

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and give)  
(to Russ Strong at the Las Vegas reunion, or mail to his ad-)  
(dress: 5323 cheval Pl., Charlotte, NC 28205 )

Date completed NOV. 2 '88

LAST NAME: UPCHURCH FIRST NAME: DONALD E. Title: MR.  
Street address: 505 ROBERTS DRIVE Telephone: (703) 9387422  
City, state, zip: VIENNA VA 22180

Date of birth: 3/16/24 Wife's name: EUNICE (GI BRIDE FROM LUTON)  
College(s) attended: - BA SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY Degree(s):  Year(s):   
- MA UNIV OF MARYLAND  
Last employment & job title: - ALL COURSE WORK TOWARD PH.D

Year joined 306th Association: 1976  
ELECTED) OFFICIAL - TOWN COUNCILMAN 1975-1985

Reunions attended: (by year or location) OMAHA; WASHINGTON DC; LAS VEGAS

Serial #: 16161850 Sqdn: HQ 306 GP Speciality: STAFF/SERGEANT GP OPERATIONS  
Date joined 306th: June 1943 If combat, what crew?

Special duties or assignments w/306th: GROUP OPERATIONS

If commissioned w/306th, date & specialty:

Date departed: NOV. 1945 Highest rank/grade w/306th: STAFF SERGEANT

~~Other 8thAF units served with:~~  
- COMMANDING OFFICER, TECH TNG SQUADRONS  
- AFROTC INSTRUCTOR, UNIV. OF MD  
- MANPOWER & ORGANIZATION STAFF OFFICER ON AIR STAFF, HQ USAF, PENTAGON

Top service assignments after 306th:

USAF retirement date: JAN. 1971 Rank/grade: LTCOL

Most memorable experience w/306th: (use back of sheet, too)  
FLEW ONE MISSION AS A GUNNER (CHECKED OUT BY FIRING A FEW ROUNDS INTO THE CHANNEL ON WAY TO LEIPZIG) UNDER LITTLE KNOWN PROGRAM OF ONE MISSION PER

In the continuing search for 306th people, please inform the secretary as to any persons you know from the 306th who are not listed in the 1988 directory: con-  
DB ST M

# DONALD E. UPCHURCH

505 ROBERTS DRIVE  
VIENNA, VIRGINIA  
22180

June 3, 1980

Telephone:  
WE8-7422  
Area Code 703

Dear Russ

We got the 306TH ECHOES last week and are now enjoying it. I thought I would submit some names for the various positions, as I realize you have performed a tremendous feat with your effort so far.

One of the Provost Marshals was Major John T Stanko, during mid-1943. He was accidentally injured by a gun shot wound in the fall of 1943. Someone else must have been put in the job.

Lt Col Early W Kesling was the Group Operations Officer sometime after Major Thomas Witt, and perhaps after Lt Col Chalfant. I worked there and have no doubt about this. I was sorry to see that he is now deceased.

SO 258, Oct 8, 1945, para 4 appointed Major Richard J Hynes as CO of the 368th.

Same SO shows Floyd Williams Jr, 1st Lt as the Adjutant of the Station since he signed the SO. SO 273, 23 Oct 45, shows Capt Joseph Davidoff as Station Adjutant, signing the SO.

The 449th Subdepot later became the 414th Air Service Group.

First CO of the 4th Sta Compl Sq was Major H. M. Braddock. The Sq arrived on Thurleigh June 7, 1943. Lt Eubank was the Adjutant, later transferred in England to the Infantry, and was killed at Normandy June 1944.

I assume most of your reconstruction of positions has come from Special Orders. I'll be on the lookout for other material and will send you.

Your friend,

Don

P.S. We hope to make Orlando.

17 September 1980

Mr. Donald E. Upchurch  
505 Roberts Drive  
Vienna, VA 22180

Dear Don:

It has been a long time since I've gotten back to you, but I hope you are still able to help with some of the research.

I have been back to Archives since talking with you and sorted out a lot of the questions that I had. But, as always, about the time I was ready to leave I found the key to some of my problems, and was unable to get to the material at the late hour.

I searched all of the 306th materials (mission report) files, and so I am sure the material is not there. Some of it is nowhere to be found.

But, the 8th AF mission report files do have copies of a lot of stuff which I do need. Basically, I am looking for mission reports, or they may be called intelligence summaries. I would also like engineering reports where I am concerned with crews. The 8th AF mission reports, at least in 1943, have crew lists.

You will need to go to the National Records Center in the Federal Center at Suitland, MD. This huge building is in a far corner of the complex there. When you enter, be sure to register your car in the first room to the left of the entrance. When you go the other way to room 105 and present yourself. Tell them what you want and they will bring boxes to you for you to search.

