

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Dr. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Name Norman A. Armbrust
Address 6037 Snow Hill Road, Washington Court House, Ohio 43160
Telephone 614 335-1834 Date November 26, 1977
Occupation Shipper Employer Armco Metal Products Division
Address Washington Court House, Telephone 335-4650

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th: Enlisted Man. Pilot training;
B-17 training phase

After leaving the 306th:

Prisoner of war for 22 months; then discharged.

306th Record:

Arrival Date May 1943 Squadron or other unit 423

MOS _____ Combat Status _____

Missions Completed 11

Promotions From Co-pilot to 1st Pilot.

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH Battle Stars _____ other _____

Other personal data:

Description of Air Missions:

(What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your role? What heroics did you witness? What events were there of which you have special knowledge?)

Doing the impossible--daylight bombing.

B-17 pilot

We were flying off the wing of a plane which was hit by a 20 mm shell. Our own group commander, Col. Wilson, was flying as 1st pilot and Capt. Check was flying as co-pilot. The regular co-pilot was flying as waist gunner. The shell blew off the top of Capt. Check's head, hit the oxygen and set it afire. Col. Wilson was badly burned and gave the order to bail out. The co-pilot ran up from the waist gunner's position and saw the situation. Col. Wilson was taken to the nose where the flight surgeon was riding as an observer. The co-pilot took over and flew the ship back to England. The only man that bailed out before the order was rescinded was the navigator.

Name Norman A. Armburst Address 6037 Snowhill Rd
Telephone 335-1834

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot F/O N.A. Armburst Plane # and Name Unknown-Auxiliary plane
Mission Date July 26 1943 Target Hanover Germany
Cause of loss: AA fire Fighter attack Other, explain _____

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can: We had just and I mean just dropped our bombs. #2 engine was knocked out completely and #1 and #3 were damaged to the extent that they ran for only a little while. #4 then caught fire. That's when we bailed out. All instruments were completely knocked out, a hole in the roof behind pilot seat, oxygen on left side was knocked completely out, bombay doors were damaged so that they would not close, ball turret was damaged. The bombardier, navigator and ball turret man were wounded. The ball turret man died in the hospital.

How and where did you leave plane?

Jumped from the bombay doors at around 19,000 feet in the vicinity of Diepholz, Germany.

What happened when you got on the ground? German civilians were waiting on me with guns

Did you meet any of your crew mates? I was in jail looking out the window into the courtyard which was bounded by a 12 to 14 foot wall. The enlisted men, excepting the ball turret man, were lined up around the wall. Later on I was able to talk with them for a little while. Then we were separated.
How were you treated, if captured?

That is a hard question to answer. At the time it was terrible. We knew what it meant to be cold and hungry. But I'm still living so it must not have been too bad.

Any additional details, reminiscences, letters, or documents of these events would be appreciated. If you do send such materials, I will copy them and put them back in the mail to you within 24 hours.

PRISONERS OF WAR

May 25, 1943 Thomas E. Logan (Last known address)
817 North Green
Wichita, Kansas

June 13, 1943 William H. Marcette, Jr. (Last known address)
62 Orchard Street
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

George L. Peck I heard he was killed in
an airplane crackup after
the war.

Bartlett Oak Park IL
Walter Weeks WA
Wif Wash, War Train.
Hank Engel

X Myrtle Whiting Pl Conn
2916 County TX 75006
Carrollton

CREW MEMBERS

✓ Pilot Norman A. Armbrust
6037 Snow Hill Road SW
Washington Court House, Ohio 43160

✓ Co-Pilot Lester M. Kramer *735 Hewlock St*
~~523 S. Webster Avenue~~ (Last known address)
Scranton, Pennsylvania *717/344-0596*
18505

✓ Navigator R. J. Elwood *201/859-4907*
96 Henderson Street 08865
Phillipsburg, New Jersey

Bombardier Charles L. Wallin (Deceased-Spring of 1975)
Wife resides at
4480 Parklawn #101
Edina, Minnesota 55435

✓ Engineer Paul Milakovich *1046 E Meda*
421 Washington Avenue (Last known address)
Girard, Ohio *Glendora, CA*
~~*26/545-6761*~~
755-7256

Radio Robert Myllykaski
91 Heckathorne Drive
Painesville, Ohio 44077

Ball turret N. Houston (Deceased).
Ohio *Nelson Houston*

R. Waist Gunner Pete Dascoulias (Last known address)
901 Youngstown Road
Warren, Ohio

L. Waist Gunner *Louis A.* Skinner
Unknown *Adysenene, KS*

Tail gunner B. L. Robinson (Last known address)
922 Olney Street
Rose Mead, California

