

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

Name JOE HOFFMAN SER # 37341075
 Address 855 W. STANFORD AVE.
ENGLEWOOD, COLO. 80110
 Telephone 303/781-6350 Date 7-31-77
 Occupation Q. C. INSPECTOR Employer ACCU TOOL INC.
 Address 4675 SO WINDERMERE Telephone 303/761-0135
ENGLEWOOD, COLO 80110

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th: WENT THRU A & E SCHOOL
AT AMARILLO, TEXAS 1943 - AREAL GUNNERS
SCHOOL AT KINGMAN ARIZ MAR OF 1944
OTU AT PYOTE TEX, APR. 1944 PICK-UP NEW B-17G
AT KEARNEY, NEB, JUNE - 1944 & DEL. TO BELFAST IRELAND
 After leaving the 306th: WENT THRU WASH ENGLAND &
JOINED 306TH IN JULY 16, 1944
RETURNED TO STATES FROM SOUTH HAMPTON
ENGLAND MAR 1945 BY BOAT, JOINED
FAMILY ON REST LEAVE, THEN LA JUNTA AIR BASE, COLO
LINE SGT. ON B-24'S THEN SUPPLY AT YUMA AFB, YUMA, ARIZ.
DISCHARGED AT SAN BERNARD, CALIF. ~~SEPT~~ 1945.
 306th Record: SEPT. 30 1945.

Arrival Date JULY 1944 Squadron or other unit 368TH ERGER BEVER

MOS ENGINEER (248) GUNNER Combat Status FLYING

Missions Completed 30

Promotions T/SGT.

Decorations 1 AM 50lcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM
NORTHERN FRANCE, ARDENNES, RAHMLAND,
PH Battle Stars other

SHOT DOWN GERMAN FW-190 TYPE AIRCRAFT ON 12 OF
SEPT. 1944 OVER BERLIN GERMANY. TARGET WAS TO BE
RUHLAND GERMANY. BUT LEAD NAVIGATOR OF 368TH (OVER)

SQUADRON LOST 12 SHIP FORMATION 368 SQDN OF 306TH
BOMB GRP. OVER BERLIN. FIRST WAVE OF FW'S (6) GOT THE CENTER
BOX "6" B17'S 2 SHIPS LOW ELEMENT WIPED OUT SECOND WAVE.
WE WERE LEAD SHIP. HIGH ELEMENT. WE LOST LEFT WINGMAN
& WE WERE HIT BAD IN RADIO ROOM & RIGHT TIRE
GONE MADE IT ACROSS FRANCE "ON THE DECK" "2" ENGINES
LEFT & LOST #3 OVER THE CHANNEL, MADE IT OVER
WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVE & CRASHED AT EMGR.
FIELD PLANE CAUGHT FIRE ON LANDING & BURNT
TOTAL THE SER # 633 NOT FOR SURE.

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?)

WELL I THINK I COULD SAY THE
HIGHLIGHT OF OUR TOUR WAS THE RUHRLAND
MISSION, & LATE SEPT ON TAKE-OFF
FOR MERSIEBURG 368TH WAS IN TAKE-
OFF POSITION. NO 1 SHIP CLEARED INTO
TAKE-OFF POSITION TO WEST, WE WERE
NO 2 WAITING FOR NO 1 TO CLEAR. TOWER
FIRED FLARES FOR NO 1 TO TAKE OFF. WE
STARTED TO MOVE ONTO RUN WAY. FOR
TAKE OFF LOST BRAKES & WERE GOING
TO HIT NO 1 HE WAS SLOW ON THE ROLL
PILOT LEON A. RISK ADDED POWER ON # 3 & 4
ENGINES, BUT TO LATE, TO CLEAR SHIP.

