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Forward & Address Correction

We don't quite know where or when this picture was taken, nor can we identify anyone. What's your guess?

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306th Echoes

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Ground Personnel Focus at November Reunion in Orlando

Salutes will be the order of the 306th reunion in Orlando, honoring all of those people so important to the bombardment enterprise—whether they serviced planes and crews directly, or made the base run, or handled the paper work, or used their special knowledge and training for very specific jobs.

There were the bomb handlers, the gas haulers, all kinds of mechanics, accountants, electricians, welders, parts clerks in great variety, the orderly room personnel, the cameramen and the darkroom operators, carpenters, technicians in a host of specialties, drivers, chauffeurs, cryptographers, the cooks, the MPs, draftsmen, fire fighters, installers, machinist, link trainer men, the inspectors, the administrative types, the ammunition handlers, plumbers, radar specialists, sheet metal workers, the medics, ambulance drivers, and there were literally hundreds of distinct tasks that had to be done on a daily basis.

Work was heavy for some before the missions took off, and for others the big tasks came in "cleaning up" after the planes returned, the compilation of myriad reports, the retrieval of property belonging to those who did not return, and the reports, reports, reports.

It is hoped by reunion planners that all of us will go home from Orlando a bit more appreciative of what was going on around us. Men in the entire unit tended to "clan" together in various specialties, and may have missed what was happening at other places on the base. Exchanges over dinner may not be all of grandchildren, etc.

Important Reunion Dates

- 5 Oct** - Hotel registration deadline for the 306th block of rooms.
- 5 Nov** - A good day to arrive for reunion activities commencing the next morning.
- 6 Nov** - Various tours and other activities will begin today.
- 7 Nov** - Continuation of Thursday events.
- 8 Nov** - Women's breakfast, annual 306th association business meeting, Reunion banquet
- 9 Nov** - Checkout time for the hotel is Noon.

Two registration forms will be found on page 8, one for the hotel, one for the association. Both need to be filled out, mailed in to their proper destinations, and—yes, you must register for both yourself and your wife. There have been a few changes in the 306th Registration Form, so we ask that you look it over carefully once again, even if you have completed it and sent it along.

D. Luke Jacobs and M/Gen James S. Cheney, the reunion co-chairs, have been meeting with other committee members, and tasks are being assigned so that your stay at the Adams Mark Hotel will be enjoyable, and that you will be able to talk with all of those people you are planning to see.

The Adams Mark is located in The Florida Mall, the largest shopping mall in Florida, and you will locate it on the accompanying map with ease. Although the hotel is not indicated it is a part of the Mall. The registration deadline for the rooms reserved for us is 5 Oct. as shown on the Page 8 form. There is an abundance of accommodations within a mile or two of this hotel.

The food services in the hotel are excellent, but the Mall also has many restaurants of different types and sizes that can also take care of any needs you have.

Activities are shown on the registration form for the 306th, and include a trip to the War Bird Reconstruction Museum at Kissimmee, where they are actually building a flyable B-17; Disney, EPCOT and MGM Studio tours; Universal Studios; Sea World and the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral.

The big program begins on Thursday, 6 Nov, and continues through Friday and Saturday. All of the five trips out of the hotel may be made either on Thursday or Friday, and you indicate which date you will choose for these.

On Thursday evening there will be a special event at The Church Street Station area in downtown Orlando, and that will be for the one night only.

The Thursday/Friday pairings include the Warbird Museum, Disney-EPCOT-MGM Studios, Universal Studios, Sea World and Kennedy Space Center.

Saturday will feature the annual business meeting of the association in the morning, and at the same time there will be a ladies' style show and continental breakfast for them.

Saturday evening will be the for annual banquet and big band dance, both in the hotel ballroom.

On our third day in England we began our travel with a stop at Woburn Abbey, the ancestral home of the Duke of Bedford. We were able to tour the house and the grounds, and this being now a part of The National Trust, we found an excellent gift shop in which we could practice using our English money.

General
Ira Eaker



General
James H.
Doolittle



Ask Funds For Eighth AF Center

After an initial appeal to a small group of 306th men, asking for large gifts, the Board of Directors, is seeking gifts now from everyone to assist in raising \$50,000 for the 8th Air Force Heritage Center at Savannah, GA.

Thus far the original effort has raised \$22,385, and a second asking has been made to members of the first group.

"It is hoped that by the concerted giving from all of those on our mailing list that we can reach the \$50,000 goal by the end of 1997," says Treasurer Robert Houser.

These funds will be passed through the 306th and on to the Heritage Center, with \$25,000 designated to help retire the construction and initial opening phase of the Museum just off I-95 at Savannah. The second \$25,000 from us would be dedicated to an endowment fund to help with future operations of the Center.

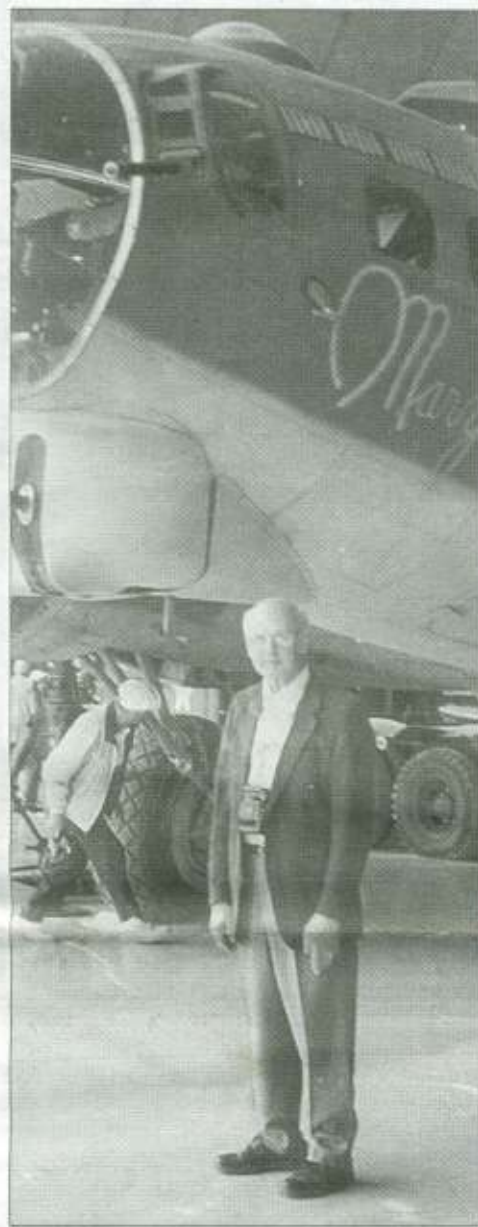
"The directors feel," says President Bill Seelos, "that this is an important step forward for us in the preservation of the major role in history played by the 8th during its four years of operation, and in which the 306th was a leading participant for two and one-half years.

