

Army of the United States



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

John R. Roller
38175915; Staff Sergeant, Air Corps Unassigned, Atchd Detachment of Patients,
Army Air Forces Convalescent Hospital (ZI)
Fort Logan, Colorado
Army of the United States

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military service of the
United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful
Service to his country.*

Given at Fort Logan, Colorado.

Date 29 August 1944.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. R. Cameron".

R. R. CAMERON,
Lt. Col., Medical Corps.

or SNRFU
+ may said 1943 would

are some reading - if the boss
will let you ~~print~~ print it !!

8-22-78

Dear Sir -

I've been talking - to my
pilot (Carroll Brisco) by
phone - Sure got a kick out of
it - as he bet me his baby
would be a boy - course I
bet the other way -

I told him I wanted that
5' weeks - with interest -

Funny she wasn't born till
we were over sea - & he is
a mother her self now -

When did all these you go?!

Talked bout how we would
cross each other - like brothers?
but let some one else say
some thing - bout us - Oh Boy!

There was an Edward
Trayner - who trained with
us - He made one or two
raids - as radio operator.

The brass found out his
age and grounded him -

The old boy was heart break -
Bawled like a baby - as he
wanted to stay with "old
crew 19" -

Bout all I know about him
is - He was from San Diego
Calif. He or his folks owned
a liquor store or some thing
of the kind as he was a bar
tender (always singing)

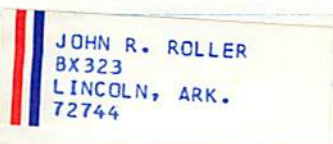
The alcohol license board
of Calif. might help you -
with his address - He joined
our crew in 1942 - don't know
just how long he had been in
the Army air corps -

However the license board
could look over their licenses
for around 1940 or so -

We also had a waist gunner

by the name of Deets - He was
from Texas - Dallas I think -
However Pop Briscoe might
have his' address - if you can
to write him -

Respectfully yours



J. R. Roller

P.S.

Did you get the records on
C' that 1st of May SNAFU?
The day I was shot up and
then half barbered - back
there in the tail -

Funny - only me and the
Russians seem to have
any feeling for the 1st of May -

(Ja)

Other personal data:

Sorry you late with this -
we been sick - Diabetic -
Even blacked out twice in the hospital.

Description of Air Missions:

(What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your role? What heroics did you witness? What events were there of which you have special knowledge?)

The main thing I can remember is the
1st. of May 1943 - This is the day I got it!
That raid was a complete SNAFU !!!!

I understand our outfit - got a bunch of
bitch stars - unit citations and so on -
Do you know how I could go about getting
them -

We didn't land back at our base after ~~it~~
~~was~~ we were shot up - They unloaded us at Portland
or some thing like that - Then took us on the
Cornwall England - Hospital. It is down at
Lands end ("They call it")
When the ~~the~~ mines are.

Mc-Calebs,
1122 Moffet
Joplin, Mo. 6




Bye for now
J.P. Keller

This is the add. of one of my aunts - Her son
Kennith was in the 367th Sqn. He was shot down
and a prisoner for quite some time -
She will give you his address -

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

our ball turret gunner was from Vestal NY.
Name Victor Rose - Radio operator Edward Traynor
San Diego Calif. Not much help -
Wait gunner Deets Dallas Tex.
We lost the wait gunner we trained with on the
way over - We went up to get over a front near
Brazil and it damaged his ear, as he had a cold.
His name was ~~Steve~~ Steve ~~Roller~~ Posock from
Pittsburg I think.

Name _____
Address JOHN R. ROLLER
BX323
LINCOLN, ARK.
72744 
Telephone _____ Date 4-6-77
Occupation 0 Employer 0
Address 112 N. CARTER Telephone 501 824 3325

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

After leaving the 306th:

I have an old faded picture of the enlisted men
on my crew that I trained with - I prize it highly.