Not on our crew, but a navigator in the 306th Bomb Group

Dan Barberis
819 Loretta Drive
River Vale, New Jersey 07675 *201/391-8263*

Not on our crew, but a bombardier in the 306th Bomb Group

Donald A. R. Teller
Denver, Colorado

RECORDS UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish to, fold and mail as per address on reverse side. Or, if obtained at a reunion, hand to Russ Strong)

LAST NAME: *Armburst* FIRST NAME: *Norman* TITLE: *A*
STREET ADDRESS: *6037 Snowhill Rd* TELEPHONE: *(619) 335-1834*
CITY: *Washington C.H.* STATE: *Ohio* ZIP: *42160*
DATE JOINED 306th ASSOCIATION: *April or 1st May 1943*
REUNIONS ATTENDED: (Years) *4 years*
WIFE'S NAME: *Lorie*
LAST EMPLOYMENT: *Armco*
COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED: *None* DEGREE(S): DATE:

SERIAL #: *T-143* SQDN: *423* MOS:
DATE ARR: *Last of April or 1st of May* CREW: *First Pilot*
DATE DEPARTED: *July 26 1943* HIGHEST RANK IN 306th: *F/O*
SERVICE RETIREMENT DATE: *Nov 28, 1945* RANK or GRADE: *F/O*
DECORATIONS WITH 306TH: *Air Medal with Oak leaf*
TOP SERVICE ASSIGNMENT AFTER 306TH: *None*
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS WITH 306TH: *None*

QUESTIONNAIRE

CATERPILLAR CLUB - IRVING CHUTE COMPANY *Yes*

NAME:

COMBAT JUMP DATE & MISSION: *12th Mission - Jumped*

HEIGHT WHEN BAILED OUT: *18,000 ft.*

ANY PROBLEMS WITH PARACHUTE: *NO*

306th Bombardment Group. SQDN: *423*

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to
Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval
Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

Date complete 9/23/89

LAST NAME: Armbrust FIRST NAME: Norman TITLE:

Street address: 6037 Snowhill Rd. Telephone: (614) 335-1834

City, state, zip: Washington C. H., Ohio 43160

Date of Birth: 9/8/19 Wife's name: Lorie

College(s) attended: None Degree(s): None Year(s):

Last employment and job title: Armed.

Reunions attended: (by year or location) All but Colorado Springs.

Serial #: T143 Squadron: 423rd Speciality: pilot

Date joined 306th: April or May 1943 If combat, what crew: Sugg then Armbrust

Special duties or assignments w/306th:

Number of missions flown: ~~12~~ 12 Date of last mission: July 26 1943

Date left 306th: July 26, 1943 Highest rank/grade with 306th: Flight Officer

Other 8th AF units served with: None

Top service assignments after 306th: None.

USAF retirement date: None. Rank/grade:

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units, will be welcomed by the secretary.

If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search further for them.

Norman A. Armbrust
6037 Snout Hill Rd.
Washington C.H., Ohio 43160
March 17, 1980

Dear: Russ

I found this form that Ben
Irons had sent me showing that he
had flown with me. Sorry I can't
help more. Thanks for all you
are doing for the 306th.

Norman A. Armbrust

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to
Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval
Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

Date complete March 8 1990

LAST NAME: Armbrust FIRST NAME: Norman TITLE: A

Street address: 60375 noutrill Rd Telephone: (614) 335-1834

City, state, zip: Washington C.H., Ohio 43160

Date of Birth: Sept 8 1919 Wife's name: Lovie

College(s) attended: None Degree(s): Year(s):

Last employment and job title: Armco shipper

Reunions attended: (by year or location)

All the Reunions but the one at Colorado

Serial #: T143 Squadron: 423 Speciality: Pilot

Date joined 306th: May 5 1943 If combat, what crew: ~~Stacy~~ L.C. Sugg }
Then Armbrust }

Special duties or assignments w/306th:

Number of missions flown: on the 12th Date of last mission: July 26, 1943

Date left 306th: July 26, 1943 Highest rank/grade with 306th: 7/0

Other 8th AF units served with:

Top service assignments after 306th:

USAF retirement date: NO Rank/grade:

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units, will be welcomed by the secretary.

If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search further for them.

