

Don Rapp
446 E. Silver Street
Lebanon, OH 45036

Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Russell;

Thanks for the past issues of 306th Echoes. You're doing a great job! And, thanks for the notes about my dad and Dean Allen. I was unaware of Dean's death.

I am enclosing a check for FortyThree dollars to cover the costs of a microfiche of the newspaper from 1975 through 1987, and for a copy of your book First Over Germany (hopefully autographed).

While my dad was in Alexandria, I accompanied my mother, Jean, (Margaret Jean, also called Peg) down for a visit. I we lived in Bessemer, Alabama, at the time. It was in Alexandria that I received my First Communion. As a matter of fact, the place where we stayed was just next to a Catholic Church. At any rate, I remember having a hamburger at some diner with my dad, and hearing the Andrews Sisters sing "Sentimental Journey" over and over. At the time, he seemed to like the song. I also remember one afternoon my dad and his crew went on a picnic in a state park. I had mentioned -being only 6 or 7 at the time- that I wanted "a lizard." The crew immediately set out to find one, and by the end of the day I was a proud owner of a lizard - actually, it was a chameleon. I have a vague recollection of being carried on someone's shoulders. To me he was a huge figure, and had no trouble running through the woods with a young, squirming, laughing child on his shoulders. I believe this might have been Mike Vlahos, the bombardier.

Over the years, I have attempted to find out as much about the 8AF, and the 306BG, as I could. For some reason, I never got around to joining the association. I guess I hesitated because I didn't want to intrude, or force others to relive unpleasant times. I have managed to obtain some information, though, which I would be willing to share with you:

- o A poem by Russ Mercer, titled "Air Corps Heaven" I met Russ in Fort Wayne some years back and he gave me a copy of his poem. He was with the 8AF, but I never did find out which BG.
- o Report of Operations Officer - Mission of 25 August 1944 - Gelsenkirchen, Germany (dated 26 August 1944). The date of the mission in the subject of the report is wrong as the body of the report specifically refers to the "mission of 26 August 1944 to Gelsenkirchen, Germany."
- o Mission Reports of the 368th Bombardment Squadron for the months of June, July and August 1944.
- o Copies of the INTERROGATION FORMS detailing the Gelsinkirchen mission and the fate of 946-T, "Hard To Get."
- o A copy of GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 268 dated 22 August 1944 covering the awards of Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal, and to Air Medal, Posthumous. Among those who received the Oak Leaf CLuster at this time were my dad and Mike Vlahos - along with 16 other officers of the 306th, 9 officers of the 91st, and 30 officers and sergeants of the 305th.

If you like, I would be willing to loan these to you. Or, send you copies. Or, transcribe them onto a diskette. Whatever meets your needs.

Both Chuck, or Ernest if you will, and I will be attending the reunion in September. We also plan to make the '92 trip to Bedford and London, along with our wives. From there, we hope to journey to Belgium and visit our dad's grave.

One final note: I have seven children, four girls and three boys. The boys are named Donald, Jr; Douglas Charles, for my father; and Dean Allen, for 946-T's pilot, and my dad's friend.

And, with that bit of trivia I shall end this.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don

Gentlemen;

Please enroll me as a dependent member of the 306th Bomb Group Association. My father was co-pilot on Dean Allen's "Hard To Get" B-17G 42-97946 T. Lt. C. U. Rapp, Jr. was KIA over Gelsenkirchen, 44-08-26.

Also, could you send me a copy of "306th Echoes" from January 1991 Vol. 16, No. 1. I'd appreciate info on back issue availability as well.

I'm enclosing \$20⁰⁰ - \$10⁰⁰ for dependent membership in the 8th Air Force Historical Society, and \$10⁰⁰ to assist the 306th BGA in whatever way possible.

Thanks — and thanks for 1942-1945. Some of us won't forget!

Sincerely
Don

Don Rapp
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Lebanon OH 45036
(513) 932-2999

P.S. I have an IBM AT Clone w/30 megabyte hard drive, 2400 baud modem, 24 pin letter quality printer and 2 megabytes of RAM. It's at your disposal, as am I, should you need us. I'd be more than willing to type, print lists of labels, or do anything to assist the 306th BGA here in the mid-West.

Plus - a standing invite to members of the Assoc to visit & have coffee with us - there's even bedspace for up to 6, if you ever need it!