306th Record:

states before Xmas 1942 - stayed awhile
we left the in Africa -

Arrival Date _____ Squadron or other unit 369

MOS _____ Combat Status Tail Gunner

Missions Completed 7

Promotions PVT - CPL. SGT - S/STP

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH Battle Stars _____ other _____

ENLISTED RECORD OF

Roller **John** **R.** **38175915** **Staff Sergeant**
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Army serial number) (Grade)
 Born in **Lincoln**, in the State of **Arkansas**
~~When inducted~~ inducted **18 May**, 19**42**, at **Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas**
~~When inducted he was~~ inducted he was **25 11/12** years of age and by occupation
 a **Produce Worker**
 He had **grey** eyes, **brown** hair, **ruddy** complexion,
 and was **5** feet **10** inches in height.
 Completed **2** years, **3** months, **11** days service for longevity pay.
 Prior service: **None** **Finance Officer**
Fort Logan, Colorado
29 AUG 1944

Noncommissioned officer **Corporal (7-13-42 to 9-9-42); Sergeant (9-10-42 to 10-22-42); 237**
 Military qualifications: **None**
 Army specialty: **Aerial Gunner (611)**
 Attendance at: **Las Vegas Aerial Gunnery School, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1942. D.**
(Name of noncommissioned officer or special service school)

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: **occupied Continental Europe 14 Feb 1943; 16 Feb 1943; 28 Mar 1943; 31 Mar 1943; 4 Apr 1943; 16 Apr 1943; 17 Apr 1943; and 1 May 1943.**
 Participated in a heavy bombardment sortie over **Bhamo**

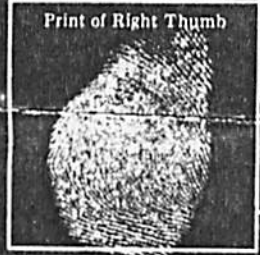
Decorations, service medals, citations: **Air Medal, GO #16, Hq 8th Ar, 17 Apr 1943; Purple Heart GO #58 ****
 Wounds received in service: **injured in action 16 Feb 1943 over enemy occupied France. Wounded in left forearm near elbow by a 20 mm enemy cannon shell while on a bombing mission.**

Date and result of smallpox vaccination: **19 May 1942 Vaccinoid**
 Date of completion of all typhoid-paratyphoid vaccinations: **28 May 1942**
 Date and result of diphtheria immunity test (Schick): **None**

Date of other vaccinations (specify vaccine used): **Tetanus Toxoid 19 May 1942**
 Physical condition when discharged: **Good** Married or single **Single**

Honorably discharged by reason of: **CDD, 3rd Ind, HQ AAF Con Hosp (ZI), Ft Logan, Colo, 28 Aug 1944.**
 Character: **Well Conducted**

Remarks: **1 day lost under AW 107 (7-9-44 to 7-9-44 incl). Blood Type "O". Army General Classification Test rating 107. Left U.S. 20 Dec 1942; arrived European Theater 12 Jan 1943; left European Theater 9 Aug 1943; arrived U.S. 30 Aug 1943. Soldier entitled to wear 1 Over-seas Service Bar per WD Cir #268, 30 June 1944, and one Bronze Star on ETO Ribbon. **Hq 1st Bomb Wg, 9 May 1943; D.S.C. #8202, GO #40, Hq ETOUSA, 4 July 1943; Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal, GO #50, Hq VIII BC, 24 May 1943.**



Signature of soldier: *John R. Roller*
 Discharge Lapel Button issued at **Ft Logan, Colo, 29 Aug 1944.**

JOHN R. TRAVER,
1st Lt, Air Corps,

IRENE S. BRAGAW, 1st Lt, WAC, ~~Commanding~~ **Chief Mil Pers Sec.**
Custodian of Lapel Buttons.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENLISTED RECORD

1 Enter date of induction only in case of trainees inducted under Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 (Bull. 25, W. D., 1940); in all other cases enter date of enlistment. Eliminate word not applicable.
 2 For each enlistment give company, regiment, or arm or service with inclusive dates of service, grade, cause of discharge, number of days lost under AW 107 (if none, so state), and number of days retained and cause of retention in service for convenience of the Government, if any.
 3 Enter qualifications in arms, horsemanship, etc. Show the qualification, date thereof; and number, date, and source of order announcing same.
 4 See paragraph 12, AR 40-210.
 5 If discharged prior to expiration of service, give number, date, and source of order or full description of authority therefor.
 6 Enter periods of active duty of enlisted men of the Regular Army Reserve and the Enlisted Reserve Corps and dates of induction into Federal Service in the cases of members of the National Guard.
 7 In all cases of men who are entitled to receive Certificates of Service under AR 345-500, enter here appointments and ratings held and all other items of special proficiency or merit other than those shown above.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE

AR 345-470.
 Insert name; as, "John J. Doe," in center of form.
 Insert Army serial number, grade, company, regiment, or arm or service; as "1620302"; "Corporal, Company A, 1st Infantry"; "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps."
 The name and grade of the officer signing the certificate will be typewritten or printed below the signature.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943 O - 650071

Hq ETOUSA

Award, posthumous, of Distinguished-Service Cross - - - - - I
 Award of Distinguished-Service Cross- - - - - II

I— AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded posthumously to the following officer:

John J. Howell, first lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States in May 1943. The aircraft in which Lieutenant Howell was serving as pilot was severely damaged as a result of enemy action. With great courage, resourcefulness and skill this officer managed to fly the badly disabled aircraft back to friendly territory, and ordered the crew to abandon the craft. With complete disregard for his personal safety, and thinking only of the lives of the civilian population, Lieutenant Howell flew his disintegrating aircraft away from a densely populated area and was killed in the resultant crash. The courage, skill and high devotion to duty displayed by this officer are in the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Florida. (AG 200.6 M)

II— AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded to the following enlisted man:

John R. Roller (Army serial No. 38175915) staff sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action against an enemy of the United States on 1 May 1943. The aircraft in which Staff Sergeant Roller was serving as tail gunner was attacked by a force of enemy fighter airplanes and during the encounters he was severely wounded. In spite of his wounds this soldier remained at his post of duty, continuing to fire his guns, with the result that one enemy airplane was definitely destroyed. Enemy fire had started a fire in the tail section of the plane and Staff Sergeant Roller's clothing was ablaze. He was removed to the radio room where first aid was administered. Immediately thereafter several attacks were encountered by enemy fighter airplanes. With complete disregard for his own personal safety and the pain from his wounds, and thinking only of the safety of his airplane and crew, Staff Sergeant Roller gallantly manned the radio gun and beat off several attacks until he fell unconscious as a result of his wounds. The courage, heroism and devotion to duty displayed by him without regard to his own personal safety contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft and crew and is an inspiration to the armed forces of the United States. Residence at enlistment: Lincoln, Arkansas. (AG 200.6 M)

By command of Lieutenant General DEVERS:

I. H. EDWARDS,
 Major General, GSC, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Ralph Pulsifer
 RALPH PULSIFER (104)
 Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION: "B"

Tuesday, July 27, 1943

**Heroic Lincoln Gunner
 Featured in 'Yank'**

Staff Sgt. John R. Roller, Lincoln, recently awarded the Distinguished-Service Cross for heroic action in air combat in the European theater of war, draws the following mention in "Yank", the following publication for the armed services:

"Staff Sgt. John R. Roller... was cited for his heroic actions in helping to repel several enemy attacks after he had been seriously wounded.

"Sergeant Roller was severely wounded while helping, as tail gunner, to beat off enemy fighter attacks. In spite of these wounds he struck to his guns and shot down at least one enemy plane. Shells from the attackers started a fire in the tail section and Roller's clothes were burning.

"Other gunners took him to the radio room, where first aid was given. New attacks from the fighters called the other men to their posts and Roller, in spite of the pain of his wounds, manned the gun in the radio room until he fell unconscious.

Sergeant Roller has recovered from his wounds and sent the 'Yank' magazine to his family at Lincoln.

Keep up with the times—read the Times Daily

26 February 1977

Mr. John R. Roller
Box 323
Lincoln, AR 72744

Dear John:

It was nice to chat with you briefly this afternoon, and I am very interested in learning more about the Distinguished Service Cross you earned. I had long known that I did not know all of those who had received the decoration, but could not find any reference to whom other recipients were. I had traced two of them, but two others were missing.

This week I received quite a bunch of material from Kermit Cavedo, who flew during the same period that you did, and in among some clippings I saw your name mentioned, hence the call today.

I am working on a history of the 306th, and have been at it for about two years. I have accumulated a great deal of information but am constantly seeking more. I would appreciate anything you might loan me in this regard. I'll return it the same day as I receive it.

We have a newsletter going out to those from the group we have found, in fact I am finishing the third issue right now. I enclose copies of the first two.

Let me hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong