helmet so I could yell at him and he at me over the din of the engines. I didn't want to lose any more altitude as we were losing it fast enough and still had a long way to go, but Carlson decided we'd go down and pick up some air speed and "let come what may".

#### Quick Glances At 4 Books (con't)

A collection of interesting tales of the B-17 in combat. Includes some Pacific and Mediterranean stories of the B-17, and some mention is made of the 306th.

*A Wing and a Prayer*, by Harry H. Crosby. New York, HarperCollins, 1993. 336 pp. \$27.50.

This was read by half a dozen 306th people, all of whom registered considerable skepticism over the stories told by the long-serving group navigator for the 100th Bomb Group, Third Division. Crosby took credit for a great many things, and 50 years later some of it sounds like fiction.

**That's when he pushed the wheel forward against my strength and yelled "we're going down", I wouldn't fight with the wheel. I guess that went over the interphone, though it wasn't meant to—and you boys took to the silk. I really can't blame you and I think I would have done the same thing if I were in your shoes.**

Anyway, we pulled out of that screaming dive at 8,000 feet. On the way down, Soscia and Shutts were on their way out the nose hatch. Soscia decided to take a last look at the cockpit before going. He saw we were still flying and returned to the nose. The 51 returned and flew formation with us and kept urging us on. If it weren't for him, I doubt if we would have had the heart to keep going.

About this time, Morgan discovered that all five gunners had gone out and he told Carlson. I was still unaware of it. A short while later I told Morgan to go back to tell you to send an SOS in case we had to ditch. We were still some distance from the coast, coming up on the Zuider Zee. He told me nobody was back there and I felt I had been shot. We were down to 6000 feet by the time we reached the enemy coast even though we were dumping everything overboard.

We tried to make a run for it between two enemy-held islands, the last enemy territory before the North Sea. But, now we got it good. They put up everything, rifles, pistols, machine guns, 20 mm, 40 mm, 88s. I even imagined they threw rocks at us. When the windshield splattered into our laps I thought we had had it.

#### TWO AT THE CONTROLS

Carlson and I were working the wheel together, perfect teamwork, twisting and turning the ship around every burst. We got about four miles out into the sea and were down to 2000 feet when the shooting stopped.

Carlson went back with Morgan to try and drop the ball turret, when the shooting started again. The enemy had leveled their guns and started firing. I did the best I could and about 30-seconds later we were out of range but down to sea level about eight miles from shore.

Only #1 was running, and not enough. We were about to hit the water. I yelled for Soscia and Shutts to go back to the radio room for ditching, and yelled for Carlson to get up in his seat and prepare for ditching. I can almost swear the water was touching the tail of the ship.

Carlson appeared and began trying to get #4 started, it being the first one we shut off because of the fire. Shades of Hades! It coughed and started, pulling us out of our watery grave. We were able to climb to 2000 feet (the ball wasn't dropped. The wrench broke.) and continue.

The P-51 must have been out of gas, and he waved goodbye. We were on our own. About an hour later we were 11 miles from the English coast, when #4 which was running without fuel pressure or temperature, quit cold. Only #1 was running with about 25 inches of mercury and we were at 2000 feet.

I didn't think we could make it, and I was worried about mines in the water near the shore. But we tried it anyway. We were about 100 feet in the air when we crossed the coast, barely clearing the tops of a row of trees.

About 500 feet in from the coast we belly landed in a plowed field, as soft and as nice as you please. We ran out of the ship as soon as we cut all switches, and about 50 feet from the plane Carlson and I fell flat on our faces, completely exhausted. We lay there about 15 minutes before we felt our strength returning, and from there on its the old story of contacting the base. We had been given up for lost as we returned over an hour late. And that's the story. We went to Scotland on flak leave the next day and didn't fly for a month after.



Cheney takes reins, veep now Seelos

## Cheney Heads 306th for '96

M/Gen James S. Cheney, long-time group navigator for the 306th, was elected president of the 306th Bomb Group Association, 16 September as the annual business meeting concluded in Knoxville, TN.

