

June 26, 1982

Mr. Russell A Strong
2041 Hillside
Kalamazoo MI 49007

Dear Russell

Thanks for your letter of June 17th
Sorry I do not have any orders
in my possession assigning me to the
306th Bomb Group.

Percy Vincent and I were assigned
to the 306th Bomb Group (H) Salt Lake Army
AB February 25, 1942.

Percy Vincent died in Santa Barbara
I believe in summer of 1947. We
had kept up our friendship. He last
visited me on his honeymoon. I think
it was a year later that he died.
I do not know Jim Sutton of
Novato.

I learned about the book "First
Over Germany" from Ray & Hopper.
Ray lives ~~in~~ nearby in Los Altos.
We manage to get together few times
every year.

Yours truly
John Coulter -

P.S. Your book arrived yesterday.

17 June 1982

Mr. John A. Coulter, Jr.
10 Washington St.
Novato, CA 94947

Dear John:

Your book order arrived today and it was like a bolt out of the blue. It has been eight years that I have been working on the book, and I don't know how many times during that period that I tried to learn where you might be. I had finally given up.

I knew that you originally came from San Francisco, so I searched Bay Area phone directories. I tried the USAF locator service in San Antonio, and on several occasions I asked my contact inside the VA to try to run you down. All to no avail.

To cap it all off, I came to Novato three years ago to speak to Jim Sutton about the book. I located him, and certainly wish that at that time I had learned you were there, if you indeed lived there at that time.

But its never too late. I am enclosing a list of 306th orders that I have, and I hope that you may still have your old 201 file around. If you do, would you please see if you have copies of any special orders, either group, station or squadron that I do not have. I would very much like to receive any of them. These orders do not exist in government files, so I have had to search them out from individuals. Do you have one assigging you to the 306h back in 1942? Any other pieces of memorabilia that you would be willing to loan I'd very much like to see. I'd also like an opportunity to copy any pictures you still have.

This letter and your book will both be posted on the 18th, but imagine the letter may arrive a little sooner. And I'm also curious as to where you got the order form? From Jim Sutton? Your name is not on the Echoes mailing list, but I will add it immediately.

You and Percy Vincent arrived at the same time, I believe. Do you have any information about him?

Good to have you with us,

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 completed June 6 1991
 * GROUP BOMB SIGHT
 OFFICER
 423rd Sg.

LAST NAME: COULTER, JR FIRST NAME: JOHN TITLE: OFFICER
 Street address: 10 WASHINGTON STREET Telephone: (415) 897 1258
 City, state, zip: NOVATO CA 94947

Date of Birth: MAY 8 1916 Wife's name: JEANNE
 College(s) attended: U. OF CALIFORNIA (BERKELEY CA) Degree(s): B.S. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION Year(s): 1938
 Last employment and job title: STATISTICIAN (ANALYST) CHEVRON

Reunions attended: (by year or location)
IN 1986 MAY WIFE & I VISITED 306th BASE - THORNTON. WE HAD A BRIEF TOUR OF THE BASE BY THE RAF FLIGHT CONTROLLER. HE ALSO SHOWS A HISTORY OF THE 306th

Serial #: 507 01 5533 Current Squadron: 423rd Specialty: 306th GROUP BOMB SIGHT & AUTO PILOT
PROBABLY MAY 1942 (CO 433052 JUN 13, 1942) INSTRUCTION ON USE OF AUTOPILOT.
 Date joined 306th: MAY 1 1942 If combat, what crew: AUTOPILOT.
WENDOVER

Special duties or assignments w/306th: BOMB SIGHT MAINTENANCE OFFICER
 Number of missions flown: None Date of last mission: None
 Date left 306th: AUGUST 28 1945 Highest rank/grade with 306th: CAPTAIN
 Other 8th AF units served with: NONE

Top service assignments after 306th: USAF RESERVE (20 YRS) REF 25 MAY 1962
COMPTROLLER (BUDGET, ACCOUNTING & FINANCE)
 USAF retirement date: OCT 5, 1945 Rank/grade: LT. COL USAF RESERVE
USAF RESERVE 25 MAY 1962

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.

* NOTE: BOMB SIGHT MAINTENANCE OFFICERS HAD TO COMPLETE SCHOOL (TRAINING) FOR ARMAMENT OFFICERS. THEN AFTER SECURITY CHECKS THEY WERE GIVEN 3 ADDITIONAL MONTHS SCHOOLING AT LOWRY FIELD, DENVER COLORADO. THUS THEY WERE TRAINED IN ARMAMENT & BOMB SIGHT MAINTENANCE. BOMB SIGHT OFFICERS WERE ALSO TRAINED IN MAINTENANCE & OPERATION OF AUTOMATIC PILOT