"Each of us must remember that the 306th was one of the original groups of the 8th, served longer in combat than any other group, and saw service at one base in England longer than any bomber or fighter groups. Our contribution to victory in the air war over Europe was significant, not only for the 306th but for each of the men who served as well. This museum is now a major repository for the personal combat history of each of us."

Of the gifts received thus far, more than a dozen were for \$1000 each, with the remainder ranging from \$25 to \$500. Most were paid in cash.

Other considerations for the 306th participation in the future of the 8th Air Force Heritage Center are also being studied by the directors.

Your contribution, marked for the 8th AF Museum, should be sent to the 306th Treasurer. An accounting of this effort will be a part of the Treasurer's report to the annual business meeting in Orlando.



Russ Strong stands in front of the Duxford B-17 at the front of the great new American Air Museum, which open officially 1 Aug. Jackets were the proper attire for our May ramble around England.

Little Rain On Trip To England

Nearly 55 years after the first 306th detachments reached Thurleigh, the latest group of 306th BG Association participants came back for one last visit in the British Midlands and the airbase that was home to nearly 7,800 men during the course of WWII.

Arriving in England by air, the 30 visitors landed at London's much-expanded Gatwick Airport on Monday morning, 5 May. There they were greeted by Russ & June Strong and by Driver-Guide Peter Swan (now almost a 306er himself, following previous encounters with us in 1992 and 1995, and who says he will see us in Orlando in November!).

It was mid-afternoon before we reached Bedford, and like many American cities we found streets torn up and normal routes changed to accommodate widening of streets for increased traffic.

We were at the Swan for four nights, and many agreed it was the best food we had during the entire trip. A private dining room accommodated us for breakfast (most ordering the full

Last Combat 19 Apr 45, Planes Still Flew Missions Into May

Periodically there pops up interest in those days following the end of combat and running up to mid-May 1945 and just what the 306th did as the war drew to a close. To refresh minds and to tell earlier veterans, we are enclosing comments from the Group Diary, written by let Dwain .

Esper, Jr., 369th bombardier who moved to the Intelligence staff and on 3 Jan 45 was appointed Station Historian. (Does anyone know the whereabouts of Esper now? Someone told the editor that Esper had been a West Coast TV personality, but we found he couldn't be located then.)

The 306th flew its last mission 19 Apr 45, and missions were scrubbed on 21, 23 and 26 April. Events that began 28 April and continued through 13 May are detailed following:

28 Apr: Special operations pertaining to the delivery of leaflet messages to both occupied and liberated areas on the continent were assigned to the 369th Squadron on this date. A briefed mission of this sort was scrubbed.

29 Apr: 369th dispatched eight A/C on a special leaflet mission to the following objectives: #1 - Mannheim, Weimar; #2 Chemnitz, Leipzig, Magdeburg; #3 - LaRochelle, LaPallice; #4 - Lorient, St. Nazaire; #5 - d'Oleron; #6 Dunkirk, The Hague, Dordrecht; #7 - Amsterdam; #8 Utrecht, Rotterdam. All A/C dropped their nickels and returned to base safely.

30 Apr: 369th dispatched seven A/C on special leaflet mission to the following objectives: #1 - LaPallice, LaRochelle; #2, Lorient, St. Nazaire; #3 - d'Oleron; #4 - Tessel; #5 - The Hague, Dordrecht, Dunkirk; #6 - Utrecht, Rotterdam; #7 recalled by 1st Air Division because of weather. All other A/C dropped their nickels and returned to base safely.

The month of May brought the news that every ETOsan has been waiting these long years to hear. Victory in Europe, which was declared on the 8th of May brought tremendous elation from this, one of the oldest stations in the theatre. The Group took a holi-

day from all operations and in the evening men celebrated by building a huge bonfire on the baseball diamond. Free beer and sandwiches were supplied for all and the day was not spent without incident even though the troops were restricted.

1 May: A special leaflet operation by the 369th Squadron was scrubbed before takeoff.

2 May: The 369th Squadron dispatched eight A/C on a special leaflet operation to the following objectives: #1 - Mannheim, Weimar; #2 - LaRochelle, LaPallice, St. Georges d'Oleron, St. Pierre d'Oleron; #3 - St. Nazaire, Lorient; #4 Tessel; #5 - Haarlem, The Hague, Dunkirk; #6 - Utrecht, Rotterdam; #7 - Wangerooze, Wilhelmshaven, Bremen; #8 scrubbed due to shortage of leaflets. All A/C dropped their nickels without incident.