Chosen as the vice president for the next year was Robert W. Seelos, onetime 368th pilot and POW from 5 Apr 43. He is a veteran reunion attendee and has long made his home in Glendale, CA.

Russell A. Strong was re-elected to his 13th term as secretary, and had also served as secretary from the informal beginnings of the Association from 1975 to 1983.

Robert N. Houser is now beginning his third year as treasurer.

In the only election for a three-year term as director, Wallace Peckham, was named after serving one year to fill an unexpired term.

Holdover directors are Joseph Hathaway, John Hickey and Donald L. Snook. Also on the Board are C. Dale Briscoe, immediate past president, and Edward J. Hennessy, chairman of the 1996 reunion in Las Vegas, NV.

Cheney came to the 306th in Apr 43 as a 423rd navigator on Frank Kackstetter's crew. He served as group navigator for more than 15 months until his transfer to the 303rd BG as group navigator. He also flew combat in Korea, joined the judge advocate's corps, and concluded his USAF career as judge advocate general. He is now retired from his law practice in Satellite Beach, CA

## Check Your 9-Digit Zip

If your last name starts with A thru J, please check the address carefully on the mailing label.

The editor has been computer researching nine-digit zip codes. Make sure the one on this issue of *Echoes* matches those used by the telephone billings or other utilities which you receive in the mail.

If our last four digits vary, please notify us of the correct set.

Some persons falling within these alpha parameters may not have the four extra digits at all, because the inexpensive little computer program just didn't seem to handle some items. If you fall in that group, please send your nine-digit code to the editor so that our list can be more complete.

REMEMBER: We are still looking for the first names of spouses, and you might add yours to any notes sent to the editor.

## Joining Our Association

Gher, Kenneth R., 205 N Murray Blvd #81, Colorado Springs, CO 80916 (Mildred) 423  
 Goeppner, LTC Joseph, 107 Forest Hill Dr., Anderson, SC 29621 (Winifred) 367  
 Hey, Herman E, 2511 Crawford Ave., Evanston, IL 60201 367  
 Jones, Fred G., 1501 Clairmont Rd #424, Decatur, GA 30033 369  
 Krenn, Gordon M, 4798 Upper Forest Beach, Port Washington, WI (Shirley) 369  
 Kresch, Harvey H., 15144 Ashland St. #265, Delray Beach, FL 33484 367  
 Malone, James R., 675 Cypress Ct. Erlanger, KY 41018 (Martha) 423  
 Maloney, Albert A, 89 Flower St, Buffalo, NY 14214 (Frances) BW  
 McCutchan, LTC Robert I, 21146 Country Creek Dr., Estero, FL 33928 (Mary Jane) 368  
 Miller, Ray J., 537 S 75E Ave. Tulsa, OK 74112 BW  
 Nelson, Wilbur A, Box 266, Evansville, MN 56326 (Florence) 367  
 Taylor, Robert L, Box 307, Welsh, LA 70591 423  
 Tolmachoff, Andrew W., 6335 N Avon Ave., San Gabriel, CA 91775 (Ruth) 369  
 Wells, Jackson O., PO Box 1916, Park City, UT 367

## 306th Family

Kane, Hazel Stewart, 308 E Peckham St, Neenah, WI 54956 (Robert D.) 369W  
 Reioux, Barry, 3131 Madeira, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 423S  
 Reioux, Michele M, 6604 Omega Dr. San Diego, CA 92139 423D  
 Roscovich, Michael, PO Box 446, Fayette City, PA 15438 423N  
 Tolmachoff, Michael, 1336 Terry St, Longmont, CO 80501 369S

## Carlson's Crew

Ragnar D. Carlson, pilot  
 Kenneth Yass, co-pilot  
 Salvatore Soscia, navigator  
 Harry R. Shutts, togglier  
 Philip Brouman, radio  
 William H. Morgan, engineer  
 Nicholas A. Orlando, ball turret  
 Fred C. Blum, Jr., right waist  
 Anthony J. Mariani, left waist  
 Charles W. Kester, tail

## WW II live in Stories Retold

Those of us whose 306th husbands are no longer with us are privileged to have been allowed to reminisce about the joys and sadnesses, excitements and achievements of your World War II years only when we are allowed to sit in and listen - and ask a lot of perhaps difficult questions - with one or more of the 306'ers who shared their recollections, albums and information so patiently.

