

24 Bonnell St
Flemington, N.J.
08822

Aug. 28, 2002

Mr. Russell Strong
306th BG Assn.
5323 Cheval Pl
Charlotte, N.C. 28205

Dear Mr. Strong:

It was a pleasure to speak with you regarding my father's war service.

I have been able to obtain some information but it has been a slow and frustrating task.

My father, Patrick Gaynor (Serv. No. 12067106), was assigned to the 306th Bomb Group, Squadron 369. He was a waist gunner on a B-17, which was piloted by a Lt. Alston. The plane was shot down April 11, 1944. My father was captured and held as a POW in Stalag 17.

My parents are buried at the national cemetery in central Long Island, N.Y. The cemetery office told me that its records indicate he received the Air Medal with an oak leaf cluster. This is the only medal I know about and I am not sure what it means. I would like to replace any medals he was entitled to receive but I do not know which ones they would be.

Any insight you can provide would be greatly appreciated. I feel that his service is an important legacy for my children and grandchildren. It is important to me to honor this part of my father's life, especially since he felt that he had merely done his duty and did not deserve any recognition.

I am very interested in reading your book when it is re-published. If it is not an inconvenience, I would like to learn the name of the publisher and date of publication. And, if possible, I would be interested in receiving the unit's newsletter. Thank you again for any help you can provide.

Best wishes,

Patricia Gaynor Hester

Patricia Gaynor Hester
908-782-2657

12 November 2002

Dear Patricia:

As I threathened, I did get to work on your material tonight and here are the 10 missions I found. You will quickly see his name.

I have also included one DAily Order from the 306th where his name was mentioned, and also the Missing Aircrew Report filed when his plane did not return.

I have checked my file of crew pictures, and could not identify one in which he might have appeared.

I hope this helps in your pursuit of information about Patrick. As I said on the phone today, I do not think a further pursuit of records concerning Patrick would be fruitful, and would only be frustrating.

Many thanks,