

RECORDS UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish to, fold and mail as per address on reverse side. Or, if obtained at a reunion, hand to Russ Strong)

LAST NAME: LANGLEY FIRST NAME: CLIFFORD TITLE:
STREET ADDRESS: 5 REDBUD LANE TELEPHONE: () -
CITY: WINCHESTER STATE: Ky. ZIP: 40391
DATE JOINED 306th ASSOCIATION: AUGUST 1986
REUNIONS ATTENDED: (Years) 1986 + 1987
WIFE'S NAME: SHIRLEY
LAST EMPLOYMENT: THE ALLEN CO.
COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED: UNIV. OF LOUISVILLE DEGREE(S): — DATE: —

SERIAL #: 35038945 SQDN: 369TH MOS:
DATE ARR: SEPT 1942 CREW: RIOR DAN
DATE DEPARTED: DEC 12, 1942 HIGHEST RANK IN 306th: STAFF SGT
SERVICE RETIREMENT DATE: 1945 RANK or GRADE: T/SGT
DECORATIONS WITH 306TH: PURPLE HEART, AIR MEDAL
TOP SERVICE ASSIGNMENT AFTER 306TH: GUNNERY INSTRUCTOR, AFTAC
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS WITH 306TH: TAIL GUNNER ORLANDO, FL.

QUESTIONNAIRE

CATERPILLAR CLUB - IRVING CHUTE COMPANY

NAME:

COMBAT JUMP DATE & MISSION:

HEIGHT WHEN BAILED OUT:

ANY PROBLEMS WITH PARACHUTE:

306th Bombardment Group. SQDN:

C R LANGLEY
RED BUD LANE
WINCHESTER, KY 40391

BA

Winchester, Ky
Aug. 13, 1986

Dear Russell

I was delighted to get your letter and rest assured I'll make plans to be at Dayton next year. This is the first I'd heard of the 306th Assoc. and my contacts with any of the old gang have been very few and far between.

Was especially happy and appreciative that my old friend, Alf Hansen, remembered me and wanted to locate me. Please send me his address. I'd like very much to contact him. Also, if possible, I would very much like to have the latest 306th directory and "Echoes."

Don't know whether Alf told you or not, but I'm one of the old men of the Squadron and am now 73 year old - Still "hard and hearty" - Haven't retired yet but will probably do so within the next year or so.

Thank you so much for going to all the trouble in locating me. I appreciate it and am looking forward to hearing from you and meeting you. The Best, C R Langley

To CLIFF LANGLEY

6 August 1986

Dear Cliff:

At the instance of one, Leif Hansen, I asked a 306th friend in the VA to see if they could locate you, and he called me yesterday to tell me that they indeed had an address.

That is the occasion for this letter, and to let you know that there are a couple thousand former 306th men who are on the mailing list, receive four issues of 306th Echoes each year, get a new directory every other year, and a goodly number come annually to reunions around the country.

We are gathering this year, about 500 of us, at Dayton Ohio, Sept. 10-12. Next year it will be in Washington, DC.

Now, the real hooker is that you must respond to me with a valid address. I cannot get an address from the VA, but they did forward this letter. Please reply in the enclosed envelope with your current address and you will hear from me again promptly with some literature.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

All the best,

CLIFFORD LANGLEY

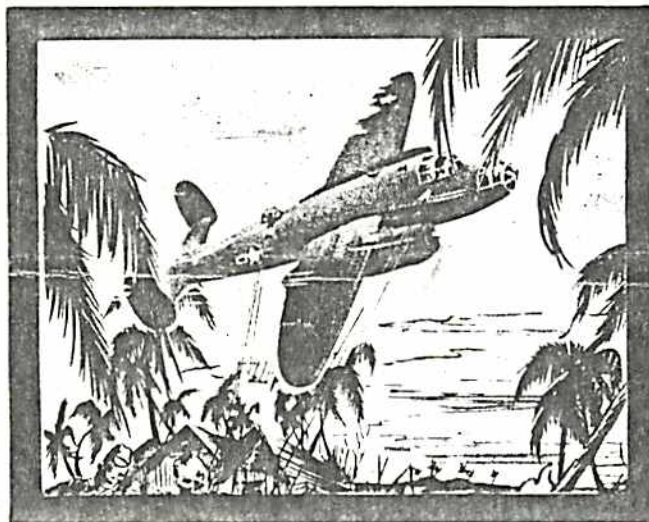
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A · A · F · S · A · T RESTRICTED

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS



NUMBER
TWENTY

DECEMBER
1943



M-9500

RESTRICTED

THE GUNNER REFUSES TO DIE

Sgt. Clifford R. Langley, 30-year-old B-17 tail gunner, was wounded four times during a bombing mission over Occupied France. The story of his determination to live and fight is the high spot of his service with the 369th Squadron of the 306th Bomb Group over Western Europe from September 3, 1942, to April 1, 1943. He holds the Air Medal and the Purple Heart. He is now a gunnery instructor in this Command.

THE WAHOO-LIMPS HOME

Bleeding profusely from machine gun and cannon wounds, I knew I would run the additional risk of freezing to death if I disconnected the heating cord from my flying suit. But I had a hunch. I disconnected the cord—

and that possibly saved my life.