Since I only learned of the Association's existence in February '95, this was my first annual reunion. I look forward to your next one.

God Bless - Mrs. Frank (Mikey) Endres, 368th

# Reunion Review



Memories and memorabilia dominated the 11th floor hospitality room, as typified by this group around Tom Hulings' extensive photo albums: L to R, Chris Christianson, Hulings and Willie Williams.



The pair who put the Knoxville reunion together: Jim Talley, left, treasurer, and Wallace Boring, chairman.



Dorothy and Bill Cavaness, 368th



Hazel and J. Robert White, 368th



M/Gen Jim and Yvonne Cheney, 423rd & GP



Dick and T O'Hara, 367th



Dale and Beti Briscoe, 369th



Virginia and Clem Amundson, 367th



Russell Houghton, 368th and Tony Santoro, 369th



Brice Robison, 423rd and Mo Moriarty, 368th



Jim Lenaghan and George Roberts, 367th

## There may be no dues, BUT

*It does take money to keep the 306th Association flying. Those who are able are asked to make an annual contribution to keep everything running smoothly. No one is dropped from the mailing list for non-payment! Your gift is tax deductible.*

Please accept my gift to the 306th BG Association: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

306TH UNIT

Send to: Robert N. Houser, Treasurer  
306th Bomb Group Association  
P.O. Box 13362  
Des Moines, IA 50310

\_\_\_\_\_ Date



Bill Houlihan 367th, George Kellogg, 367th, Marie Kellogg and Ruth Houlihan paused during the trip to Gattlinburg.



Big plane pictures, Squadron banners and people populated the hospitality room on the 11th floor of the Hyatt Regency, a gathering place for early morning coffee and late, late war stories.



Medical conference: Dr. Thurman Shuller, first Group surgeon; Bill Houlihan, hospital clerk, and Dr. Lyle Smith, 369th waist gunner and recently retired physician



Ruth and Bill Carnicom, 423rd



Jack Frost and Dale Briscoe, 369th



Bill and Dorothy Breslin, 368th



Norma Roberts and Ruth Houlihan, 367th



Stephanie Rader, Yvonne Cheney and B/Gen. William Rader GP



Teddy and Marnie Harkin, 369th, both of whom are still recovering from the train wreck following the Des Moines reunion.



Fritz Mullen 367th and Nancy and Don Beatty



Russ Strong, 367th, Mack McKay, 368th, with Harry Alleman 423rd in background left.



Jack Hamilton and Albert McMahan 369th



Ralph Bordner and Jack Samway 368th, rear, and with Nell Bordner, and Daphne Franklin of England in front.



**Give a Christmas gift of 306th history to a grandchild, a treasured friend, your local library - or maybe to your man on the mailing label!**

*Order Form*

**FIRST OVER GERMANY** *By Russell A. Strong*

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) at \$35 per copy plus \$3.00 for postage and handling. My check is for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Make checks payable to Russell A. Strong.

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to Russell A. Strong, 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205**

