

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Russell A. Strong, Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Dr. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Name Stanley W. Henceroth  
Address 8917 E. Palm Tree Drive, Tucson, Az., 85710  
Telephone 602-886-9364 Date 3/14/77  
Occupation Management Consultant Employer Self  
Address 630 N. Craycroft Telephone 602-885-9338  
Tucson, Az., 85711

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th: Accepted for Cadet Training June 1942  
Appointed Aviation Cadet January 16, 1943. Nashville, Santa  
Anna, Ca., Dos Palos, Ca., Primary; Lemoore AAF, Basic;  
Douglas AAF, Advanced.  
Commissioned 8 Feb. 1944, Yuma AAF, Salt Lake City, Rapid City.  
29 June 1944 Ordered overseas from \_\_\_\_\_ Field.  
After leaving the 306th:  
Sept. 12, 1944 Shot down - MIA.  
Stalag Luft 1 until May 15, 1945.  
Convalescent leave in States.  
Left Service in October 1945  
Honorable Discharge 1955.

306th Record:

Arrival Date 2 July 1944 Squadron or other unit 367  
MOS 1091, 1024, 1022 Combat Status \_\_\_\_\_  
Missions Completed 12  
Promotions None  
Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM  
PH<sup>3</sup> Battle Stars other \_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

Other personal data:

Description of Air Missions:

(What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your role? What heroics did you witness? What events were there of which you have special knowledge?)

Air Missions 1944

- 4 Aug Rostock, Ger.
- 5 Aug Hanover, Ger.
- 7 Aug Toulouse, Fr.
- 8 Aug Caen, Fr.
- 9 Aug Augsburg, Ulm, Ger.
- 16 Aug Bohlen, Ger.
- 25 Aug Peenemunde, Ger.
- 26 Aug Oil Refinery, Gas., Ger.
- 1 Sept France
- 5 Sept. Ludwigshafen, Ger.
- 8 Sept Lugwigshafen, Ger.
- 11 Sept. Merseberg, Ger.

STAN HENCEROOTH ASSOCIATES

SUITE 204 • 630 N. CRAYCROFT RD. • (602) 885-9338 • TUCSON, ARIZONA 85711

April 6, 1977

Mr. Russell A. Strong  
Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Dr.  
Laurinburg, N.C. 28352

Dear Russ:

Thank you very much for your letter of 14 February. It was interesting to hear from you and to know what you're doing. I have read some of the things you have referred to, although I never got to read the Saturday Evening Post pieces that were about the 306. If those are ever put together and if copies are available, I sure would like to have a chance to read them.

My own career with the 306 and with the Clay Pigeons 367 Squadron was not too spectacular. We arrived there early July, flew our first mission on the 4th of August, and were shot down the 12th of September. I made a total of 12½ missions in that period. I have listed them all in the history sheet that you gave me. Indicative of my short tour of duty, we were shot down about 35 kilometers northeast of Berlin and were taken to the interrogation center at Oberursel near Frankfurt, Germany. We were given the standard interviews, incidently, on which we had been excellently briefed by Air Force intelligence. I was quizzed concerning the name of our group CO. After two days interrogation, they told me it was a Colonel Thompson. I don't remember ever having met the gentleman. I had a diary covering part of the time in PW camp, which I can't seem to find at the moment. I'll give it some more search, and if I can find it or can identify any of the other living members of the 306, I'll be delighted to pass their addresses on to you.

Very best wishes,

  
Stan Hencerooth

15 April 1977

Mr. Stan Henceroth  
Suite 204  
630 N. Craycroft Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85711

Dear Stan:

Thanks for the response. Did I send you one of my Missing Air Crew forms? If not, I enclose one.

I am particularly interested in responses to this because there is nothing in the official records that really tells anything about crews that were shot down--other than that they were. I am enclosing the Missing Air Crew report for your crew.

But I would like to know more about what happened in the plane, how you got out, and subsequent events.

I am also particularly interested in the Ruhland raid, as I was flying in the low squadron with you that day. We got back, with only a 20 mm hole in one wing tip, but it was quite a day. Also, this morning I wrapped up three days of lecturing about that particular raid to a history class at the college where I now am working.

When I was in college I wrote a narrative of my combat tour, and devoted a chapter to Sept. 12, which you may also find of some interest. A lot happened that day, and was the last time that the 306th really got clobbered. It was also one of the last fighter attacks.

Let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Name Stanley W. Henceroth Address 8917 E. Palm Tree Drive  
Tucson, AZ., 85710  
Telephone 602 886 9364

#### MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot Lewis H. White, Jr. Plane # and Name 42-38042  
Mission Date September 12, 1944 Target Ruhland  
Cause of loss: AA fire  Fighter attack  Other, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Formation was loosened by aborting plane in upper diamond.

Previously hit by flak. FW 190's hit nose destroying canopy and set electrical fire. Then they approached from rear with 20 MM fire.

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can: Large holes were shot in fuselage, radio room was on fire, ball turret was hit, making it impossible for gunner to see. Radio room was set on fire. Radio man and waist gunner exited through waist door. Ball turret gunner got out of his turret in time to see them fall free. He went to tail - found gunner dead - and jumped from tail exit. All controls were shot out except an aileron tab.

How and where did you leave plane?

I jumped out nose (side) exit following bombardier, engineer and navigator. Pilot White was last.

What happened when you got on the ground? Lit in woods near factory manned by refugees from Scheweigs-Holstein. Factory guards captured me and called for soldiers who took me to nearby town.

Did you meet any of your crew mates? In town met Pilot White, waist gunner, bombardier and navigator. Don't remember when we met radio man. Met turret gunner at end of war when I came out of wash tent at Camp Lucky Strike.

How were you treated, if captured?

Treatment O.K. Close to briefing.

Any additional details, reminiscences, letters, or documents of these events would be appreciated. If you do send such materials, I will copy them and put them back in the mail to you within 24 hours.

Russ King

would you send me your  
story 9 Sept 12 -

14 February 1977

Mr. Stanley Henceroth  
8917 E. Palm Tree Dr.  
Tucson, AZ 85710

Dear Stan:

In my continuing research on the 306th, I find that my copy Special Order 196, 26 July 1944, is unreadable. This is the order which put you into the 367th on your arrival at Thurlough. Can you supply me with a copy? If you do not have a copier available, send me the materials and I will copy it and return it on the day of receipt.

This order is important as one of those which helps me establish just who did serve with the 306th, and some of the names are completely illegible on my copy, which came off microfilm from the Air University.

I am also enclosing my general information form, which I hope you will complete.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

STAN HENCEROOTH  
8917 E. PALM TREE DR.  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85710

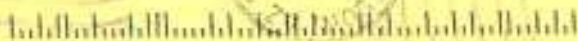
TUCSON AZ GMF 85726 DCR#2 08029



Russell A. Strong, Secretary  
306th Bomb Group Association  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205



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Name: STANLEY W. HENCERTH

Cadet class: 44B

Place of graduation:

Douglas, Arizona AAF

Number of combat missions:

12 1/2

Wife's first name:

ELIZABETH (BETTY)

Other 306th men whom I know graduated with me:

NONE

