

801 RUTH LN  
Hurst, TX  
76053

26 Nov 1990  
Mr. Russ Strong,

Hi Russ, I was a member of 369th from April 1942 until May 1945.

I was a S/Sgt on the ground crew of which MSgt Forrest Goodwill was crew chief. Our plane was "WATHOO" Rip Riordan's plane.

I later became crew chief of the "stripped down" "E" model, "Boomerang mavis" which was used mainly for "buzzing" the "Falcon" sub. Following that I became crew chief of a new "G" model, but I don't remember the serial number.

(3)

The reason that I am writing to you is that I am building a 45" wing span B17 G Balsa wood model. The markings supplied with the kit include a red triangle encompassing a black C. I'm sure I would like to use 304th/369th markings and I would like to use the serial number of my plane. It was a non-camouflaged "G" model and the last 3 numbers keep coming to my memory as 385. (this may not be correct though). The October "Echoes" indicate that a by-plane list may be forthcoming in the next issue.

I would like for you  
to let me know the  
colors and markings  
for 306th Triangle H  
and Squadron letter for  
369th, and, if available,  
the serial no. of my  
plane.

Thank you,

Joseph W. Haire

P.S. although my eyesight  
is now failing me, (I  
have about  $\frac{1}{2}$  eyesight in  
right eye - none in left),  
I like the book "First  
over Germany" very much.  
Bill. H.

6 December 1990

J. W. Haire  
801 Ruth Ln  
Hurst, TX 76053

Dear Bill:

It was nice to hear from you, and I am sorry that I haven't replied earlier, but I seem up to my ears in 306th materials and have trouble fighting my way to the surface.

Your plane sounds like an interesting project.

As to information on 42-31285. It's tail letter was U, and there was no name, as you said.

The big cross stripe on the tail was yellow, and the small stripe at the top was green, for the 369th. The horizontal band represented the 40th Combat Wing and the yellow color was for the 306th.

All this design and coloration was to make the planes more easily identifiable in the air. With a thousand bombers up it was difficult to tell which plane belonged to whom.

My information shows that this plane went down 11 April 44 on a mission to Stettin, with James Opdyke as the pilot, and I know Trygve Olsen was the co-pilot that day, but was in the left seat because Capt. Opdyke was the air commander for the day.

If all this adds up you are o.k. And, this is the only G model with the last three numbers "385". The plane was come to the Group 4 January 44.

Attached is a picture of a plane in which I have indicated the color scheme.

All the best,