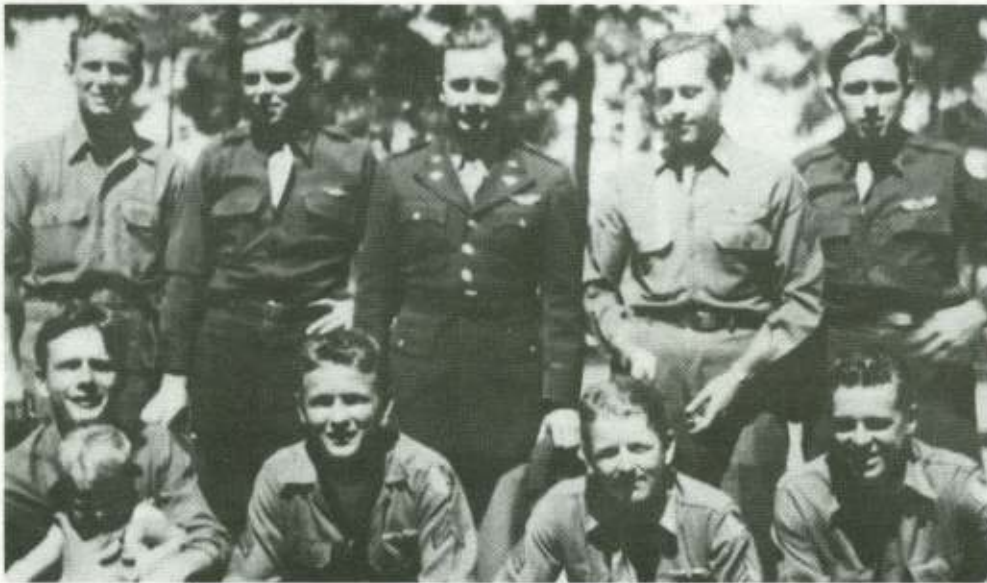
# 306th CREWS



368th: Front Dean C. Allen P, Charles U. Rapp CP, Charles F Donahue N and Michael N. Vlahos B. Back, Harvey J. Purkey eng, Robert Newsbigle ro, Eugene LeVeque bt, Robert Huebotter wg, Charles Reinartsen wg and James R. Carey tg.



369th: Front, Clarence Fisher P, William Pengra CP, Russell Graham N and Donald Sebastian B. Back, Paul James tg, William Gordish ro, Wayne Commons wg, John Jones bt and Charles Mullins eng.



369th: Front, Verde C. Beede wg, Donald W. Hornig bt, George J. Haynes eng, and Donald H. Castagnasso wg. Back, Lyndell Coffey tg, Thomas N. Dean N, Jack F. Manrow CP, Sidney Lipkin ro and William J. Canell P. The child is Dean's son.



367th: Front, Horace Kepler wg, Cliff Latta bt and Joseph Brown eng. Back, Andrew P. Kata P, Ray Bloker N, Phillip Mundell tg, Young Newsom CP and Basil Lowry tg.



423rd: Front, Ralph F. Clark P, Nathaniel D. Munn CP, Jasper J. Valenti N, John Huistra B, and Martin Iverson B (transferred). Back, Stanley Zych eng, Nicholas Minnitti wg, Mike Crow tg, Ben Sparks wg and Edward Dillinger bt.



367th: Front, Werner Kennedy eng, Sal Angelle wg, Earl Hartley bt, Kenneth Wesner ro. Back, Norman Norquist tg, Robert Olsen N, Frank Lynch B, Donald Kingsley P and Steven Cretekos CP.

## 306th Publications

Published materials now available from the Group will help you follow the 306th through the combat period, 1942-45:

### Combat Diaries of the 306th Squadrons

Day-by-day diaries, kept by intelligence officers, of the Squadrons' combat activities. More than 150 pages, also including plane and personnel rosters. Plastic bound.

### 306th Echoes, on microfiche

Now available from 1976-1994, with a 41-page index covering those years. Can be viewed at any library.

### Men of the 306th, on microfilm

A role of 16mm film duplicates the 306th card file of nearly 9,000 men, including data extracted from various 306th records, and personal data on some of the men. 1995 edition.

### ORDER FORM

367th Combat Diary	\$17.00	_____
368th Combat Diary	\$17.00	_____
369th Combat Diary	\$17.00	_____
423rd Combat Diary	\$17.00	_____
306th ECHOES, Microfiche: 1975-1994	\$15.00	_____
1992-1994	\$ 5.00	_____
Men of The 306th	\$20.00	_____

Make check payable to 306th Bomb Group Association (prices quoted include postage and packaging charge)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Secretary, 306th BGA, 5323 Cheval Pl., Charlotte, NC 28205



368th: Front, Harry Meyers ro, Gerald Garrison tog, Earl Morehouse eng and Baldimar Rodrigues bt. Back, Glen Nebeker N, trng off, James Lett P, Fred Vandeventer wg and Dale Poehman tg.



