

February 20, 2004

Russell A. Strong  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Col. Strong,

I am writing to let you know of some developments in my research into my father's WWII activities with the 306<sup>th</sup>. It is some time since we have been in contact, and there have been several developments.

First, I was finally successful in obtaining an uncropped version the picture which appears on page 62 of Freeman's book *Combat Profile: B-17G Flying Fortress in WW2*. This was provided to me by Jess Williams, a gunner on Geezil, who is still going strong in the hills of Texas. I can provide you with a digitized version of the photograph if you wish.

Second, I was able to definitively clear up the mystery of my dad's missing missions. As I suspected, he got those first four with the 92<sup>nd</sup> BG prior to coming over to the 306<sup>th</sup>. This is confirmed by his combat operational missions log which was in a scrapbook kept by his sister, Mary, in Kentucky. I am enclosing a copy. This book recently came to me by way of my cousin and has a number of letters, newspaper clippings, etc. from that time. A real treasure, if I can keep it from decomposing before my eyes.

None of this is going to make the evening news, but I just felt I needed to follow up with you to complete the picture. You were so good about providing me some information to get started; I didn't want to let it drop.

Any news from Ed Maliszewski lately? I still would like to get up to Michigan and pay him a visit some time.

Thanks again for all the help and I hope you are doing well.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Greene  
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NAME Charles Hall 369 1/2

PLK 7/507 306 1/2

NO R/100000 1915413

DATE	GROUP	INDEX	DESCRIPTION	TIME	TIME
4/1		1	Wichita	6:00	6:00
4/2		2	Wichita	6:00	6:00
4/3		3	Wichita	6:00	6:00
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4/6		6	Wichita	6:00	6:00
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4/10		10	Wichita	6:00	6:00
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4/23		23	Wichita	6:00	6:00
4/24		24	Wichita	6:00	6:00
4/25		25	Wichita	6:00	6:00

January 5, 2001

Russell A. Strong  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Col. Strong,

Wanted to let the "dust settle" after the reunion before I contacted you to request additional help in running down a picture of my father. I enjoyed reading about the San Diego gathering in "Echoes" and still hope to make a future convention. Was Ed Maliszewski able to make it? In my last conversation with him he said he hoped to go if his health cooperated.

At the risk of becoming a real pain, I am taking one more shot at enlisting your help in locating the picture which appears on page 62 of Freeman's book *Combat Profile: B-17G Flying Fortress in WW2*. You may recall that I wrote you about this last year. It shows my father's head and shoulders and those of several other crewmembers, but has been cropped to fit the page. I would like to find a complete version of the photograph.

You sent me a copy of the only picture you could find of "Geezil" in your collection which, unfortunately is not the same photograph. Incidentally, Mal believes that this is a picture of Watson, the then-copilot of Geezil. Watson got his own plane later and was killed on his first mission in command. I have enclosed a copy of that photograph as well as a copy of the cropped picture in question.

In addition to contacting you and Mal (who had never seen the photo) I have tried to contact Freeman via the Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> message board. This message was intercepted by Freeman's "conduit of information" with no result. The 8<sup>th</sup> AF Museum has no record of the plan or crew. The National Archives sent me a copy of the same picture you possess (the Watson picture). They indicate that this is their only photograph of Geezil. Though I have had several other contacts via the message board, they have been dead-ends.

My request is this: Can you help me contact Mr. Freeman to discover the source photograph for his picture on page 62? I am assuming that there must have been a complete version at some point, which was edited either by Freeman or the publisher. Short of this, are you aware of any other collections/archives containing this sort of crew and aircraft photograph that I could search for a complete version of the picture?

I understand that this is an imposition on you, but as you can see, I am pretty much out of ideas. Thanks again for all the help and I hope you are doing well.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Greene  
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Alexandria, VA 22315  
703-922-5215  
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12 January 01

Dear Michael:

Got your note today. There is no need to feel frustrated about not finding the picture or negative for Watson's crew. While the 8th was the best at record keeping, etc., photography evidently didn't have a top priority.

Here is another photo of Geezil I found, and note the indexing information in the lower left corner. Whether this data was ever recorded any place other than on the negatives, I have no way of knowing at this point. And if there was such a record, I feel it unlikely that it was ever saved. If stuff didn't come back to the states it went to a dump.

I think the central Intelligence office on the base did a pretty good job on much of the stuff, and even though I worked in Intelligence for about six weeks I was not aware of directories for a lot of things.

I suspect that Roger Freeman has the best and biggest collection of 8th AF stuff, and I hope it will be preserved, but probably in England. His address is:

May's Barn  
Dedham, Colchester  
Essex CO7 6EW  
England

If you find the picture you are looking for, and get a print, please make one for me on one of the Kodak copiers now available. I'll use it in Echoes if we can get it identified.

I tell my wife that we have one more trip to England, and when that comes, probably in 02, I am going to try to get to see Roger at his place. Roger and I correspond and have been able to chat several times when he has been in the States. In fact, I will be using a quote from him in the next Echoes.

Eventually the 8th Museum will get all of my stuff and a lot of other things from various other collectors from the Bomb & Fighter Groups. I long ago determined that I was never turning over my stuff to a successor editor, and then to see it disappear. When I'm through it goes directly to the 8th Museum.

Sincerely,