When you find something, they have paper markers and you also have to make out a list of the items. When you have completed all of this, and it may well take you more than one trip, you can either pay them, and then call me and I'll send you a check, or you can call me with necessary identification numbers, and I'll send them a check. Pages cost 15¢ each for xeroxing when they do not have to do the searching. Otherwise it is 25¢ per page.

Opchurch - 2

Out of this, I would think you might find \$15 or \$20 worth of material. I spent two dsays there, and it cost me \$35.

You will find the files fascinating, and its a real nostalgia trip, but also a lot of fun.

Also, you-have carte blanche to include any items you think I might be interested in. I have extensive files, and would not be upset by buying an item twice. I've done it several times myself.

As to dates on my list, I'm American, and the files are done British style.

Also, if you feel you do not have time to get involved, just let me know and I will understand. If you want to take someone along, you might give Dave MacGhee a call. He'd be entertaining, to say the least.

If you want to discuss this any further, give me a call. Home 616/344-6466, office 616/383-6160/

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

Date	Items wanted	306th Box #	8th AF Mission Rpts
12/19/42	Crew lists for McKesson, McKee, Nygaard	178	X
3/1/43	Wounding of Lt. Warner	178	
4/3/43	Data on fighter attack	177	X
8/3/43	Intelligence summary		X
11/11/43	Intelligence Summary		X
2/22/44	Intelligence Summary, all crew lists		X
3/6/44	AA Adams crew, Ehrler's crew		X
3/8/44			X
5/1/44	wounding of Sgt. R. W. Russel	172	X
5/10/44	Lt. Blatnica	172	X
5/13/44	Mission summary, <del>operations</del> engineering report Hanson's crew, Kesling's crew		X
5/24/44	Mission report (intelligence)		X
5/29/44	Fighter claims, McKinngy's crew		X
6/21/44	Mission report, engineering report Crews for Niblack, Rehn, Gribovicz, Adam		X
7/12/44	Mission report		X
7/20/44	Mission report, Frazee's crew, Kata's crew		X
8/13/44	Engineering Report		X
8/25/44	Any info on Sgt. D. S. Dyckeman, Martin's crew		X
8/26/44	Sgt. D. E. McCarthy, Sgt. S. D. Bennett		X
9/13/44	Brown's crew, Nattier's crew		X
10/18/44	Doman's crew, Lt. Brown (369th)		X
11/21/44	Intelligence Rpt, Peterson's crew		X
11/30/44	Brown's crew, V. L. Rasmussen		X
12/5/44	Lead crew, Marsh's death, Balcom's crew		X
12/21/44	Crew that ditched, (any data and list)		X
12/28/44	Reioux's crew		X

12/29/44	Intelligence summary, Magee's crew, W. J. Davis' crew	X
2/15/45	Crews for McGahan, Carder, Sandercock, Wood	X
3/2/45	Intelligence summary	X
4/17/45	Shepard's crew	X
4/19/45	Hill's crew	X

# DONALD E. UPCHURCH

505 ROBERTS DRIVE

VIENNA, VIRGINIA

22180

Telephone:

WE8-7422

Area Code 703

6. 5/29/44 Fighter claims Lt C C McKinney's crew, 369th Sq

In Box 171 where the Interrogation Forms would be to reveal this, I could not find the Msn Folder for 5/29. Apparently this is mis-filed in some other box. On the mission the day before, 5/28, the Group made no claims. Sorry.

Mr Lewis, the Center person who handles Air Force requests, said he had not got around to copying the previous 86 pages I ordered. But would try to get them soon. I will phone him now and then, to move things along.

I spent \$12.90 last month, plus .60 this time, total \$13.50.

As soon as I get the copies will ship them to you.

Yours,  
Don

13 February 1981

Dear Don:

I can only say thank you, thank you for your efforts. One of the great frustrations is trying to run down the little things, none of which are really very important.

A very great problem in the research has been the incomplete and inaccurate recordings of names and events in the Squadron histories. These have often sent me off on wild goose chases, only to find that the Squadron intelligence officer assigned to write the Squadron diary wasn't really paying attention to his job.

How one wishes there had been a trained group historian who had access to all kinds of data and could have immediately sifted the important from the trivial. It would have helped a great deal. One also wonders from time to time what happened to material that should be in the mission files at Archives. I assume some of it has been misfiled, but I would guess that sometimes something was removed at Thurleigh and never properly refiled.