369th: Front, Harold Mattson P, Roy Kruger CP, Lawrence Shaw N, and unk. Back, James Jenkins eng, Richard Ramirez ro, Vern Crowton wg, Joseph Zymanek bt, Charles Hitchcock wg and David Koubeck tg.



367th: Front, Jason Hurd bt, Wilmer Strawn wg, Columbus Whitener ro, Kenneth Morrison eng and Urban Lewis tg. Back, Richard Hillabrand B, Clayton Meyers N, Hugh Hostetter CP and Earle W. Schafer P.



369th: Front, Carl T. Porter wg, David B. Ramsey P, James Ryan eng, and Paul Walshin tg. Back, Sterling T. Strange B, Donald V. Miller wg, John Gray ro, Edwin W. Miller CP and Paul Callahan bt.



423rd: Front, Douglas Schrack P, Richard Sprunger CP, Robert Frank B and Roger P. Murphy N. Back, Joseph Jablonski eng, Jimmy Noonan ro, Eli Kopcho eg, Norman Hall bt, Edmund Limke tg and Vernon Short wg.



423rd: Front, Colvin Sheorn wg, Jack Persac bt, Frank Serafin mechanic, Jack Pierce mechanic and James Talley N. Back, John Price eng, Herman Kaye ro, Paul Reioux P, Robert W. Daniel CP, Milton Olshewitz B and Eddie Bergeron crew chief.



369th: Front, Walter P. Rozett P, Lloyd L. Strode CP, Michael P. Kramer B and John H. Christenson N. Middle, Welton A. Shipley bt, James E. Durham ro and Elvie C. Hall eng. Back, Russell H. Sheldon tg, Erskine G. Arbiter wg and Julius J. Boersma wg.

### 306th MAIL ORDER MEMORABILIA

Send this form and check to 306th Bomb Group Association to:  
Jack Frost, PO Box 13362, Des Moines, IA 50310

ITEM	COST PER ITEM	NUMBER NEEDED	TOTAL COST
T-Shirts (with Squadron logos in full color)			
367th M, L, XL	\$10.00		
368th L, XL	\$10.00		
369th M, L, XL	\$10.00		
423rd XL	\$10.00		
Sports Shirts with 306th First Over Germany logo in color	M, L, XL \$15.00		
Squadron Golf Shirts (Embroidered B-17, squadron, group)			
367th red	M, L, XL \$20.00		
368th white	M, L, XL \$20.00		
369th green	M, L, XL \$20.00		
423rd red	M, L, XL \$20.00		
306th caps, grey with 306th BG and B-17 on front	\$10.00		
306th Watches, men's or women's	\$25.00		
306th Tie Navy with B-17 Logo and 306th Bomb Group, Thurleigh, England, 1942-45	\$10.00		
306th Decal with First Over Germany in Full Color	\$0.50		
306th Patch 2 - 1.4 inches, with First Over Germany in Full Color	\$5.00		
306th Patch 3 inches, without First Over Germany in Full Color	\$5.00		
367th Patch 5 inches, in Full Color	\$5.00		
368th Patch 5 inches, in Full Color	\$5.00		
369th Patch 5 inches, in Full Color	\$5.00		
423rd Patch 5 inches, in Full Color	\$5.00		
License Plate Frames	\$10.00		
B-17 Lapel/ or Hat Pin	\$5.00		
306th "Black Thursday" Photo in Full Color	\$2.00		
	Shipping & Handling	\$2.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## School Gift at Thurleigh to Provide Books

The Board of Directors in 1994 voted a 1995 gift to the Thurleigh Lower School of \$500, to be used on a project that would benefit the children there directly. Acting upon our request, the school director sent word to the Association that they would like to use this gift to enrich their library.

