

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

Name Michael Comannisky
Address 511 Troutvine Street
Home Phone 717-875-3316 Date 14 April 79
Occupation Maintenance man Employer Penna Dept of Public Welfare
Address Ashland State Hospital Bus. Phone _____
Serial No(s) 333-502-371

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

Worked as a combination welder for local construction company, at the outbreak of war was drafted in Army on the 1st of August 1942

After leaving the 306th: Discharged from the service 22 Nov 1945 and returned to welding this time for the Penna Railroad in Wilmington Del
Returned to the service in 1951, March 5th, this time as a radio operator mechanic in the Air Force,

Retired from active Service in 1st July 1969

306th Record

Arrival date at Thurleigh Approximately the 19 of Nov 1943
Squadron or other unit(s) Assigned 369th of the 306 BG
MOS # 757 Specialty Radio Operatr/Mech
Missions Completed (and date of last) 197 (20th not completed) Mar 29-44
Promotions TSgt
Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM PB Battle Stars

(On unusual DFCs, and Silver Stars and above would like to see a copy of the citation)

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?)

From my personal view I think all the missions at the time were long some lasting up to 12 hours with approximately half of the time on oxygen, the model E and F planes were open hatch and very cold and mighty uncomfortable for the long periods of the missions.

As a radio operator I didnt get to see much of the action but only heard what was going on thru monitor position on the radios, I wish I could tell some honest to goodness facts but try as I have I have not recalled anything ~~with~~ worth mentioning..

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Telephone 717-875-3316

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot Lt. Schuering Plane # and Name (new G model)
Mission Date March 29 44 Target Braunschweig Industrial Area
Cause of loss: AA fire Fighter attack Other, explain

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can: *Coming to the target as briefed we got two direct bursts of flak in the right wing knocking out both 3 and 4 engines and fire in the wing, to the best of my knowledge pilot controlled the plane enough to blow out the fire and still bring the aircraft to a safe crash landing, only injury was from flak and that was to bot myself and the navigator, non serious but required medical attention.*

How and where did you leave plane? *Pilot crashed the plane in the vicinity of Dummer lake in vicinity of Honover, after all crew members cleared the aircraft I immediately began to throw the incendiary canisters to destroy the radio equipment Etc and also to set on fire the cockpit*

What happened when you got on the ground? *Some crew members were taken prisoner almost immediately but the navigator and myself were taken the following evening approximately 15 miles from the air craft and taken*

Did you meet any of your crew mates? *to a retention center in Du Lac Luft*
Yea all of them in Du Lac Luft

How were you treated, if captured? *Not too well taken by the civilian population but treated reasonable well by the Military*

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.