RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

> Date completed __9-20-90

LAST NAME: Lawlor

FIRST NAME: John

TITLE:

Street address: 202 Yosemite Dr.

Telephone: (512) 494-2760

City, state, zip: San Antonio, Texas 78232

Date of Birth: Jan. 4, 1924

Wife's name: Ruth Ann

College(s) attended: Syracuse Univ.

Degree(s): BS, MS

Year(s): 1946-1951

Current kask employment and job title: Sides Supply, Inc. V.P. & Mgr.

San Antonio, Texas

Reunions attended: (by year or location) 1990 San Antonio, Texas

Serial #: 13100191

Squadron: 369th

Specialty: Tail Gunner Armorer

Date joined 306th: April, 1944

If combat, what crew: Lt. Vogel, "How Soon"

Special duties or assignments w/306th:

Number of missions flown: 35 Date of last mission: August 8, 1944

Date left 306th: Shot down 8-8-44

Highest rank/grade with 306th: S/Sgt.

Caen, France, German POW

Other 8th AF units served with:

Top service assignments after 306th: -0-

USAF retirement date:

Rank/grade: S/Sgt.

Discharged 10-5-45

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units, will be welcomed by the secretary.

If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search further for them.

April 4, 1990

Russell Strong 5323 Cheval Pl. Charlotte, N.C. 28205

Dear Russell:

I recently was introduced to your book FIRST OVER GERMANY by a very fine gentleman, Dale Briscoe. I am serving as a committee member with Dale, arranging the 306th Reunion in San Antonio, Texas.

Much to my surprise Dale pointed out on Page 266 of your book the story of Lt. Kata's 369th plane being shot down over the front line at Caen. I was the Tail Gunner on the plane (not B. Lowry as listed, he was at a waist position) and I was on the wrong side of the "touch & go landing point". Lt. Kata gave a "prepare to bail out" warning after the Flax hit and subsequent fire in our #3 engine. I left my combat position behind the twin "50's" to put on a chest parachute and then pulled the latch on the tail release escape hatch. In doing this I lost intercom communication. However, immediately upon releasing the hatch door "bodies" went flying by the open hatch. Seeing the entire waist section evacuated I followed them out of the plane. I landed in a hedge row clearing with my chute draped over a Lombardy poplar tree. Before I was able to clear myself from the chute strapping and reach the ground a German Officer holding a P-38 machine gun "covered me" and greeted me with the English words "for you the war is over".

Unfortunately this only turned out to mean the Air War was over! The next 10 months put me into an entirely different phase of the war as a German Prisoner. The Caen run was my 35th mission and would have climaxed my tour of duty.

The other interesting phase and very personal story in your book incurs on Page 267 where you relate the story of the fortress "Tailwind" and its crew being shot down and particularly of the death of T/Sgt Eugene Carroll. Eugene is the brother of my brother-in-law, Joseph Carroll who to this day is very close and dear to me and my family.

The morning of the day I was shot down. August 8th, I was with Eugene Carroll prior to flight take-off. We met while having a communion service with our Catholic Padre. Eugene flew the Caen mission and was able to relate later to my parents that parachutes were seen coming out of our burning airplane. It was over four months later that they received word that I was a Prisoner!

I was not flying with my regular crew on August 8th. I thought I had a "milk run" for my last mission!

Russell Strong . Page 2

I was the tail gunner on Lt. Vogel's crew and flew 34 missions starting in early May '44 in the B-17 "HOW SOON" until shot down 8-8-44 flying my last mission with Lt. Kata.

Since becoming a P.O.W. I lost track of my crew members and friends in the 306th and only discovered the "Echoes" paper and 306th Bombardment Association in this past year.

I would be forever grateful to you if:

- 1. I could secure a copy of your wonderful book "First Over Germany". I will personally <u>quarantee</u> you the purchase of 15 copies of the book for the Lawlor and Carroll family. I have six children and Joe Carroll eight children. We will put up any front money you may require.
- 2. I have not been able to locate any of my original crew from "How Soon" Lt. Vogel. Pilot, Mel White, Top Turret Gunner, Hal Portuey, Waist Gunner and Lt. Ford either Co-Pilot or Bombardier are the only names I can recall at this time.

I would also be interested in locating Lt. Kata and the three other members of this crew who became P.O.W.'s with me. T/Sgt S. A. Endrusick, Radio, S/Sgt Horace F. Kepler, S/Sgt Baisl Lowry.

I note with interest Lt. Russell A. Strong. Navigator, having problems on August 13th mission to Rowen and getting hit by German Mobile 88 mm. flax. I assume this is our author? Looking at the time frame you and I have probably flown many 306th missions together. I hope you can attend the San Antonio Reunion. I would like to meet you.

You are to be congratulated for the great research, masterful assembly of facts and excellent narration exhibited in "FIRST OVER GERMANY".

I have always found it difficult to discuss our story of these days over Germany and my subsequent P.O.W. travails without getting emotional. Your book tells it all with factual and forceful simplicity.