COMBAT CREW INFORMATION - 306th Bomb Group, 1942-45

Name of Respondent *Norman A. Armbrust*

Date: *March 8 1990*

Date of Arrival at 306th: *May 5 1943*

Combat Crew by position:

Name	Position	Present Status
<i>Norman A Armbrust</i>	<i>Pilot</i>	<i>Alive.</i>
<i>Lester M Kramer</i>	<i>Co-Pilot</i>	<i>Alive.</i>
<i>Robert E Ellwood</i>	<i>Navigator</i>	<i>Alive.</i>
<i>Charles L. Wallin</i>	<i>Bombardier</i>	<i>Dead</i>
<i>Paul</i>	<i>Engineer</i>	<i>Dead.</i>
<i>Robert W Mila Korich</i>	<i>Radio Opr.</i>	<i>Alive</i>
<i>Nelson J My Ily Koski</i>	<i>Ball Turret</i>	<i>Dead.</i>
<i>Peter Das Goulas</i>	<i>Waist</i>	<i>Alive.</i>
<i>Louis A Skinner</i>	<i>Waist</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
<i>Brice L Robison</i>	<i>Tail Gunner</i>	<i>Alive</i>

Your date of departure from 306th: *July 26, 1943*

Number of missions flown: *on the 12th*

If regular, USAF retirement date and rank:

Other information:

Lt Daniel Barberis was our regular navigator, but was not flying with us on the 26th.
Lt Ben Irons flew with me more than any one else while he was at the 306th.

March 8 1990.

Russ, I just don't have any orders. Very little of my material was returned home. About the only orders I have are the ones you sent me. Thanks, I appreciated it very much. I have a couple of papers you may not have, if you do throw these away. The Awards of the Air Medal, has a lot of 206th men on these sheets. I thought there might be some names you do not have. The other paper is a test on the B17F. You may want to print some of the questions in the Echo sometime, just to jog their memories of the fellow that use to fly them. I'm sorry I cannot help you.

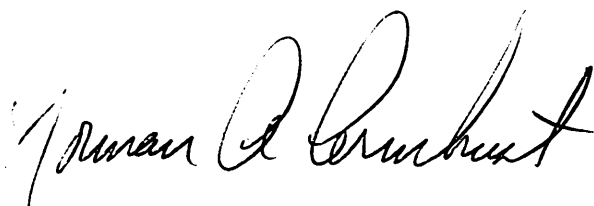
Norman

The last edition of Echoes brought memories - the gallery of early 306 Veterans in Arthur Bove's book "First Over Germany".

I was Lt. Sugg's co-pilot and we were flying off the wing of Capt. Check the day Capt. Check was killed. There is quite a story of this mission. Capt. Check selected this mission for his 25th. It was what he thought would be a milk run - in over Paris and out over the submarine pens. Col. Wilson, our commanding officer of the 306 Bomb Group, bumped Capt. Check as first pilot, so Capt. Check bumped his co-pilot and his co-pilot bumped one of the waist gunners. The flight surgeon elected to go on this mission so he would know more of the conditions the men were experiencing. I believe the bombardier was on his 25th mission also. A 20 mm shell hit the plane Capt. Check was flying as co-pilot. At the time of the hit our planes had a near collision. The shell took off the top of Capt. Check's head, then hit the oxygen. A fire broke out and badly burned Col. Wilson. He gave the order to bail out and the bombardier did so. The regular co-pilot who was flying as waist gunner ran up and took over the ship. The flight surgeon administered medical treatment to Col. Wilson while the co-pilot flew the plane back. We could see Capt. Check slumped over the wheel.

I have wondered what happened to Lt. Sugg when he finished his missions. I never heard any more from him. I knew he lived in the South but could not remember where. I hope to find out more about him when I come to the reunion this year.

Best wishes to you,



Norman A. Armbrust

Norman A. Armbrust
8/18/81

6 December 1977

Mr. Norman A. Armbrust
6037 Snow Hill Road, SW
Washington CH, OH 43160

Dear Norman:

Many thanks for your letter and roster. Everything is most helpful in trying to piece things together. I appreciated your graphic account of what happened to your plane.

Last evening I got on the old WATS line and talked with Lester Kramer, R. J. Elwood and Dan Barberis, and found them all very interesting.

Kramer's address is now 735 Hemlock St., Scranton.

Elwood and Barberis live where you said.

Milakovich now lives in Glendora, CA, at 1046 E. Meda.

Byllokoski has the same address, and Dascoulias lives at 210 Fairmont, NE, Warren. Don Teller is at 6326 S. Crocker, Littleton, CO 80120. We have had them in the fold for quite some time.

Logan and Marcette are real problems. I have been trying to track both of them for a long time and have come up with nothing but blanks.

Louis A. Skinner came from Independence, Kansas, but we do not have anything on him.

Robinson I'll try by mail.

Thanks again for your help, and I look forward to seeing you some day before too long.

Sincerely yours,