ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE

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This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms \$3 and \$5 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.

87 Sandywood Lane Staten Island, New York 10309

July 29, 1997

Russell A. Strong 5323 Cheval Pl. Charlotte, North Carolina 28205

Dear Mr. Strong,

22 1

My name is Ruth Halpern and I received your name and address from an information request on America On-line.

I recently attended an Air Show commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, New York. My family and I had a wonderful time. We had the opportunity to meet and talk with many interesting veterans, see vintage planes, and the highlight for me: to actually board a B-17.

I remember my father telling us war stories and how he was shot down on his 25th mission, but over the years details have faded and regretfully I probably wasn't listening 100%. Being on that plane stirred up feelings of remorse for my poor recollections. My son, age 21, never met his grandfather. He's seen pictures and has picked my brain for information but my memory and knowledge are limited. I hope you can help with some details or at least point me in the right direction.

My fathers name was George J. LaRubio. He was a Staff Sgt; Serial No. 32326915. He was assigned to the 306th Bombardment Group. I've enclosed a copy of his discharge papers. Maybe something listed there will help. I'd be interested to know his squadron #, any information regarding his plane, including markings, when, where, and circumstances (if known) of it being shot down. Most of all if you know of any of his former crew members that may still be alive that I might contact.

Even to me this sounds like a huge request. I'm kind of desperate so anything you can let me know will be greatly appreciated. I can be reached at home in the evenings at 718 984-8955. Please call collect if you need to. Thank you in advance for you time and consideration. Hoping to hear from you soon.

With much gratitude,

Lever Harpern

27 September 1997

Dear Ruth:

In a belated answer to your query of 29 July, I do have some information on your father and his career with the 306th, the 367th Squadron.

As best I can tell, because many orders are not available, he arrived as a member of the James W. Johnson crew, sometime in late May or early June of 1943. I sannot determine with certainty how many missions he flew, but I feel sure that it was fewer than five. They didn't fly everyday because of weather, lack of planes, etc.

I have never seen a picture of this crew nor a picture of their aircraft, which was named "Janell" for Johnson's wife.

Appended is a list of the officers of the crew, all of whom are still living. I do not have any information concerning the enlisted crew.

Two pages from the book, First Over Germany, the STory of the 306th Bombardment Group, adds little information. At the time it was researched and written I had yet to locate any of the crew members for questionning.

Sorry I can't be of any further help to you, as my records at this time are a bit sparse.

Sincerely yours,