BOTH AIRCRAFT FULL FUEL LOAD, & BOMB
LOAD. NO 3 & 4 ENGINES CHEWED ITS WAY
UP TO RADIO ROOM ON NO 1 SHIP
BOTH AIRCRAFT DESTROYED. ALL CREW MEMBERS
GOT OUT SAFE, WITH MINOR INJURIES. NO
FIRE. AIRCRAFT # 423 (NOT SURE) AFTER THIS
WE WERE FLYING LEAD MICKEY SHIP,
FOR 368 SQD SEPT. 1944 TO REPLACE
THE ONES ON MISSION OF SEPT 13, 1944.

OTHER THINGS SEEN, (2) B17'S COLLIDE OVER
THURLEIGH (2) CROUPS RAN TOGETHER IN FOG OVER
FIELD. HELPED CLEAN UP MESS. I THINK THEY WERE FROM
303 BMD GRP. FLEW MEAT & EGG RUN IN THE B-17
STRIPPED OF GUNS & TURRETS, TO IRELAND, BEEFAST,
BALL TURRET GUNNER CHARGED GUNS B. 4. MISSION &
HAD MISS FIRE & KILLED PILOT IN PARKING AREA.

Add additional pages, if necessary

306 BOMBARDMENT GROUP 368 SQ
OPERATIONAL SORTIE RECORD

CREW:

L.A. RISK PILOT SOUTH GATE, CALIF.
 GEORGE W. PURNELL CO-PILOT WITCHA, KANS.
 F.M. SEIFORD NAVIGATOR UNKNOWN
 J.W. JOHNSON BOMBARDIER UNKNOWN
 JOE HOFFMAN ENGINEER GUNNER 855W, STANFORD
 RADIO OPERATOR ENGLEWOOD, COLO.
 MAX D. HOUSTAN WAIST. CHICAGO, ILL.
 R.A. COOPER AMOR-GUNNER HOUSTON, TEX.
 R.A. RUSO BALL-TURRET. GUNNER. NEW JERSEY
 W.H. CARRASCO TAIL GUNNER. CALIF.

DATE OF MISSION	GROUP MISSION NUMBER	INDIV. MISSION NUMBER	GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF TARGETS	TIME	TOTAL COMBAT TIME
AUG 26, 1944	221	1	GERMANY GELSENKIRCHEN	7:15	7:15
30	223	2	KIEL GERMANY	8:00	15:15
SEPT 1, 1944		A BORTATED.		6:20	21:35
3 1944	224	3	LUDWIGSHAVEN GERMANY	8:25	30:00
5 1944	225	4	LUDWIGSHAVEN GERMANY	7:50	37:50
11 1944	228	5	EISENACH, GERMANY	8:30	46:20
12 1944	229	6	RUHLAND "	10:00	56:20
13 1944	230	7	MERSEBURG "	8:15	64:35
19 1944	232	8	UNNA, "	8:30	73:05
22 1944	233	9	KASSEL "	7:30	80:35
28 1944	236	10	MADGENBURG, "	8:40	89:15
30		FLEW WEATHER		4:30	93:45
OCT 6 1944	241	11	STRALSUND "	10:00	103:45
7 1944		AIR SEA RESCUE		6:00	109:45
15 1944	245	12	KOLN "	5:30	115:15
NOV 6 1944	255	13	HAMBURG, "	7:45	123:00
8 1944		A BORTATED.		5:15	128:15

DATE OF MISSION	GROUP MISSION NUMBER	INDIV. MISSION NUMBER	GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF TARGETS	TIME	TOTAL COMBAT TIME
NOV 26 1944	260	14	MISBURG GERMANY	7:40	135:55
DEC 2 1944	263	15	OBERLAHNSTEINCA.	7:30	143:45
6 1944	265	16	MERSEBURG "	8:45	152:30
11 1944	267	17	FRANKFURT "	9:00	161:30
12 1944	268	18	MERSEBURG "	9:20	170:50
18 1944	270	19	KAISERSLAUT "	6:50	177:40
24 1944	271	20	GIESSEN "	10:00	187:40
JAN 1 1945	275	21	KASSEL "	10:15	197:55
2 1945	276	22	KYLIBURG "	6:00	203:55
3 1945	277	23	HERMUCHEM "	7:30	211:25
14 1945	283	24	KOLN "	8:00	219:25
17 1945	285	25	BIELEFELD "	8:00	227:25
28 1945	288	26	KOLN "	5:45	233:10
FEB 6 1945	292	27	FULDA "	10:30	243:40
16 1945	296	28	DORTMUND "	8:15	251:55
17 1945	ABORTED			5:45	257:40
19 1945	297	29	BOCHUM	6:30	264:10
20 1945	ABORTED			4:55	269:05
21 1945	299	30	NURNBERG "	8:10	277:15

