

Erik Jensen
Lungstedvangen 60
5250 Odense S.V.
Danmark Europa.

Mr. William Collins
2973 Heatherbrae Drive,
Youngstown, OH44514 USA.

I have from Birger Hansen København your adr., and take this chance to ask you fore some information about a B 17 from 306 BG. lost on the island of Samsø in Kattegat, 9 ocktober 1943. from 8th AAF Station 111 Thurligh Bedfordshire England, Crash on Samsø in the town of Alstrup. Boeing B 17 lo DL 42-37718 306 BG H 368 BS. BO. Pilot and crew:

1st Lt. Roy C. Ranck Jr.	o-742897	Pilot
2nd Lt. Carl A. Groesbeck	o739091	Navigator.
2nd Lt. Miles C. McCormack	o-800378	Co-Pilot
2nd LT. William C. Hewitt	o-674768	Bombardier.
T/Sgt William J. Skahan	17057822	Radio Operator.
S/Sgt William D. Barton	36331845	Tail Gunner
S/Sgt Fred H. Nabors	18051328	Left Waist Gunner
S/Sgt Harry A. Hall	39839526	Top Turret Gunner.
Sgt Henry J. Kozier:	13170522	Ball Turret Gunner.
Sgt Douglas R. Farris	18130249	Right Waist Gunner.

The a/c have been in my resarch fore some time, othervis I live on the island Fyn, wherw I am resarching the history of lost all a/c from 2nd WW.

In the small town af Tranebjerg on Samsø live an old mand wondering about somting happend to the 9 okt. 1943, hes name is Anders Larsen and he is Taylor in the town. On the day he made contactt to Tail Gunner S/Sgt William D. Barton, when he landed in hes Parachute. Anders Larsen toke William with him on hes bic to a farm where they got together with 3 other airmen one of them posibel the Pilot (I have a foto from the day if interestet) from there on Anders Larsen toke William on hes bic to Onsbjerg hotel where the airmen got somthing to eat before

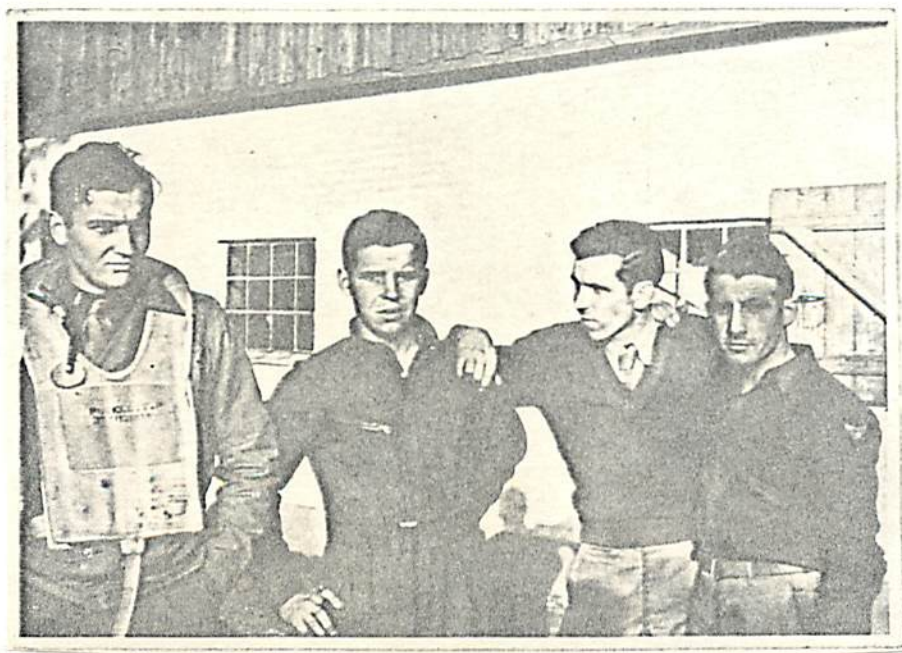
hiding in the hills west of the town, where they were in contact with Danes every day supplying them with food. On a day the Germans were going to take the Danes as hostages to be shot to death if the 4 Americans didn't come forward (including Anders Larsen) so the 4 men gave themselves up. Before William and Anders said farewell in Omsberg William gave Anders his identification mark and his Catholic cross and some money he had in his pocket. Anders didn't know what to do with it, so he has kept it for all those years (he is not at all familiar with English) when I in August 1988 visited Anders Larsen I told him that I am thinking that William asks Anders to send the 2 things to his young wife Mrs. Audrey E. Barton 724 South Taylor Avenue, Oak Park Illinois. It is William Barton nr. 2 from the left.

I am looking forward to hearing from you anything about Barton.

Yours very truly

Erik Jensen.

Erik Jensen





367th, 368th, 369th, 423rd Squadrons, and service organizations
Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England – September 1942-April 1945

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

Secretary/Historian

Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205
704/568-0153

27 January 1990

To: Roy Ranck
William Barton

From: Russ Strong

Re: Letter from Denmark

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which has recently come to the attention of the Association concerning your aircraft and its last mission.

I would hope that both of you might be of a mind to respond to the man. I am sure that he has a lot of question he would like to ask of you.

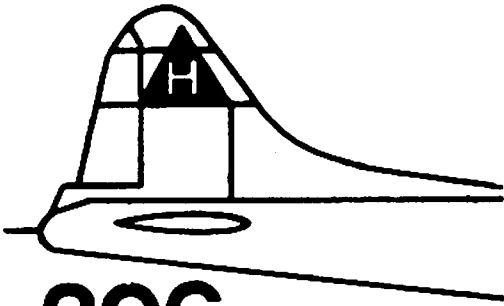
All the best

Author

First Over Germany
Command and Staff
Officers, 8th Air
Force, 1942-45

Editor

306th Echoes
306th Directory



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To: Carl Groesbeck
Miles McCormack
William Skahan
Henry Kozier

From: Russ Strong

Re: Letter from a Danish citizen

Attached is a copy of a letter from Eric Jensen of Denmark who is trying to do so research on downed aircraft in his area of WWII vintage. That includes your plane.

Copies of the letter have already gone to Roy Ranck and William Barton.

I would urge that you respond to this man also, as it will be of great help to him, and you will probably learn more about what went on around you on that day in 1943.

All the best,

@% January 1990

Erik Jensen
Lungstedvangen 60
5250 Odense, S. V.
Denmark

Dear Sir:

Your recent letter to this Association has come to my attention, and I have forwarded copies of it to both Roy Ranck and William Barton.

In that letter I urged each of them to respond to you as I was sure you would have questions for them to answer.

I hope that you will be hearing from each of them in the next several weeks. If, after about three months, you have heard nothing, you might forward your questions to me so that I can work further with them on answers.

I trust that you will be successful in your project.

I also have addresses for Groesbeck, McCormak, Skahan and Kozier, and will forward copies of your letter to them, as well. In that way you will surely hear from more than one of the men.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong