

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Dr. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Name Howard H. Pratt
 Address Rt. 2 #6 Augusta Maine 04330
 Telephone 445-2414 Date December 26, 1976
 Occupation Mobile Park Owner Employer Self
 Address Rt. 2 #6 Augusta Me Telephone 445-2414

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th: Class June 42 - 8
Graduated from Cadet School as a Navigator -
Trained in B-17's - Montana New Mexico
Kansas City - Columbus Ohio and Sebring Florida
Mentored as a pilot 11/42 - attached to 363rd for Shod time
 After leaving the 306th: and reassigned to the 306th Squadron Dec. 1942.
Shot down Feb. 1943 and was a P.O.W.
until end of the war.

306th Record:

Arrival Date Off of 12/42 Squadron or other unit 367th
 MOS 2 Mos Combat Status Navigator
 Missions Completed 4
 Promotions 2nd to 1st Lieutenant
 Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM
PH Battle Stars None other

Name Howard H. Pratt Address R.F.D #6, Augusta, Me.
Telephone 443-2414

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

Pilot Downing Plane # and Name Don't know
Mission Date Feb 16th Target St. Leger
Cause of loss: AA fire Fighter attack Other, explain

Hit over target - tremendous head wind on return trip. Inability of the English fighter planes come to assist not finally got shot down by German fighters.

Describe conditions in the plane as completely as you can:

Lost engines over target. Was not able to keep - sat badly shot up. ~~Pratt~~

How and where did you leave plane?

Parachuted out on the French coast close to Cherbourg

What happened when you got on the ground?

Taken prisoner immediately

Did you meet any of your crew mates?

In P.O.W. Camp

How were you treated, if captured?

Being an officer reasonably well - as opposed to political prisoners who ended up in Dachau, Buchenwald etc.

Any additional details, reminiscences, letters, or documents of these events would be appreciated. If you do send such materials, I will copy them and put them back in the mail to you within 24 hours.

Do you know the present, or WW II, addresses of any of your crew or other 306th personnel?

Reminiscences

The particular mission which I was shot down bombing the submarine pens of St. Nazaire was considered by us pilots as a job up normal procedure had been to go in by sea - come to altitude - drop the bombs - right back on the deck to England via the sea. Bomber command had a bright idea he was going to fool the Germans - instead of going back by sea we went back over land and as has been said before, we encountered tremendous high head winds and it seems that every fighter came up to intercept us and again as has been said before, English were supposed to come in 5 minutes intervals in waves to assist us on our return trip - they never showed.

Jim Lane, who was normally our crew's bombardier, also became a P.O.W. He was not with me on this particular mission that I got shot down. His address - 1323 Clearview Dr., Greentown, Pa. 15601. If you have not already contacted him, it would be wise to do so as he has kept in touch with a lot of members of 367th Squadron - He has also attended regularly the P.O.W. Conventions. I don't believe any information that there is of any great value to you. However, I am happy to answer your letter.