

1-30-92

Dear Dale:

I am looking for information of the Fate of Sgt. Mike Bezak, he was a Gunner on Air Crew in the 306<sup>th</sup> BG.

The only information I have is, He was on his second tour, he had 25 missions in and signed on again.

He went down on the Merseberg Ser. mission on Nov. 2, 1944 K.I.A.

I will appreciate any help  
you can give me on Sgt. Bagot.

Thank you  
Basil Di Thoma



BASIL J DITHOMAS  
251 HALLACK ST  
MINGO JUNCTION OH 43938

6 February 1992

Basil J. DiThomas  
251 Hallack St  
Mingo Junction, OH 43938

Dear Mr. DiThomas:

Your letter has come along to me concerning Andrew Bezak. My records indicate that he joined the 306th Bomb Group 3 April 1942 at Wendover, UT, and went to England with the group in September.

He was a member of the 423rd Bomb Squadron and was engineer on the crew of Lt. Maurice Salada.

He was the third enlisted man in the Group to complete a tour of 25 missions, in May 1943. In the course of this tour of duty he earned an Air Medal and three oak leaf clusters, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Bezak left the 306th at the completion of his tour, probably returned to the U. S. for a 30-day leave, and most likely sought and received assignment to another bomb group, either one then in England or one that was still in training in the States and with which he went to England.

I am positive that he did not return to the 306th, as I have found no record of his being with the group during the 1944 period. He very likely met his death with another Group. Merseberg was a hot target.

To find any further information, I would suggest that you write the Military Records Section, Attn: Missing in Action, National Archives, Washington, DC 20409. Request that they send you a copy of the Missing in Action record showing his name. That will tell you what group and crew he was flying with, etc. If you do receive such a record, I would very much appreciate receiving a copy of it. T/Sgt. Andrew Bezak's serial # was 15069851. He had no middle name.

Sincerely yours,

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General

20 May 1943.

GENERAL ORDER )  
NO.....61 )

SECTION

- AWARDS OF SILVER STAR \*\*\*\*\* I
- AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL \*\*\*\*\* II
- AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS \*\*\*\*\* III
- AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS \*\*\*\*\* IV
- AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL \*\*\*\*\* V

III. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-5, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq., ETOUSA, 5 April 1943, the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following named Officers.

- X (H), PARLEY D. SMITH, 35190920, Technical Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Pacwood, Iowa.
- X JOE F. WARD, 34107345, Technical Sergeant, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: RFD #2, Slouan, Alabama.
- X ANDREW BEZAK, 15067851, Technical Sergeant, 423rd Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 346 Lincoln Ave., Lingo Jct., Ohio.
- X CHARLES F. COUNTS, 55040617, Staff Sergeant, 423rd Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 1175 South Union St. Lima, Ohio.
- X (H), CHARLES P. FEER, 30023154, Technical Sergeant, 365th Bombardment Squadron Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 703 N. 3rd, Madill, Oklahoma.
- X (H), REGINALD G. HARRIS, 15061867, Staff Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 529 Canille St., Houston, Texas.
- JACK C. BANTA, 24033913, Staff Sergeant, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Route #3, New Kirk, Oklahoma.
- DAVID T. COLLIE, 34180886, Staff Sergeant, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Box 172, Clifton, Tennessee.
- NORMAN GILKEY, 39173909, Staff Sergeant, 365th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 719 East Summit Street, Butte, Montana.
- HENRY G. HAYES, JR., 14058968, Staff Sergeant, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Cotton Valley, Louisiana.