Lt. Smith, who piloted A/C #7, encountered moderate and accurate tracking AA fire from the Wilhelmshaven area. Damage to the Fortress was slight

3 May: Fourteen B-17s were dispatched by the 369th on a special leaflet operation to the following areas: #1 - Mannheim, Weimar; #2, Weissenburg, Nordlingen; #3 - Plauen, Altenburg; #4 -Gardelegen, Stendal; #5 - Luneberg, Helzen; #6 - Magdeburg; #7 - Pforzheim, Freiburg; #8 - Landshut, Freising; #9 - Salzwedel, Osterburg; #10 - Brunswick; #11 Straubing, Plattling; #12 - Chemnitz; #13 - Hannover; #14 - Amberg, Regensburg. All A/C, with the exception of #1 which didn't drop because of weather, released their loads without incident.

4 May: A special leaflet operation by the 369th Squadron was scrubbed before 5 May takeoff.

6 May: Fifteen B-17s were dispatched by the 369th Squadron on a special nickel operation to the following objectives: #1, #2, #3 - Dunkirk; #4 - Mannheim, weimar; #5 - Bremen; #6 Hamburg; #7 - Hannover; #8 - Brunswick; #9 - Magdeburg; #10 Chemnitz; #11 - Munich; #12 - Osnabruck; #13 - Bielefeld; #14 - Munster, #15 - Leipzig. All A/C dropped their leaflets without incident.

7 May: The 369th Squadron dispatched 15 A/C on a special leaflet operation to the following objectives: #1 - Hamburg; #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 - Dunkirk; #7 - Hilversum, Utrecht, Apeldoorn; #8 - Bremen; #9 - Leipzig; #10 - Munich; #11 Magdeburg; #12 - Wilhelmshaven, Wesermunde, Oldenburg; #13 Kiel, Lubeck; #14 - Nuremberg, #15 - Mannheim, Weimar. All A/C dropped on the assigned objectives without incident.

8 May: Twelve A/C were dispatched by the 369th Squadron on a special leaflet operation to the following objectives: #1 Mannheim, Weimar; #2 - Bremen; #3 - Hamburg; #4 - Leipzig; #5 - Munich; #6 - Nuremberg; #7 - Magdeburg; #8 Osnabruck; #9 - Oldenburg; #10 - Kiel, #11 - Lubeck; #12 Salzburg. All A/C dropped their leaflets without incident.

9 May: The 306th dispatched twenty-four A/C on observation flights to Western Germany. These tours were organized to show ground personnel throughout the United Kingdom some of the bomb damage done to the Reich. Needless to say, passengers were highly impressed.

10 May: Twenty-four A/C were dispatched by the 306th to Western Germany on observation flights. All tours were accomplished without incident.



Just for nostalgia's sake, all you pilots! We came across this picture recently of Lawrence E. Marks, 368th pilot, and wondered how many of you pilots can go back in your mind's eye to primary flight training in a PT-17. Marks now lives in Oshkosh, WI, and operates Valley Aviation there.

369th Squadron dispatched 12 B-17s on a special leaflet mission to the following areas: #1 - Bremen; #2 - Oldenburg, Wesermunde; #3 - Hamburg; #4 - Osnabruck; #5 - Kiel; #6 Lubeck; #7 - Magdeburg; #8 - Nuremberg; #9 - Leipzig; #10 Mannheim, Weimar; #11 - Munich; #12 - Salzburg. All A/C dropped their nickels without incident.

11 May: The 369th Squadron dispatched 12 B-17's on a special leaflet operation to the following objectives: #1 - Osnabruck; #2 - Brunswick; #3 - Oldenburg, Wesermunde; #4 - Kiel; #5 - Halle; #6 - Lubeck; #7 - Regensburg; #8 -Weimar, Mannheim; #9 - Freiburg; #10 - Salzburg; #11 - Augsburg; #12 - Plauen. All A/C dropped their nickels without incident.

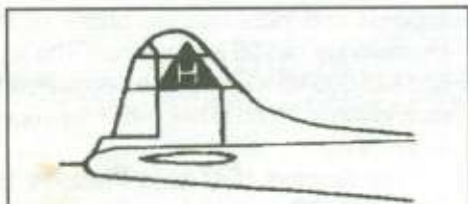
Light flak was observed by four 369th A/C in the Ostend area, but no damage was sustained.

12 May: Seven A/C were dispatched by the 369th Squadron on a special leaflet operation to the following objectives: #1 - Weimar, Mannheim; #2 - Beckum; #3 - Kletze; #4 Frankfurt; #5 - Augsburg; #6 - Munich; #7 - Halle. All A/C dropped their nickels without incident.

Twenty-five A/C were again dispatched by the 306th on observation flights for ground personnel. No incidents were recorded.

13 May: The 306th dispatched twenty A/C to Barth A/D on an operational revival mission. 603 American P/Ws were evacuated to A-70 without incident.

Editor's Note: There are no crew lists available for these missions. Sorry.



Robert W. Seelos, president; Joseph R. Hathaway, vice president; Russell A. Strong, secretary; Robert N. Houser, treasurer; Sheldon Beigel, John K. Hickey, Russell Houghton and Wallace Peckham, directors; M/Gen. James S. Cheney, past president; D. Luke Jacobs, 1997 reunion chairman. Ralph Franklin, Keysoe, Bedfordshire, England, is our British representative. (Mill Hill, Keysoe, Beds MK44 2HP, England). Telephone from US: 011-44-1234-708715, in England 1234-708715.

306th Echoes is published four times annually: January, April, July and October, and is mailed free of charge to all known addresses of 306th personnel, 1942-45. Contributions in support of this effort may be remitted to the treasurer.

SECRETARY/EDITOR:

Handles all changes of address, editorial comments and records:
Russell A. Strong, 5323 Cheval Pl.,
Charlotte, NC 28205. Phone 704/568-3803.

TREASURER:

Send money to:
Robert N. Houser, P.O. Box 13362,
Des Moines, IA 50310, 515/279/4498.