This follows on the May gift of £263 that went to the school from the 306th tour group of last May that visited the school. After that money was collected, the school responded that they would like to replace some badly worn chairs in their library area. The money was transferred to the school before the tourists left England, and 11 new chairs were purchased.

At the time of our annual meeting this year, the Directors again voted a sum of \$500 for 1996, with the use of these funds to be determined later by school officials. This will be announced during the coming year.

While only in the last several years has the Association formalized its giving to the school, several individuals from time to time have made gifts to assist the educational program.

Ralph Franklin maintains contact with the school for the Association.



Wayne and Ann Stellish, 367th, and Em and Chris Christianson, 368th, are ready for the annual banquet at the Knoxville reunion.

## Reunion Dates

To save any confusion on your part, or hurried searching through the last issue of *Echoes*, the dates announced for the 1996 reunion in Las Vegas were those first proposed. After a change in hotels because of a change of ownership and projected construction work at the first site, a new hotel was selected and dates adjusted accordingly. The dates and place shown below are correct.

### 1996 -Las Vegas, NV:

Riviera Hotel, Oct. 28-Nov. 1. Edward J. Hennessy, chairman.

### 1997 -Orlando, FL:

Sheraton Plaza Hotel at the Florida Mall, Nov. 6 to 9. D. Luke Jacobs and M/Gen. James S. Cheney, co-chairmen.

## New Memorial Fund Set Up

Following a gift earlier in the year of \$100 as a memorial to a departed crew member, the Association Board of Directors during the annual meeting established a 306th Memorial Fund.

This fund can be used for worthy projects in the future, as determined by the Board of Directors.

These funds will be segregated as they are accumulated, and the total will be a part of the Treasurer's report at each annual meeting.

306th members and their families, wishing to participate in this fund, may do so by sending checks to the Treasurer.



M/Gen. James S. Cheney, left, accepts a banner from Saul Kupferman, president of the Georgia chapter of the 8th AF Historical Society and a 423rd radio operator, conferred on the 306th by the WWII Commemorative Committee, Washington, DC, as the Knoxville reunion came to a close.

## Riviera Hotel and Casino

306 B.G. Reunion Reservations, 2901 Las Vegas Blvd. So., Las Vegas, NV 89109

Please reserve \_\_\_ room(s) for \_\_\_ persons.

**NOTE:** Reunion starts Oct. 28, and ends Nov. 1, 1995. You may arrive Sun., Oct. 27, if you prefer, and then pick up your 306 credentials at 10:00 am, Monday.

Arrival Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ at approx. \_\_\_:\_\_\_ am/pm Departing Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

PRINT PLEASE

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please Reserve: \_\_\_ Single - 1 Bed \_\_\_ Double - 2 Beds - Singles or Doubles \$58 plus \$4.64 tax per night

\_\_\_ Triple - 2 Beds, 3 Persons - Triples \$78 plus \$6.24 tax per night

\_\_\_ Quad - 2 Beds, 4 Persons - Quads \$98 plus \$7.84 tax per night

Note: Quads might prefer 2 doubles, adjoining (4 Beds, 2 Baths)

Enclose check or money order for first night or entire stay, or use major credit card to guarantee room charges.

VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(if you cancel within 72 hours of arrival you will be charged for the first night.)

( ) Paraplegic - need handicap room if possible ( ) Difficulty walking - room close to functions if possible

Note: 306th room block cut-off date is Sept 28th. After that rooms will be confirmed on a space available basis only.

## Las Vegas!!!

### 306th Reunion Reservations, October 28 to November 1, 1996

Complete this form and mail with check payable to:

306th Bomb Group Reunion Coordinator, 306th Bomb Group Assn., 2617 Mason Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89102

Reservations: If made after August 25th, add \$10 per person Cancellations: Full refund if made before August 25th, \$10 fee per person if made after August 25th Options: Must be booked at time of reservation.