NOTE: HAVE LOST CONTACT WITH CREW SINCE 1949, PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU HAVE ANY RECORD OF THEM; I HAVE T.O. AND 1-20EF-1 PILOTS FLIGHT OPERATING MANUAL ON B-17F & B-17G & ALL TECH. MANUAL'S ON THIS AIRCRAFT.

1-5-79
Englewood, Colo.

Dear Bill

You have helped locate
my Co-Pilot George W. Purnell
& Tail Gunner Bill Carrasco,
which I am well pleased for
the job. You people are
doing thru the 306TH
Echoes. I know the time
& money your people are putting
into this program, which means
a lot to flyers of 306TH
anything I can do to help,
let me know. We are the
old timers, that are pushed
aside for the new generation.
I can't help but think that even
they could learn a few things
from what we have done.

Thanks again
as always.

Joe Hoffman
755 W. Stanford Ave.
Englewood, Colo. 80110.

Jan 23, 1978
Englewood, Colorado

Dear Bill:

Received the 306 ECHOES PAPER
today, enjoy it very much. Please
change my name from the list
it is listed as HOFFMAN, ROBERT G.
OF ENGLEWOOD, CA, WHICH IS IN
ERROR. THE CORRECT ADDRESS
IS JOE HOFFMAN
855 W. STANFORD AVE.
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110

I was with the 368TH EAGER BEAVERS
SQD. ENGINEER GUNNER ON LEON A.
RISK CREW. I HAVE LOST CONTACT
OF THE CREW. BY CHANCE COULD YOU
HAVE ANY INFO. OF THIS CREW.
THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL THE HELP
I KNOW YOU GUY'S ARE DOING
A WONDER FULL JOB.

Joe Hoffman

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RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to
Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval
Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

Date complete 10-1-89

LAST NAME: HOFFMAN FIRST NAME: JOSEPH TITLE: FLIGHT ENGINEER
Street address: 755 W. STANFORD AVE Telephone: (303) 781-6350
City, state, zip: ENGLEWOOD, COLO 80110

Date of Birth: AUG 5, 1923 Wife's name: CHARLENE
College(s) attended: NO Degree(s): NO Year(s): ---
Last employment and job title: QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

Reunions attended: (by year or location) COLO STRCS COLO, 19485
OMAHA, NEB, 83, LAS VEGAS, 88, LITTLE
ROCK 89,

Serial #: 37341075 Squadron: 368TH Speciality:

Date joined 306th: JULY 1944 If combat, what crew: LEON RISK

Special duties or assignments w/306th: FLIGHT ENGINEER,
LEAD CREW.

Number of missions flown: 30 Date of last mission: FEB 21, 1945

Date left 306th: FEB 1945 Highest rank/grade with 306th: T/SGT,

Other 8th AF units served with: NONE

Top service assignments after 306th:

USAF retirement date: OCT 12, 1945 Rank/grade: T/SGT,

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units, will be welcomed by the secretary.

If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search further for them.

7/27/96

Dear Sir:

I would like mission
report for

1 - SEPT 12, 1944 GROUP MISSION
229
RUHLAND.

2 - DEC 12, 1944 GROUP MISSION 268
MERSEBURG

3 - JAN 14, 1945 GROUP MISSION 283
KOLN

also please send

368TH combat Diary

17.00 combat Diary

5:00 MISSION REPORTS,

Thanks very much
& I am sure I
will enjoy them.

Yours

Joe Koffman