

July 14th

Bill,

CONTACTING YOU AGAIN ABOUT ADDRESSES
FOR LARRY FOSTER, CREW CHIEF OF FIGHTIN-BITIN'S
"HOW SOON", A/C 42-97297, PILOT BOB E. WOODS,
COPILOT JOHN S. McDONALD.

A/C RETURNED TO BASE WITH ENGINES
#2(?), #3, #4 FEATHERED, ORANJENBURG
MISSION ~~4 OCT. 4~~ 10 APRIL 45. HIS WAS
115TH MISSION FOR "HOW SOON".

PLAN ON HAVING A PAINTING DONE
OF "HOW SOON" AND NEED ACCURATE INFO
ON WHICH 3 ENGINES WERE FEATHERED,
DID A/C BELT IN OR MAKE WHEELS
DOWN LANDING, DAMAGE TO A/C OTHER
THAN ENGINES, NOSE ART.

THANKS AGAIN,

- DOUG

DOUG HUBERT
19412-40th AVE. W. #108
LYNNWOOD, WA. 98036

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27 July 1986

Mr. Doug Hubert
19412 40th Ave. W, #108
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Dear Doug:

In response to your letter of July 14, the address for Lawrence Foster is Rt. 1, East Palestine, OH, 44413.

We do not have Bob Woods or John McDonald on our 306th roster at the present time.

As to your inquiry concerning How Soon, I can only quote ~~these reports~~:

- 1) Intelligence Summary: Our A/C 297-N, pilot Woods, hit by flak at Wittenberge, jettisoned bombs at 1458 hours, made base safely on three engines.
- 2) 369th Squadron History: Lt. Woods A/C was hit by flak, lost two engines, and suffered reduced power and came back to base on two engines. The pilot received a slight hand injury from flak, and the co-pilot, Lt. McDonald, had a large hole torn in his helmet but escaped unscratched. Lt. Woods received the Purple Heart and has been recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross.
- 3) Crew Interrogation Report: Had jettisoned bombs at I.P. Dropped B.T., flak suits, ammunition, flying clothing, etc. (goggles, gloves, etc.) B-10 jacket cut open by flak... Heard two-four explosions, put on flak helmets, got hit in cockpit. #2 started burning, feathered #2, #1 was out, #3 engine out, #4 o.k. Ordered crew to put on parachutes. Turned left out of formation. Pilot dazed--lack of oxygen--copilot took over. Engineer put walkaround bottle in pilot's lap. Lost about 10,000 feet--#4 was going--called Baker leader and asked for fighters. Got eight fighters 20 minutes later. At 15000 feet #4 came up to 26"--making 130 mph losing 200'/min at 12000 feet. Instruments were out. Altimeter and air speed were working, the rest out. Cruised home 125-130 mph, barely holding altitude. Had 7500 feet going along route to make emergency landing if necessary. Crossed channel at narrow section. 7000 feet English coast (Folkestowe) 1910. Fired color of the day. Back to base at 2020. Flat tire on landing. "

It would appear from this that they came in with two engines working and made a wheels down landing. No other damage was cited in the reports which I have.

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I would be sure that they came in on two engines because of their reports of being able to hold about 7000'. On one engine they would have had to descend much further than that.

Enclosed is a xerox copy of the only picture I have of How Soon? The nose art certainly isn't very distinctive. One hopes it was better on the other side. The good artists must all have gone to prison camp by the time this came along.

How Soon? arrived at the 306th on 5 May 44 and was transferred to the 92nd Bomb Group on 9 May 1945.

That's Lawrence Foster on the left in the picture, and he doesn't know the man on the right, at this time.

Sorry I can't give you more data, but that seems to be the extent of my records on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong
Historian