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

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 _____

Obituaries

Dominic M. Bloise, 367th tail gunner (Henry Hanson crew), died 9 Apr 97 in Corte Madera, CA. He had completed his 35-mission tour in Aug 44. He was retired from Chevron Corp., where he had been an engineering technologist. He was unmarried.

Cloyd M. Cresswell, 367th waist gunner (Harold Barrett crew), died 24 Sep 96 in the VA Hospital, Altoona, PA. He arrived with the Group 11 Jun 44 and flew until Mar 45. He leaves his wife, Gail, in Todd, PA.

Eddie F. Espallier, 423rd radio operator and POW, died 30 Jun 96 in Santa Barbara, CA, where he had been hospitalized. He was serious! wounded when he bailed out of William Warner's plane 16 Feb 43 on a mission to St. Nazaire, and was hospitalized for along period before ending up in prison camp. He was an insurance agent in Salinas, CA, for many years, and later lived in Goleta. He leaves his wife, Mary, 2d and 5gc.

Ralph J. Gaston, 367th pilot and POW, died 8 Nov 96 in Mountain Home VA Hospital, Johnson City, TN. His plane was shot down 18 Nov 42 in a raid to LaPallice, France, along the western coast of Europe, and he was a long term resident of Stalag Luft III. He lived for a number of years in Hawaii, and only a few months before his death had relocated to Knoxville, TN. He leaves his wife, Susan, 4d, 8gc.

David H. Gorrell, 423rd bombardier (Kenneth Blackshaw crew), died 3 Mar 95 in Lake Placid, FL, of throat cancer. He arrived with the Group 28 Oct 44 and completed his combat tour 11 Apr 45. He spent his business career in appliance and hardware manufacturing, including the Admiral Corp. Gorrell leaves his wife, Pat, 4c and 10gc.

Edward S. Haptas, 369th armorer, died 27 Mar 97 in Elmhurst, IL. He was with the 306th from 18 Jul 44 to 16 Mar 46. Late in his 306th career he became first sergeant of the 369th Squadron. He leaves his wife, June.

William V. Harris, 423rd waist gunner and POW (J. P. Toombs crew), died 30 Jan 97 in Greenville, MS. He was MIA 22 Feb 44 on a mission to Bernburg, and spent the remainder of the war in Stalag Luft IV on the Baltic Sea. He leaves his wife, Irene, and a son.

Henry G. Szakielo, 1628th Ordnance Co. clerk, died 15 Jun 96 in Elizabeth, NJ. He made his home in Linden, NJ, and leaves his wife, Stephanie, 3s, 3gc.

Leroy H. Hollenberg, 367th engineer and POW (Paul Bailey crew), died 30 Mar 97 in Safety Harbor, FL. His plane went down 12 Sep 44 at Ruhland, Germany, and he was captured and sent to Stalag Luft IV. He leaves his wife, Mary.

William H. Marcotte, 423rd pilot and POW, died 15 Feb 97 in the VA Hospital, Bay Pines, FL. He had been a resident of Sebring, FL. Prior to entering the USAAF he had completed pilot training with the RCAF. He leaves his wife, Claire, 2c and several gc.

Leonard H. O'Brien, 367th tail gunner and

POW (w. Clarence Fischer 5 Apr 43), died 13 Apr 97 in Miami, FL. He received the Purple Heart and one oak leaf cluster for wounds, and also received a cluster to the Air Medal for downing an enemy a/c. As a prisoner he was at Stalag Luft 7A and then 17B, from which he was liberated in May 45 by Gen. Patton's forces. He leaves his wife, Lorraine, 4c, 8gs.

Boyd J. Rohde, 367th gunner (John Pinchback crew), died 12 Feb 97 in Horicon, WI. He flew more than a dozen missions in Mar/Apr 45.

Robert H. Roth, 369th gunner, died 27 Mar 97 in Newington, CT. He arrived with the Group 27 May 44, without a crew. He leaves his wife, Barbara.

Dr. William W. Saunders, 368th bombardier and POW (Robert W. Seelos crew), died 14 May 97 in Oklahoma City, OK of lung cancer. On his 15th mission, Seelos' plane went down outside Antwerp, Belgium, and Saunders spent the rest of the war in Stalag Luft III, Sagan, Poland. He graduated from Oklahoma University in 1947, and completed his doctorate in psychology in 1953. He leaves his third wife, Mavis, 3c and 2gc.

Robert S. Spry, Group medical technician and 369th flight engineer, died 15 Jun 97 in Staten Island University Hospital, New York, where he had been a cancer patient for three weeks. His home was in Milford, MI. He was a member of the original group and transferred into a combat role in Mar 44, completing his tour in August. After leaving service he was a mortician, but spent most of his life employed by General Motors Corp. He leaves his wife, Raphaela and 4c.

Harold Jack Hartung, 369th crew chief and flight chief, died 10 Apr 97 in Hondo, TX. He leaves his wife and children.