I would greatly appreciate any help you can provide. Thank you for your book.

Formerly S/Sgt John (Jack) Lawlor Tail Gunner "How Soon" Lt. Vogel, Pilot Ex-Kreigie. Stalag-Luft IV & others Home - Wilkes Barre, Penn. during service years

202 Yosemite Dr.

San Antonio, TX 78232

WAR DEPARTMENT AAF FORM NO. 1 APPROVED DEC 7 HM2

INDIVIDUAL FLIGHT RECORD

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Possel Strong 5323 CheyAL PL. Charlotte, M.C 28205 12-19-92 Santatone, TX Dear Puss Euclowel es Photo of 369th Chew "How Sook" Pilot Lt R. Yogel Other Borew Members are spelled out on back of photo. I would appreciate the return of the photo. I have been searching for these crew members since over San Antonio remain. I am finally having success. I located Mel White when his have was published en 'Echoes' as a new who in turn took on the job to feel our pilot Richard Yogel. Information forom 1.0. Roberte

Finally four I have in Boswell

N.M. en good health, hoppely manual

12 Ch. I bren + 19 Grand children - he has
been a busy fellow.

FOR your records: P, lot, "How Soon" Crew, 369 Squardine Richard F Yoge / 369 807 West Dewing St Roswell, New Mexico 88201 505-622-2252

Best Regands

Gach Sowla

App of Jung?

11-9-94 San Antonia Texas 369 Bomb Squandron

Dear Russ!

Regorts" I find the following is needed to complete.

Berlin Mission, May 24,1944. I only hove Page 1+2 of Harrature. Head Interrogation Form, Narrature, Maps, etc. — June 16, Muchan, Germany. Mo Info at all

June 25,44 Loigny, France No Info

July 28, 44 Merse Buy, Ber No Intelligence Marcalive

Hug 3, 44 Merkwiller, no Futetten Intelligence harrature

Aug 7, 44 Montbarten & St Loudes, NO Intelligence Nanative

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11/27/Cd



Updated List with information from "First Over Germany" & Mel White's Records

S/SGT JOHN J. LAWLOR 8TH AIR FORCE, DIV. I, 40 CBW 306TH BOMB GROUP, 369TH SQUADRON THURLEIGH, ENGLAND

COMBAT MISSION	S, TAIL GUNNER, B-17 FLYING FORTRESS "HOW SOON"
DATE. 1944	<u>TARGET</u> <u>STATUS</u>
May 10th	Rottersburg. Airfield
May 11th	Saarbrucken, Ger Railroad YardsCompleted
May 12th	Merseberg - Oil FactoriesCompleted
May 13th	Possen, Ger FactoriesAborted
May 22nd	Kiel, Ger Docks & FactoriesSpare
May 24th	Berlin, Ger. (No Intelligence Report)Completed
May 25th	Thionville, France - Railroad YardsSpare
May 27th	Fecamp, France Coastal Batteries Fecamp Completed
May 28th	Ruhland, Ger Refinery
May 29th	
May 29th June 2nd	Gottbus Ger Factory
• EXX 6448	Gottbus Ger FactoryCompleted
June 2nd	Gottbus Ger Factory
June 2nd June 3rd	France - St. Cecily
June 2nd June 3rd June 6th*	Gottbus Ger Factory
June 2nd June 3rd June 6th* June 6th*	Gottbus Ger Factory

	DATE, 1944	TARGET	STATUS
	June 14th	Bretigny/Le Plessis Pate. Fr Airfield	Completed
	June 15th	Nantes, Fr Railroad Bridge	Completed
	June 18th	Hamburg, Ger Docks	Completed
	June 19th	Noball, Fr Rocket Enplacements	.Completed
	June 20th	Hamburg. Ger. Oil Refinery	Completed
11/3/94	June 21st	Berlin, Ger City	.Completed
' NO	June 22nd	Ghent, Bel M. Yards	.Completed
Li	June 24th	Bremen. Ger Oil Refineries	.Completed
1/3/94 (July 7th	Leipzig. Ger M.E. 109 Plant 8:35 hrs.	.Completed
1 1	July 11th	Munich. Ger Aircraft Plant 9:20 hrs	.Completed
	July 17th	Munich, Ger 9:30 hrs	.Completed
	July 24th	Normandy, Fr (St Lo) (2) Landings 1:15 & 4:50 hrs.	.Completed
	July 25th	Normandy, Fr (St Lo) 2:10 hrs	.Completed
	July 28th	Merseburg, Ger Oil Refinery	.Completed
) 0	August 3rd	Merkwiller, France - Oil Refinery	.Completed
2 May 9	August 7th	Montgartier/St. Loubes - Oil Storage	.Completed
is crown	August 8th	Caen, Fr Ger German Troop	.Plane-
2/1/	3/94	Concentrations (Front Line) Missing in Action	Shot Down by German Flax, bailed out &
			captured