If I lived close by and had the time I could spend weeks at Archives searching out some of the things. But probably they won't get the space in the book commensurate with the time spent.

Enclosed is a check to cover the cost of the materials which you have ordered, and again I thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,



8 April 1981

Dear Don:

I am making use of the materials you sent, and as I work back through the manuscript I am finding little things that I would like to clarify. Thus far there are two items which you may be able to clear up some time.

- 1) J. L. Johnson's crew, shot down 22 June 43. I do not have the full crew list. They were a very new crew, and I do not have any orders with their names on. This was the famous mission to Huls, evidently one of the more damaging ones flown in this period. Don't even know first names, except for one.
- 2) 20 July 43, 423rd navigator and bombardier wounded. Don't know names, or anything about wounds.

If you could find anything, it would be best just to copy it down, rather than trying to have materials copied.

Reprint of book is moving along, now on chapter 10, but I'll be adding and changing things right up to the time it goes to the printer.

Sincerely yours,

# DONALD E. UPCHURCH

505 ROBERTS DRIVE  
VIENNA, VIRGINIA  
22180

March 26, 1981

Telephone:  
WE8-7422  
Area Code 703

Dear Russ

We received all our copies, and believe we have got about 98% of what you wanted. I have marked each page in RED ink, and made a note or two on some of them, to explain.

Finally, located Blatnica's wound. It did not occur on recalled mission, but on a regular mission of May 9, 1944.

#### Other comments:

- 5/29/44 Mission folder missing out of Box 171, where it should have been. Re: Fighter claims, McKinney's crew.
- 8/26/44 Apparently I have wrong Bennett. See note on 8/26/44 material.
- 12/5/44 Nothing on Marsh's death. Suspect this was handled by Group Personnell, to War Department like any other ground death.
- 12/21/44 Crew that ditched. Absolutely blank on this. Did check mission folders for 12/12; 12/15; 12/18; 12/24; 12/28.

Note minor changes of dates. Your dates were off here and there.

Good luck on your book. Hope the enclosed helps. If you need any refinement,, let me know.

*Yours,*

*Don Upchurch*

# DONALD E. UPCHURCH

505 ROBERTS DRIVE  
VIENNA, VIRGINIA  
22180

*Called  
1-13-81*

Telephone:  
WE8-7422  
Area Code 703

Jan 9, 1981

Dear Russ

I have finished most of the research on your request. I was not able to get started until this week. We spent 5 weeks in England last October, made the Orlando reunion, then I had to go to New York for several days on business, on two occasions.

I have ordered copies of 86 pages. They will be sent in 3 to 5 weeks, according to the man in Room 105, though he personally does not do the copying.

I need some clarification from you to finish up a few items.

Your first 4 days were a bit off. The first should be Dec 20, 42, not Dec 19th. The next 3 proved to be 3 January (not Mar 1), 4 March (not Apr 3), and 8 Mar 43 (not Aug 3d).

Need clarification of the following, and I can finish up

1. 5/10/44 Lt Blatnica

*Blatnica is listed as wounded  
in action on the recall.  
trav. back near Dutch coast.*

There was no mission on May 10th, except a recalled one, which was not credited. Lt L P Blatnica 368th appears on the crew list for a May 9th mission. What is the info you want?

2. 8/25/44 Info on Sgt D S

*G.S. Dykeman  
wounded in  
action*

Dyckeman, Martin's crew

Could not find a Dyckeman on Martin or any crew on 8/25 or a few missions before or after. There is a SSGT E F Dickhaus on P H Martin's crew on 8/25 mission. Clarify.

3. 8/26/44 Sgt D E McCarthy, Sgt S D Bennett

*both men wounded  
368th.*

I assume you want any unusual act of these two. I did identify their crew in the 8 AF Hq files, but did not check the IXX series boxes (that series is really 306 Gp Hq Intell files). I will check there.

4. 12/5/44 Marsh's death

*OK*

Marsh's name did not appear on 12/5 crew lists. It did on a 12/3 mission, but no acft, or at least his, were lost. I have yet to check the IXX series (GP Intell files). Please clarify date. Lt J D Marsh was 368th pilot in 12/3 mission.

*\$12.90*

5. 12/21/44 Crew that ditched.

There was no 12/21 mission.  
Was this a training flight?  
I checked missions before and  
after without success.

There are three major sets of files at the Center

8th AF HQ - numbered at least for the 306th in the  
1500 range. I used boxes 1525 thru 1534.  
At 8 AF Hq apparently they kept each Group's  
mission submittals filed by that Group  
designation.