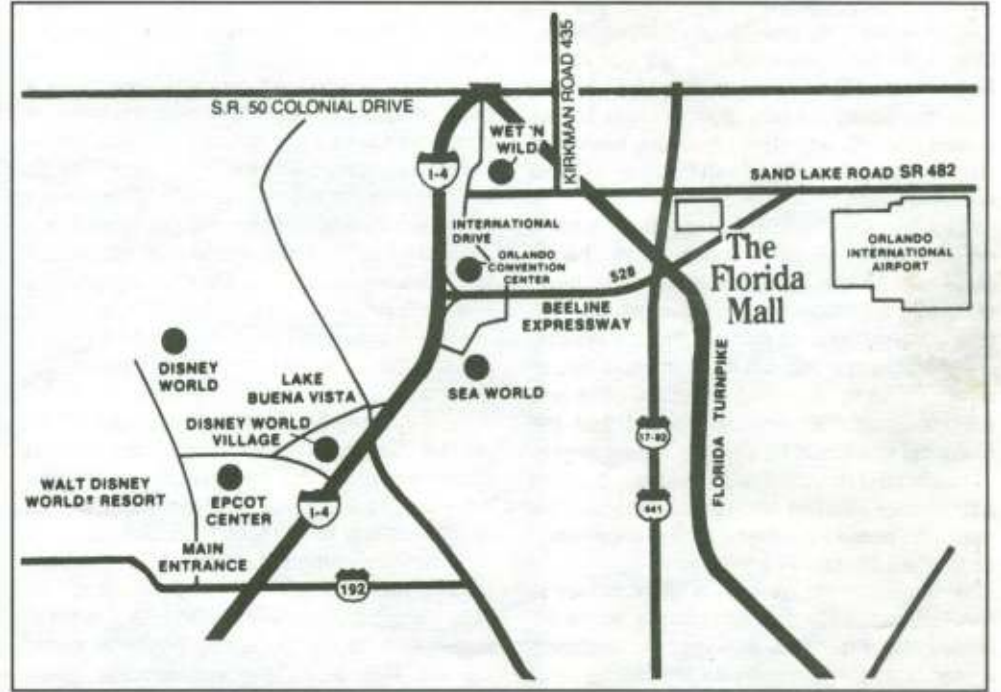
William M. Winship has died recently in Rushville, IN. He joined the 368th as an ordnance officer 6 Jun 44.

POWs from III End Their Organization

The Stalag Luft III gang has called it quits. We have enjoyed reading der Klarion as it has come from the desk of an old 306er, Joe Consolmagno, who made his way to Sagan, Poland, after his plane went down 5 Apr 43 at Antwerp, Belgium. Joe has been one of the stalwarts of the postwar organization, and has extended his writing skills also into creating plays which were produced at their reunions. We salute all those who continued to serve their country, even as POWs.

Crash Claims Jeff Ethell

Jeffrey Ethell, longtime friend of the 306th as a writer of WWII history, died 5 Jun 97 in the crash of a P-38 he was attempting to land at Tillamook airport in Oregon. In addition to his extensive writings, he had logged more than 5000 hours in 215 types of military aircraft and was considered an expert on aircraft weaponry.



Finding Your Way In Orlando!

A New Group Grew Steadily

The original 306th Bomb Group grew by almost daily accretions of men, coming from a variety of bases, some close by and others after lengthy troop train rides. Dates and acquisitions follow:

- 3-16-42 Seven officers and the Group Commander arrived at Salt Lake City and found only 41 basic EMs, no 1st Sgt. no clerks, etc.
- 3-22-42 51 pilots were assigned.
- 4-6-42 50 EM reported from Pendleton, OR.
- 4-13-42 Maj. Watts Humphrey, S-2, and Capt. Douglas R. Coleman, Gp adjutant.
- 4-15-42 23 EM from Scott Field, IL.
- 4-17-42 Four medical officers from Ft. George Wright, WA.
- 4-20-42 Nine medical EM from Pendleton, OR.
- 4-25-42 13 EM from Chanute Field, IL.
- 5-2-42 20 EM from Pendleton, OR.
- 5-5-42 Eight officers from Ft. George Wright, WA.
- 5-9-42 11 EM from Ft. Logan, CO.
- 5-15-42 22 EM from Chanute Field, IL.
- 5-16-42 13 EM from Lowry Field, CO.
- 5-21-42 23 EM from Pendleton, OR.
- 5-22-42 5 EM from Lowry Field, CO.
- 5-24-42 13 EM from Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, AZ.
- 5-27-42 11 EM from Chanute Field, IL.
- 6-3-42 7 EM from Sheppard Field, TX.
- 6-5-42 8 EM from Chanute Field, IL.
- 6-8-42 125 EM from Yakima, WA.
- 6-15-42 24 EM from Sheppard Field, TX.
- 6-19-42 23 EM from Davis-Monthan Field, AZ.
- 6-23-42 42 EM from Sheppard Field, TX.
- 6-23-42 13 EM from Harlingen, TX.
- 6-25-42 36 EM from Gowen Field, Boise, ID.
- 6-26-42 27 EM from Harlingen, TX.
- 6-27-42 14 officers from Kelly Field, TX.
- 6-28-42 10 EM from Lowry Field, CO.
- 6-29-42 13 officers from Hamilton Field, CA.
- 7-1-42 50 EM from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 7-2-42 22 officers from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 7-18-42 20 EM from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 7-24-42 12 officers from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 11 EM from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 5 officers from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 7 EM from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 13 EM from Spokane, WA.
- 6-28-42 51 officers and 71 EM (all combat crewmen) from Hamilton Field, CA.
- 6-29-42 23 officers from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 7-1-42 116 EM from Ordnance Dept.
- 7-2-42 102 EM from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 7-18-42 24 officers from Salt Lake City, UT.
- 7-24-42 19EM from Salt Lake City, UT.

Total 1184

And that's how you build a Bomb Group, presenting lots of problems for personnel and housing offices, for unit commanders, and for all of those men placed in charge of the various units making up the Group and the Combat Squadrons. Besides that, there were frequent changes in personnel, in addition to changes in the organizations themselves.

Now, if you recognize the date you arrived, and have a sense of some of the men with you, the historian would like to hear from you with your lists so that his card file can show more accurate data other than just that you were with the original Group.

From the 1184 men who had shown up by 24 July 42 the numbers shifted back and forth as men left the unit and as others joined it, and by the time everyone left the States for England the count was 1,331.

LOST! Can you help?

Those persons listed below are no longer on our mailing list, as we have had copies of **Echoes** returned, and then been unable to trace them by any means. If you have better information on any of these persons, please notify the secretary. Names are shown with last known address.