(Actually - I was trying to get my leg more comfortable)

The story begins in the afternoon of December 12, 1942. I was the tail gunner in the Wahoo, one of 18 B-17s in our element of a 70-plane formation sent out to bomb France. Our primary target was Romille-sur-Seine, the secondary was Havre and the third alternate was Rouen. We found heavy cloud cover over the primary, so turned west to get Havre. As we flew toward the coast, we were picked up by about 18 FW-190s, apparently based near Paris. These German planes harried us to Havre and then, when we had to shift to our third target because of bad weather, followed us to Rouen.

We dropped on the marshaling yards at Rouen. Between the heavy flak and the Focke-Wulfs, the opposition was tough. We made two runs over the target, during which time we were being hit constantly by flak and fighter fire. Wahoo gunners knocked down four planes; one of those, I got.

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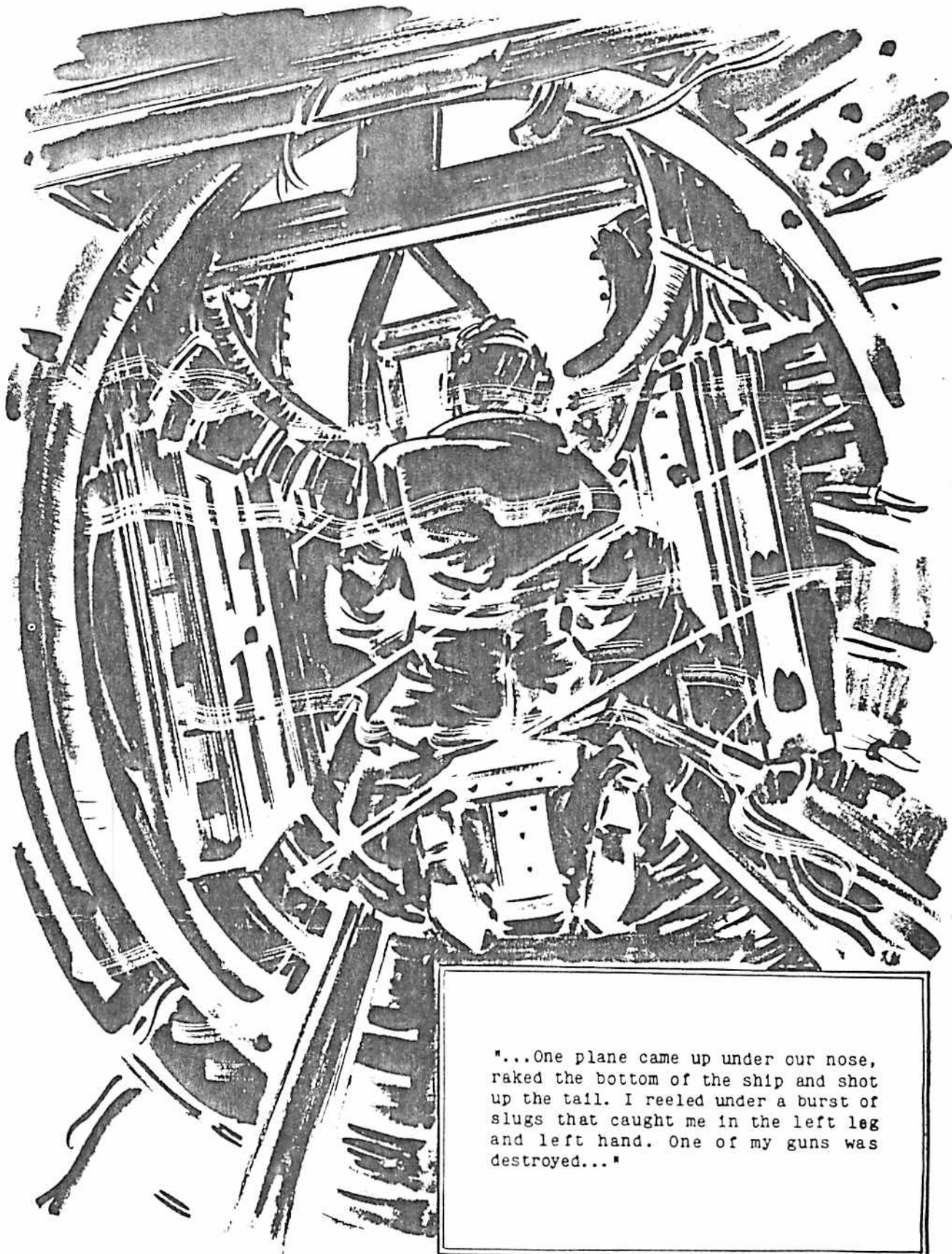
During the first run the German fighters came in from all angles, with the heaviest attack from the lower front. My guns were going full blast. One plane came up under our nose, raked the bottom of the ship and shot up the tail. I reeled under a burst of slugs that caught me in the left leg and left hand. One of my guns was destroyed.

Another plane put a 20-mm. cannon shot through the tail, but on his second pass I caught him dead in the sights and sent him spinning to earth.