**BASIC REUNION PACKAGE - ALL REGISTRANTS:** Includes registration fee, baggage tips to bellmen in and out of hotel, musical revue "SPLASH II" at the Riviera, cocktail party at the "Top of the Riv", banquet dinner with wine served, souvenir photo taken at banquet table and delivered there. Big Band dancing and entertainment, surprise gifts in registration kits, Hospitality Area open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, engraved plastic name badges, tickets for all events and more.

**BASIC REUNION PACKAGE @ \$125.00 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_**

### REUNION PROGRAM

**Sunday Arrivals:** The hotel will confirm your room for arrival Sunday, Oct. 27th, if you prefer. The 306th desk will be open at 10:00 am, Monday morning.

#### Monday, October 28th

Check in day. Some hotel rooms may not be ready before 4:00 pm. 306th credentials and hospitality areas open 10:00 am.-6:00 pm. with cash bar 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. "Splash II" (A) musical revue at Versailles Theatre in Riviera. Everyone be there at 6:45 pm. for seating. included.

#### Tuesday, Oct 29

Hospitality Area open 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Bar 3:00 - 6:00 pm. Banquet table reservations in Hospitality Area open 3:00 - 6:00 pm. (Present 8 tickets for a full table reservation.)

**Option B:** Mount Charleston-Lee Canyon Tour; 9:30 am - 3:30 pm.

Wonderful mountain scenery with lunch at the lodge.

Via Grayline from Riviera. @ \$33.00 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Option C:** Red Rock Canyon; 9:30 am 3:30 pm.

Las Vegas Valley's popular natural wonder.

Buffet lunch included at Ricardo's.

Via Grayline from Riviera. @ \$26.40 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Option D:** "King Arthur's Tournament"; 5:30 pm. - 8:30 pm.

Dinner show at the Excalibur, mounted knights jousting.

Via Grayline from Riviera. @ \$45.25 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Wednesday, Oct 30

Hospitality Area open 10:00 am. to 6:00 pm. Bar 3:00 - 6:00 pm.

Banquet table reservations in Hospitality Area open 3:00 6:00 pm.

(Present 8 tickets for a full table reservation.)

**Option E:** Grand Canyon West Rim Tour; 8:00 am. 5:00 pm.

Just three hours by bus to the Hualapai reservation overlooking spectacular west rim.

Cross Hoover Dam with Lake Mead views each way. About three hours at canyon

with BBQ Lunch included at Rim lookout. Suggest comfortable shoes, hats and jacket. Moderate walking. A new approach to the canyon.

Via Grayline from Riviera. If less than 35 booked Price is \$99. @ \$89.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Option F:** Hoover Dam - Lake Mead Cruise; 7:45 am. 3:30 pm.

Includes new visitor center at dam, 90-minute cruise on air conditioned (con't above)

Stern-Wheeler including buffet lunch at nearby Goldstrike Inn. Via Grayline from Riviera. Free evening in Las Vegas. @ \$36.60 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Thursday, Oct 31

Hospitality Area Closed Today.

306th Annual Meeting, Riviera Convention Center - 9:30 am.

**Option G:** Ladies shopping. Motorcoach, 9:00 am. Noon

Belz Factory Outlet World - A mall covered and air-conditioned. 70 stores

with discounts from 20% - 70%. Wonderful variety of accessories,

books, audio, video, shoes, housewares, jewelry, clothing, adults

and kids, sportswear and equipment, toys, gifts, etc., etc., etc. etc

Via Grayline from Riviera. @ \$6.50 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cocktail party at "Top of Riv" 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Included for all registrants

Deluxe Banquet Dinner including wine, 7:30 pm. Included for all registrants

Big Band Dance Party, 8:30 pm. - 11:30 pm. Included for all registrants

Souvenir Photos at Banquet - Delivered There Included for all registrants

#### Friday, Nov 1

It's over! Orlando Next Year. Hotel Checkout by 11:00 am, please.

**Encl. Check for Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/ Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Your Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Your 306 Squadron/ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Las Vegas At Approx \_\_\_:\_\_\_ AM/PM