William S. Anderson, 367
PO Box 173
East Moline, IL 61244

Paul W. Green 423
700 W Pope Rd. J-77
Saint Augustine, FL 32084

Howard H. Pratt 367
Highland Acres, Rt 6, Lot 38
Augusta, ME 04330

David T. Reese 368
1510 8th Ave W
Pine Bluff, AR 71603

Phillip D. Vaught 368
1609 Carol OaksTrl, #1808
Fort Worth, TX 76112

Lorn A. Wilke 423
9727 Hildreth Ave
Southgate, CA 90280

ADDRESS UPDATES

Kenneth W. Allison CJ
Rt 1, Box 319C
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

Isidor R. Baron 367
311 Old Fort St
Tullahoma, TN 37388

Herman B. Blumenthal 1628
8000 High School Rd. Apt 1A
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Charles Borner 1024
2063 S. Nucla Way
Aurora, CO 80013

William D. Cardle 368
3231 Lake Albano Cir
San Jose, CA 95135

William C. Christian 368
17797 N Rd
Mayetta, KS 66509

M/Sgt Robert E Crane 369
155 Marsden St
Springfield, MA 01109

Eugene Feeney 368
521 W Red Bank Ave
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Wm W. Flanagan 369
13658 N Pima Spring Way
Tucson, AZ 85737

Leon Foster 368
113 S. 1st St
Caseyville, IL 62232

Arthur C. Frazier 369
1309 Alcorn-Gill Rd
Humphrey, AR 72073

Mike Harvey 369
1746 Gollview Dr
Kissimmee, FL 34746

CMSgt Russell Houghton 368
Rt 1, Box 739
Ors Island, ME 04066

Raynham J. Hoey GP
4040 Hancock St, #2805
San Diego, CA 92110

Emil L. Kudlack 1628
15 DiDonna Ct
Clifton, NJ 07013

Pictures on this May trip to England were taken by Curtis Oakes, Russ Stong and June Strong.

-----continued from pg. 1

English breakfast), and dinner on three nights. One night we were forced to go out to the Embankment Restaurant a couple of blocks from the Swan. On one night we had as our guests Daphne and Ralph Franklin, Mary and Cyril Norman, June and Keith Paull, and Diane and John Mills.

Our first full day in Bedford found us back on the coach and off to Thurleigh. We had a good visit to the old base, which has been sold, but not much has changed as yet. We drove on portions of our old three runways, checked out our two old hangars, and lots of questions were answered about the base and the memorial. We had anticipated that the Memorial site would be officially turned over to the 306th BG Association at this time, but that didn't come off. The Ministry of Defense had not been able to complete all the paperwork, so that will happen at a later time.

From Thurleigh we took a slight detour to Keysoe, especially the Mill Hill area where we visited the Franklin's 400-year-old thatched roofed house. And nearby we watched a bit of a thatching demonstration.

We went on to Madingley cemetery where we had a chance to visit the chapel and wander among the grave stones there for 3,800 Americans. The Wall of the Missing was also scrutinized for names of 306th members who never returned from missions. In downtown Cambridge we lunched at an ancient pub along the River Cam. Once back on the coach we went a bit southwest to Duxford Airfield, now a part of the Imperial War Museum. It was once home to our 78th Fighter Group. It is little changed from wartime appearance, except for the addition of the new American Air Museum, which will be dedicated 1 Aug.

Queen Elizabeth II will participate, along with other royals, and high rank RAF and USAF personnel. We were able to enter the museum from the side away from the airfield, to walk down a long, curved ramp that takes one to the museum floor on the airfield level. From there we wandered among the airplanes: a B-17 appears to be a central part of this display, although it is overwhelmed by the B-52 which was placed in the museum before the front of the structure had its glass exterior erected.

We got back to the Swan late in the afternoon, giving our group time to wander in and out of shops in the downtown.

Our third day there took us to Coventry, and the two cathedrals, on to Warwick Castle, and then to Stratford-on-Avon, where we toured the 16th century area, and had a bit of time for walking about. Once back to Bedford, it became time to get our luggage in shape for the next day's travel.

We departed from the Swan for our visit to Blenheim Palace, and then came back to Oxford, as we traveled through the crowded streets en route to Stonehenge. There, most people walked up to see the circle of stones.

We also went on to tour Salisbury Cathedral, and then bussed on down to Southampton for the night.

In the morning we loaded up, and drove a short distance to Extury Gardens, the home of gorgeous azaleas and gigantic rhododendrons in full dress color. Many of the plants rose 25 to 35 feet in the air, overhanging the paths on which we walked through the gardens. Once we had completed this, we headed for London and debarked at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch.

The Cumberland is ideally sited for getting about London, by foot, by cab or by the underground.

Our Sunday began at an early hour as we left for County Kent, and our first stop at Dover, where we saw the great chalk cliffs that run down to the Channel. From there we cut across country to Canterbury to visit the great 11th century cathedral. Some of us encountered a volunteer guide who was a retired college history professor and who was a fount of knowledge about Canterbury. We saw where Beckett was slain, and our informal guide showed us other curiosities about the great, grey pile of stone. Lunch was in the old town of Canterbury.

We still had a way to go, as we headed for Sissinghurst Castle and its great gardens. It was the '20s and '30s home of Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, and its gardens feature theme layouts, either by color or by types of plants.

Monday included a half-day city tour, and after lunch back at the Cumberland, the group went on to Windsor Castle. Tuesday morning we left the hotel bound for Gatwick Airport where the travelers and their luggage were dropped off.

Travel Trivia

Weather for the trip included very little rain, unlike '92 and '95. England has been hit by a great drought. It was cool much of the time, and jackets and sweaters felt comfortable.

Three of our travelers were exposed to the British National Health system, as they checked into hospitals in Bedford and/or London. They came back feeling that the medical personnel were interested in their problems, examined them carefully, treated them well, sent them away with proper medications, and then refused any proffer of money or credit cards.

