

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, 4900 Appleridge Ct., Dayton, Ohio 45424

I am endeavoring to put together a good history of the 306th Bombardment group, an idea which has been in my mind for some years. I am working diligently on the matter, collecting all kinds of data and working through the official history and records of the group. I served as a navigator with the 367th squadron from June through November, 1944, and currently am director of news and information services at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. I solicit your assistance in my project.

I am interested in any special materials which you may have, such as good photographs of personnel, battle damage, plane insignia, etc. I am also interested in commendations (other than the usual Air Medal and DFC) you may have received, special stories which you may have in your possession, letters that are highly descriptive of combat action, or any other documents. I would appreciate receiving xeroxed copies. But, if you do not have such facilities readily available, I would appreciate the loan of materials which I might copy and return to you immediately. I am also interested in manuscripts of memoirs which you may have prepared, particularly if they were done within a couple of years of the events. Again, I would appreciate copies or the opportunity to copy them.

Name AUGUST J. KRAJCIK

Address RT. 3 BOX 254 COLUMBIA SOUTH CAROLINA

Telephone 788-1880 Date 10-17-75

Occupation PARK RANGER Employer S.C. DEPT. OF PARKS REC. + TOURISM

Address RT. 3 BOX 254 Telephone 788-1880
COLUMBIA S.C.

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

SUBMARINE PATROL OUT OF WESTOVER FIELD MASS.

After leaving the 306th:

MOVED BACK TO STATESIDE - TOOK EXAM. FOR FLIGHT TRN.
FAILED EYE EXAM. WAS TRANS. TO A-20 SQDN. CO 6A S.C. THEN TO
CHARLOTTE N.C. MADE 6 MISSIONS INCLUDING "CORRIE DOR ISLAND."
WITH THE 5TH AIR FORCE

306th Record:

Arrival Date 9-12-42 Squadron or other unit 368

MOS 312 Combat Status B-17 TAIL GUN.

Missions Completed 25 IN E.T.O. 6 IN A.T.O.

Promotions PVT. SGT. T/SGT.

Decorations 1 AM 3 olcs 1 DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH Battle Stars 2 other

(OVER)

Other personal data:

JOINED V.F.W. WENT THROUGH CHAIRS, MADE COMMANDER OF POST 1307 ELLIN ILL. IN 1959. WAS MADE LIFE MEMBER 1959 MOVED TO SO. CAROLINA, 5-29-67. PRESENTLY, PARK RANGER.

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?)

#1 MAJ. LANGDON LED 1ST MISSION OUR CREW MADE. THE TARGET WAS OVERCAST. HE COMMENCED LOOKING FOR OPENING IN CLOUD COVER. HE WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANOTHER TARGET SO HE TURNED FOR HOME. OUR SHIP WAS LOSING POWER, WE FELL BACK SEVERAL MILES. BY THIS TIME ENEMY FIGHTERS CONCENTRATED ON OUR SHIP. J. REGAN (PILOT) ZIGGED AT THE PROPER TIMES. AND SOME HOW WE MADE IT BACK.

#2 WE HAD 2 ABORTIVE MISSIONS IN A ROW - ONE CREW MEMBER CHICKENED OUT. J. R. SAID - ON THE NEXT ONE OUT - "NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP US FROM NOW ON. THE NEXT ONE WAS TO ST. NAZARRE (SUB. PENS.) I WAS TAIL GUN. ONE HOUR OUT I REPORTED SMOKE FROM #3 ENGINE. PILOT SAID GAGES SHOW NOTHING WRONG BUT KEEP ME POSTED, I KEPT HIM INFORMED UP TO THE TARGET. WHEN OUR BOMBARDIER TRIED THE BOMBAY DOORS THEY WOULD NOT OPEN FOR LACK OF HYD. FLUID. ENG. CRANKED DOORS OPEN JUST IN TIME FOR DROP. BUT AT THIS TIME THE #3 RAN AWAY THIS SET UP A TERRIFIC VIBRATION THRU. THE ENTIRE SHIP. THEN SHE NOSED DOWN INTO A STEEP DIVE. AFTER FALLING APPROX. 10,000 FT. THE ENGINE WAS FALLING APART, W/PARTS FLYING PAST MY WINDOW, ANOTHER FOUR THOUSAND FT. OF FALLING THE CRANKSHAFT BROKE STOPPING THE PROP. JOHN + COPILOT JANKOWSKI WERE ABLE TO FLATTEN OUT JUST ABOVE THE TREE TOPS. WE BUZZED THE FRENCH COUNTRY SIDE TILL WE GOT OVER THE CHANNEL, THEN THE ENG. SALVOD THE BOMB LOAD. WHEN THE BOMBS EXPLODED IN THE WATER THE FORCE PUSHED THE SHIP UP ENOUGH TO CLEAR THE DOVER CLIFFS. WE LANDED ON THE 1ST FIELD THAT CAME INTO VIEW. THE PLANE WAS A TOTAL LOSS. THE VIBRATION CAUSED BY THE RUNAWAY ENGINE SHOOK HER INSIDES LOOSE.

HE GOT
APR ECHOES

MR AUGUST J KRAJCIK
RT 3 BOX 254
COLUMBIA, SC 29206

S

new address after 15th June
RT 1 Box 145-P
Gilbert S.C.
29054
(as in Peter)

MAY '81

RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1305 HARDEN STREET
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29201

RCHD-AD

(date)

TO:

Dear Mr . _____

It is the policy of the Crippled Children's Program for a Re-Evaluation application to be made every three (3) years or anytime there is a