On the second run, several planes hit the tail simultaneously and I was Head Wound clipped in the head and left wrist. I was no longer Added to Other able to operate the one gun I had left. The wounds in Injuries my leg and arm made it difficult to fight, and the blow in the head made me too dizzy to follow combat.

I could hear the engines missing, and knew we were limping badly. A 20-mm. cannon shell burst through the bomb bay, and the Wahoo shuddered heavily. Most of the tail was shot away. All our bombs being away, we headed for home, far out of formation, easy prey to attacking fighters.

How we got home alive, I'll never know. I was in a daze, desperately fighting the temptation to slip off into a comfortable, warm coma—I knew that would mean curtains. Without analyzing the action much, I disconnected the heating cord from my suit. The frigid cold made my wounds ache, but I thought that I was bleeding less. Medical officers later told me that turning off the heat, so that the icy wind helped coagulate the blood in my wounds, possibly saved my life.



"...One plane came up under our nose, raked the bottom of the ship and shot up the tail. I reeled under a burst of slugs that caught me in the left leg and left hand. One of my guns was destroyed..."

'92 Directory Is Coming (from page 1)

pounded by the explosion of FAX machines and other devices demanding many more phone numbers in metropolitan areas.

So, both of these essential services have been playing "upset the fruit basket," and it raises hob with everyone, especially mailers and list keepers.

New Directory Due

Our 1992 directory should come out in May, and we need your help!

The Postal Service has been good about sending us changed numbers, but we need more data from many of you.

We also need to have you check your listing in the 1990 directory and to let the editor know what you need changed.

If we don't hear from you we must assume that the data we have is correct as far as your directory entry is concerned.

Check the form below:

Name CLIFFORD R. LANGLEY

Address 5 REDBUD LANE

City, State and Zip Code WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY - 40391-2430

Telephone #, with the correct area code 606-744-2529

Can you give us the four-number addition to your zip code? (Look on one of your utility bills for this, if you can't remember it).

On that street address, please designate whether it is St., Ave., Blvd., Road, etc. Rural routes AND box numbers need to be spelled out. In the alpha listing of the Directory, be sure your unit designation is correct. That's the one that counts. (If you were placed in the wrong listing under organizations, don't worry about it. We plan to get it right this time.)

Other data we will store away for possible later use:

Wife's first name SHIRLEY

Your birthdate 3-27-13

Social Security # 401-09-7459

Retirement date/place of employment/job title 1985 THE ALLEN CO.

(ROAD BUILDING CONTRACTOR) EXEC. VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the above to Russell A. Strong

5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205-4937
704/568-0153
367th
June
20 April 1924
379-12-7272

January 1988/Western Michigan University/Senior Development
Officer & Director of Research for the WMU Foundation

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Vol. 17, No. 1

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Permit No. 34
Charlotte, NC

Clifford R Langley
5 Redbud Ln
Winchester, KY 40391

1992 England Trip Reunion Sets Big Schedule For Thurleigh and London

Fifty years ago next September, the 306th Bomb Group flew into history, with its arrival in England for combat duty with the U.S. 8th AF. That signal event in aviation lore will be recalled once again in August when the men of the 306th, their spouses families and friends will join in a reunion visit to Bedford, the old base at Thurleigh, Madingley cemetery at Cambridge, and to the venerable city of London.

Specific details of the trip were included in the mailing of the October issue of **Echoes**, having been announced in detail earlier that month during the Group's reunion at Pittsburgh. When the festivities were over in the steel city, people left for home with the six-page folder in their hands.

The October issue of **Echoes** announced that the program was open to all friends of the 306th, and the folder

Two options are being offered for those participating in the main trip: A. being to spend two nights in Bedford, at either the Swan or Moat House hotels, which lie across the Ouse River from each other at the bridge; or, #2. to spend four nights at Bedford and the remainder in London. Group A will go on to London after the visit to Duxford, a WWII airfield that served both the RAF and USAAF and which has been restored as a WWII field.

As an added fillip, the travel description includes two extended week-long trips following the activities in Bedford and London: One will go north to Scotland by bus, offering a good look at the North Country, staying three nights in fascinating Edinburgh, and will stop among other places at Oxford, Stratford, Coventry, Harrogate, Carlisle, Chester, Cheltenham (with a brief excursion into

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Donald R. Ross
Senior United States Circuit Judge
Roman L. Hruska Courthouse
111 S. 18th Plaza, Suite 4226
Omaha, NE 68102-1322

October 19, 2001

Mr. And Mrs. Clifford R. Langley
5 Redbud Lane
Winchester, KY 40391-2430

Dear Cap and Shirley,

You will remember that I talked to you in September in Minneapolis about sending some prints of 8th Air Force paintings to Ralph Franklin to be framed and hung in our new museum at Thurleigh. I have purchased and mailed three prints of paintings to Ralph Franklin for that purpose. I enclose a copy of my letter of transmittal to Ralph.

The cost of the three prints was \$405.00. If you are still interested in participating that amounts to \$135.00 for each of the three of us, including Dale Briscoe and me.

I enjoyed seeing you both in Minneapolis and look forward to our next reunion.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Ross