Donald and Ann Tunstall, 367th, and their daughter were in England from their Darlington, SC, home and joined us on our visit to Thurleigh and Cambridge. They, too, were staying at the Swan Hotel.

Everyone agreed, and this may have been a factor of age, that changing hotels only twice was a great blessing. This meant getting our baggage ready before breakfast only happened on three occasions, rather than the usual tour that spends each night in a different hotel. Day trips served everyone well.



Fr: Daphne Franklin, Beverly Morrison, Robbie Lanyon, Janet Goode, Robert Kreamelemeyer, Annie and Delmar Corderman. 2nd row: Peter Swan, driver/guide, Kay Manning, June Strong, Joan Edwards, Grover Goode, Margery Hapner and Jack Hamilton. 3rd row: Mikey Endres, Elsie Williams, Ralph Franklin. 4th row: Wynon Clark, Willie Williams, Mazel Williams, Carl Morrison, Skip Oakes, Bill Edwards, Don Tunstall, Margaret Tunstall, Russell Strong. 5th row: Joseph Clark, Jean and Si Feeley, Curtis Oakes and James Grimes. Missing from the picture are Dee Grimes and Pam Williams.



The travel group gathers at the 306th Memorial while Russ Strong points out the history of the site and its future as a property of the 306th Bomb Group Association, following the impending turnover of the quarter acre by the Ministry of Defense.



Ralph Franklin, Skip Oakes and Daphne Franklin discuss the beauty of the Madingley cemetery. The row of trees behind was all in blossom in mid-May. The striking chapel is in the back right.



The new American Air Museum in Britain will formally open 1 Aug of this year. Our May travel group to England was privileged to get access to the building, which was largely done and had most of the planes on display. The front, at the left, is all glass, while the main entrance is accessed by a ramp which slopes up around the near side and to the back. Ramps on both sides, inside, provide interesting views of all aircraft, and they can be viewed from the floor level as well.



Medals of Leo Kisamore, 367th, KIA 15 May 43, now repose in a display case in the Thurleigh school. His widow, Kay Manning, was among those on the tour.



The Franklins' Keysoe home (Above) for the past 20 years, and below is an interior of the home, with Wynon Clark walking through the living room.



The two new benches now in the Bedford park along the River Ouse are in place, with plaques on them denoting their gift to the community by the 306th Bomb Group Association. Seated here are Bill and Joan Edwards at the left, and on the right bench Pamela Williams, Elsie Williams and Grover Goode. The Williams are the widow and daughter-in-law of Lester Williams.



306th PUBLICATIONS

Published materials now available from the Group will help you follow the 306th through the combat period, 1942-5:

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.

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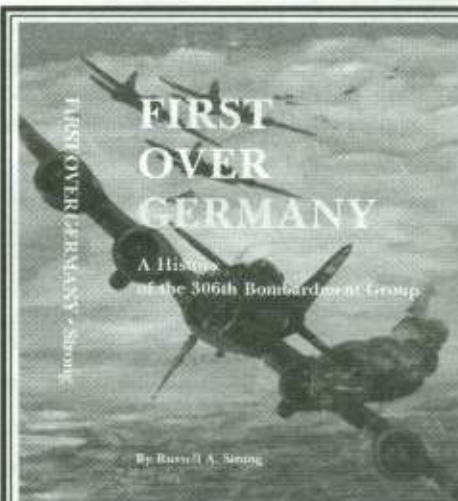
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367th. Fr: Robert Sircy tg, Harry Barber ro, Robert McKay eng, Robert Waldron wg, Charles Calenger wg, Robert Smith bt. Back: Howard Balcom P, Carroll Hills CP, Paul Kelly B and Norman Strand N.



369th. Fr: Ed Hovey wg, Jack Baasel bt, William Giglio CP, Mike Ferrara tg. Back: Jerry Finn eng, Ed Rosener wg, James B. Walden N, Robert H. Brown P, and Ray Ohm ro.



423rd. Fr: Michael Roskovich tg, Charles Raidline bt, Francis Bowes eng. Back: William T. Johnson ro, Raymond Check P, Bart Wigginton CP, Nicholas Sawicke wg and James Bobbett wg.



368th. Fr: Ronald John eng, Wallace Williams ro, Anthony Conroy bt, Harold Williams tg, Raymond Litka wg. Back: Lester A. Evans P, Delbert McGinnis CP, Cyrus Rubenstein N and James R. Shook B.



368th. Fr: John Strauser B, Ewing Shields N, Carl Grending CP and Leland Hendershot P. Back: Stuart Powell wg, Richard Kohler ro, Dewitt Rockwell eng, A. A. Griepenstroh tg, Albert Tessier bt and Eustasio Gonzales wg.



369th. Fr: John J. Regan wg, Alfred H. Weiland bt, Earnest J. Gilbert wg, Donald Rich eng, Lester Kurk tg, Bernie Swift ro. Back: Craig S. Powell CP, Willard Lockyear P, Albert Nagy B and David Dash N.



369th. Fr: Jess Williams wg, Thurman Ray bt, Edward P. Maliszewski P. Immanuel J. Klette CP. Back: Raleigh Holloway eng, Albert Schulstad N, William McDonald togg, Richard Daly tg, Harold Green ro and Harold Fowler wg.



367th. Fr: Raymond Overstreet P, Frederic Shepard CP, Paul Becker B and Fred Fortman N. Back: Sidney Davis eng, Paul Fisher wg, Wilson Bearden ro, Martin Dempsey wg, George Petrillo bt and Leon Richards tg.



368th. Fr: Charles Fontane B, Marcil Brage N, Alden Maynes CP and William Reeder P. Back: Michael Harbud wg, Robert Cole ro, Jay Hurley eng, Charles Wilson wg, William Bastain tg and David Berger tg.



