

2/9/91

Dear Russell -

I've pondered writing this letter for some time, intrigued by the Preface in First over Germany, where you state that no records exist to document the activities of ground crews & support echelons - I am sure there is a wealth of information & interesting stories locked in the minds of all of us who served with the 306 -

Personally, I was the only Squadron painter designated to the 368th Sqn - I painted & stencilled most of our materials for shipment before leaving Wendover - Arriving overseas, other than a few signs, the squadron had little use for a Popet Fabric (Painter) so I was loaned out to Headquarters to do all the Popet Fabric work, until the 449 arrived - That involved even the complete recovering of a Rudder, as replacements at that early date were not available. I recall running all over Bedfordshire with 1st Sgt. Gregory looking for a sewing machine.

When the 449 Sub Depot arrived I stayed with them until they were orientated to what we were doing, & then was bounced back to 306, where they still had little use for me, except K.P., guard duty etc I was then sent to Cornwall, to train for anti air craft guns. .50 caliber water cooled machine guns -

e/ Then, with members from all squadrons - we manned $\textcircled{8}$ ^{.50 cal.} 1 gun pits around the perimeter & 2 Hispano .20 MM - guns - manning the guns to cover all takeoffs & landings as well as any air raid alerts that might arise. During this period I was on detached service with An R.A.F. group at Kimbolton w/ other AckAck. men of other bases to build & establish gun emplacements for the 479th Bomb group - soon to arrive - After serving at this capacity for over a year, I was able to transfer to the 449 & get back to what I had been trained to do -

We put the triangle #'s & squadron markings on the planes - one of the most complex was putting a star on the rounded surface of the fuselage - I stayed with this until I had the opportunity to return home for a 45 day furlough - to return for an indefinite period. This was Aug of 45 - Instead of returning I was discharged Sept. 45 -

That is a general scope of what I was doing, there sure is a lot not said - Now for an interesting sidelite on my activities, and one you might want to pursue - over!

Hope ~~this~~ some of this information
may be helpful & would like to see something
in future issues about 306 Artists -
Lee Kissler and others -

Best Regards -

Rayford J. Neely

P.S. You might want to correct my phone number
in the directory. It is (814) 695-3856 you have
a 4 instead of 9 - Thanks - Rgn