

Los Altos, Calif.

Nov. 5, 1971

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Russ:

I think I can help with your search for 306 Bomb Group information. I have some old photos and my 201 file. A quick glance showed that I have some early orders, such as:

Wendover Field #4

306 Bomb Group #2

367 Squadron #1

I also have a roster of the flying component of the Air Echelon dated 8/13/42.

I will go through my file and let you know what else I find.

Yours truly,

Ray

Ray V. Schipper
Col. USAF Ret.

1325 Montclair Way
Los Altos,
Calif. 94022

Los Altos, Calif
Oct. 21, 1941

Dear Mr. Stroy:

I read about your preparing a directory of certain 8th Air Force officers in the Air Force magazine. There is my affiliation with the Eighth.

I was part of the original cadre that formed the 306th Bomb Group in Henderson, Utah in April, 1942. In fact, (then) Col. Le May was exec. officer to Col. Chip Overaker.

I went overseas with the 306th as Group Communications Officer - and stayed with them in Thurleigh until December, 1944 when I was transferred to 8th Bomber Command (later 8th Air Force) Headquarters at Pinetree in High Wycombe as Communications Operations Officer.

In 1945 I was promoted to Lt. Col. and Executive Officer to Col. Sullivan, Director of Communications, 8th Air Force.

I have retained my 201 file and may be able to provide certain information from the orders contained. It's good to know the 306th & 8th are not forgotten.

MR. & MRS. RAY V. HOPPER
1325 MONTCLAIRE WAY
LOS ALTOS, CALIF. 94022

Yours truly,
Ray V. Hopper
Col. USAF Ret.

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - U. S. EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong 2041 Hillsdale Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Name RAY V. HOPPER
Address 1325 MONTCLAIRE WAY, LOS ALTOS, CALIF. 94022
Home Phone 415-961-1689 Date Nov. 4, 1981
Occupation RETIRED Employer _____
Address _____ Bus. Phone _____

Service Record:

Serial No(s): 0-440684

Before joining 306th:

Air Corps Cadet at Scott Field, Ill.

After leaving 306th:

Bomber
Headquarters VIII ~~Fighter~~ Command which later became VIII Air
Force - located at High Wycombe, England.

306th Record:

Arrival date at Thurleigh Sept 5 or 6, 1942

Squadron or other unit 367th Sqdn. then Hq. 306th Bomb Gp.

MOS# 0200 Specialty Communications (airborne & ground)

Missions completed (and date of last) —

Promotions up to Lt. Col. while at VIII Air Force Headquarters (6/1/44)

Decorations: AM olcs DFC olcs SS LM SM PH DSC MH

On unusual DFCs, Silver Star and other medals I would appreciate receiving copies of the citations and an account of other details about the incident involving the award.

(OTHER INFORMATION): On the back of this sheet I would appreciate receiving any other information about your service with the 306th, or about incidents or people with whom you were associated.

I would also like the opportunity to inspect any pictures or other special materials which you may have in your possession relating to the 306th. Copies of Special Orders issued by any of the units at Thurleigh are especially helpful.

16 September 1982

Dear Ray:

Thanks for returning the card. Now I'd like to ask one more thing of you.

Do you have your 201 file? I am interested, if you do, in any -orders you may in that from your days with VIII AF organizations other than the 306th.

I am looking for names of other officers in the 8th with the rank of lieutenant colonel or higher.

If you could send me copies of such orders it would be most helpful.

This is something akin to looking for needles in haystacks, I find, but it is fun and I've had some interesting contacts with people.

Thanks in advance for anything you may be able to do for me in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong