

Route #1 Box 165-T
Sanger, Texas 76201
June 24, 1976

Mr. Russell A. Strong
4900 Apple ridge Court
Dayton, Ohio 45424

Dear Russell:

Glad to get your inquiry dated June 3
regarding history of 301 B.B.

I'm afraid I'm not a very authentic
source of history, because I joined the group
after it was ordered to England, and caught
up with it at Prestwick ^(about August 1, 1942) on the way to
Chelveston. I had graduated from flying school
June 23 (AT-6's) and was immediately put
to work as co-pilot with Capt. Jack
Traylor. I know we had a couple of
operational practice runs out over The
Wash - and then, about the third time
I had been inside a B-17, we were
over France init. So I was so busy
trying to adapt to my environment that

I didn't contemplate the scene with much historical perspective.

Quite a number of the Co-pilots - like myself - were snatched from Advanced flying schools and sent post-haste to England. Our plane commanders, however, were - for that day - highly experienced and seasoned aviators - classes of '39 & '40. They sort of instructed while flying combat. All of us green hands were eventually tested with a few circuits around the field in the left seat, and if we made it O.K., sent out on our own. The food was good and the Good Old B-17 took good care of us.

Even at my low level of experience it was obvious that our ground/technical support people were a strong, competent group, from mechanics, through Ordnance to our mess Sergeant, who was appropriately named Mustard.

I believe that the 301 was the second heavy, daylight group to strike (97 was first, and 92 was almost concurrent with us).

We operated out of Chelveston Aug to Nov 1942, then went with the 12th AF when the African Invasion came.

I have been in contact with Ben Blank 1517 Lardner Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19149 and have asked him to help you in your project. He and his brother, Jacob, were original members of the 301 BB, having been with the 39th BB at Berger Field, Spokane, when it was re-designated the 301 BB. I have asked him to write to you, and be sure he would welcome an inquiry from you.

Best Regards

Bob Tedlak

1517 LARDNER ST.,
PHILA, PA., 19149

28 JUNE/76

Dear Russ:

Hello! Greetings from the
Bi-Centennial City! I received your
name and address from Bob Tedlock,
Sanger, Texas, who mentioned that
you were compiling a history of the
301 ST Bomb Co.

My brother and I were original
members of the 301 ST when it was
formed here in the States before
going overseas. So any information
that we can give you in helping

compile the history we will be more than glad. We will be attending the 8th AF Seminar in England.

So until I hear from you real soon.

Cordially,
Ben Blank