423rd. Bk: Thomas McGalliard CP, James F. Sylvester P. William Dickenson N, Woodrow Ellertson B. Front: James Porter eng, Burl Ford bt, Richard Mowrer ro, Jack Koetter tg, Martin Mitosenka wg and Howard Turner wg.



423rd. Fr: Robert Welter P, Ted Hallock B, Edward West N and Taylor Leedy CP. Back: Ivan McCoppin wg, Mitt Comstock bt, James Poston ro, Audrey Klepper wg, Carl Metz tg and George Peterson eng.



369th: Fr: John W. Tomke tg, Kenneth Ross bt, Samuel Bussieries wg, Daniel Callahan wg, Harold Arnwine eng, John Daly rot Back: Frank Carle CP, Robert Ritter P. Robert Stalker B and Joseph Seibert N.



423rd. Fr: David Jones B, Ernest Dragoo N, Clifford Steiger P. Dane Roberts CP. Back: John Forgy ro, Charles Roth eng, Hal Rial tg, Hershhal Hay bt and Robert Tucker wg.



369th. Fr: Erwin Fitterman bt, James Thwaite ro, Edward Richards eng. Back: James Fitzsimmons N, Larry Foster cc, Walter Lanius B and Robert H. Wood P.

NEW ROSTER NAMES

Amer, Willard C., Rt 2, Box 222, New Ringgold, PA 17960 (Helen) 1208 QM
 Buehner, George A., 212 Mineralville St, Seltzer, PA 17974 1208 QM
 Hess, Francis J., 3 S Young Ln, Eagle, ID 83616 367
 Kennedy, LTC Richard J. 80 St. John's Ave. Yonkers, NY 10704 (Margaret) 423
 Lempenau, Virgil W., 497 S. 40th St., McCune, KS 66753 1208 QM
 Pruner, Howard E, 184 E St. Lawrence Ave. Waddington, NY 13694 (Jean) 1208 QM
 Shertzer, Sidney C, PO Box 296, Moore, SC 29369 369
 Tatman, Gilbert C., 10 Beebe RuniRd, Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (Eleanor) 368
 White, Charles R., 111 Cedar Dr. Cedar Rock Est., Lenoir, NC 28645 368

306th Family

Borzym, Donald R., 3206 S. Wisconsin Ave. Berwyn, IL 60402 367N
 Butler, John F., 858 Donna Dr. Orange, CT 06477
 Gambaiana, Steven J., 6023 Pierce St, Omaha, NE 68106 (Kristine) 367S
 Gorrell, Jr., David H. 14021 Rain Tree Dr. Olathe, KS 66062 423S
 Phillips, Mrs Rudolph W., Rt 1, Box 55, East Durham, NY 12423 368W
 Shipler, Mary Mockus, 14870 Hodges Ln, South Beloit, IL 61080 368D
 Williams, Robert, 6274 Innesbruck Dr. Dayton, OH 45459 (Pamela) 1628 S
 (of Lester Williams)
 McKearn, Thomas, 12243 Love Rd. Roscoe, IL 61073 367B
 B-Brother, D-Daughter, N-Nephew, S-Son, W-Widow

Memorial GIFTS

Kenneth Blackshaw in memory of David Gorrell, 423rd.
 June E. Haptas in memory of Edward J. Haptas, 369th.
 Jack R. Samway, in memory of Franz Edwin Tingler, 368th.
 Adolph Visconti in memory of Clay Canes, G. Kieth Jackson and John R. Kalb.
 Audrey H. Taylor, in memory of William Taylor 423rd.

Gifts may be made by anyone in memory of 306th veterans or family, by sending your check, so designated to the 306th Memorial Fund, to the Association treasurer. All gifts made during the preceding quarter will be listed in Echoes. Expenditure of these funds is at the direction of the Board of Directors.

The **Georgia chapter**, 8AFHS, continues to make its way with a group of leaders from the 306th. Clayton E. Ridge has recently been elected president, and backing him up as vice president is Albert N. McMahon. Of course, the power behind the throne is a former leader of the chapter as well, Saul Kupferman, who has been the longtime editor of its newspaper, and just continued on with that post after relinquishing the presidency. It is largely through the efforts of this chapter that the 8th AF Heritage Center at Savannah made its initial moves in acquiring land and support for this "work in progress."

1997 Reunion Reservations Orlando

The schedule shown below is also your Reunion Registration for Orlando. Please review the items carefully, make your selections carefully and indicate what you and your spouse/partner will want to do.

Buses will leave the hotel Thursday and Friday mornings to accommodate you. Your tickets will be in the Registration packet you will receive at check-in after you have completed your hotel registration.

	Day	#	Cost	Total
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DISNEY - EPCOT - MGM STUDIOS - 8 hrs. Bus transportation and ticket to one park only.			\$65.00	
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA - 6 hrs. Bus transportation and ticket only.			\$55.00	
SEA WORLD - 4 hrs. Bus transportation, ticket and lunch.			\$55.00	
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - 6 hrs. Bus trip and IMAX Theatre only.			\$40.00	
CHURCH ST. STATION - Thursday evening only. Buses leave hotel at 6 p.m. and return at 10 p.m. Downtown entertainment, food and beverage venue. Dinner is on your own. Included in registration fee.				
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION - Ballroom, Saturday morning at 9:30.				
LADIES' STYLE SHOW AND CONTINENTAL BREAK-FAST: Included in registration fee. Saturday morning at 9:30.				
REUNION DINNER-DANCE: Hotel Ballroom, 6:30 p.m. Included in registration fee.				
REGISTRATION FEE FOR for all reunion attendees.			\$135.00	
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(Complete this form and mail to: 306th BG Association Reunion, PO Box 593548, Orlando, FL 32859-3548)

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