306th Gp Operations Mission Reports

These are separate mission folders, one for  
each mission; inside on top is the Gp Ops  
typed report of that mission, underlying is  
all backup: field order, route flown, fuel  
consumed, formation diagrams, etc. Prepared by  
S--3

306th Gp Intelligence Mission Reports

These are like the Gp Ops files, but no formal  
report is on top; generally there are numerous  
teletypes, phoned-in reports, original sheets  
on various tasks, etc. These are rich because  
they contain the Interrogation Sheets, the  
original, as each crew was de-briefed, in the  
handwriting of the interrogation Intell.  
officer who signed the rear at the bottom.  
These sheets show injuries, enemy acft  
claimed, lots of original material, etc  
They are numbered in the lxx box series. Your  
numbers 178, 177 are examples. Prepared by S-2

Let me know further about the five items above, and I will finish up. I can  
hand copy these, to save time, if you wish.

*Wishing you & yours  
a good new year,*

*Don Up.*

505 Roberts Dr  
Vienna, Va 22180  
May 27, 1981

Dear Russ

I have been again to the Archives:

1. Here is the correct crew list of 1Lt J W Johnson, June 22, 43 mission ( from Box 1526, Hq 8th AF ):

P	1 Lt J W Johnson	E	TSgt L B Hansen
CP	F/O H M Dunn	R	TSgt R P Little
B	2 Lt E S Gast	G	SSGT G LaRubio
N	2 Lt N H Simpson*	G	SSGT D O'Connor
		G	SSGT M Shuta
		G	SSGT R G Bell

Aircraft 42-3209 367th Squadron

\* Last month I sent you basically the same names, except the Navigator was from the 368th Squadron. That list came from the June 13th mission folder.

2. Finally, located entry on wounds of Sgt S D Bennett on August 26, 1944 mission. On the reverse of the Interrogation Form, pilot 2d Lt R J Chrisjohn is this entry: ( from Box 171 )

" 14. Injuries to Crew: Slight plexiglass cut over eye (SSgt S D Bennett ) "

( on front of form Bennett was in Bombardier position )

" 15. Damage to Aircraft: Minor Flak "

3. July 20, 1943 - 423d navigator and bombardier wounded.

No mission on July 20, 1943. Last month I sent the entry from July 17, 1943 mission concerning wounds of Bombardier F/O W F Wagner, as given on reverse of the Interrogation Form. Today, I searched further for a wounded bombardier on missions before and after July 20, but could find nothing.

NAVIGATOR

Hope this clears things up a bit.

Yours,  
Don Upchurch

Dec 2, 1981

Dear Bill and Betty

Thanks so much for the beautiful photos. Bill you are indeed an excellent photographer!

We had an excellent turnout at St. Paul, with the 306<sup>th</sup> member one, in attendance.

With your extensive mailing list of former 306<sup>th</sup> members, we ought to be able to raise that \$1200 to finish the Thurlough memorial. I assume Hanagan will have something in the Edo to point up this need.

Hope to see you in Cincinnati.  
If you are in/around Washington, D.C. drop in (we are a suburb).  
Best regards, merry xmas,  
Don and Eunice Up.  
UPCHURCH



Dear Russ

My enlisted serial (16161850) was acquired Nov 24 '42 when I enlisted at Peoria Illinois. The first digit "1" is enlisted (Irafter's got a "3"). The second "6" is the service command. The sixth covered Illinois, Michigan & few other mid-west ones.

We had a good time at Vegas. Keep up good work on Echoes & other duties.



Cordially,  
Don UPCHURCH

DONALD E. UPCHURCH  
505 ROBERTS DR.  
VIENNA, VA. 22180



Russell A. Strong, Secretary  
306th BG Association

Russell A. Strong  
5323 Cheval Pl.  
Charlotte, NC 28205





Nov 12 1985

Dear Russ

We were over in England recently and had a nice visit with the Richards-Cornell and Gordon.

On October 14<sup>th</sup> (42<sup>d</sup> anniversary of Schweinfurt mission - 306<sup>th</sup> losing 10 planes) they had a beautiful banquet made up. Eunice and I had the privilege and honor of placing that at the 306<sup>th</sup> memorial in Thurleigh.

A photo is enclosed which we think ought to be in next Echoes. Hope you can accommodate.

Please return original - thanks.

Sincerely,

Don Upchurch

WARTIME BRIDE AND GROOM FLY IN FROM AMERICA TO RE-AFFIRM VOWS . . .

# GI wedding



● Snap happy! Don and Eunice and the congregation.

*It started in 1944 and began again on Thursday. Eunice Isaac, the 17-year-old British Home Stores girl, married American serviceman Don Upchurch in a wartime ceremony at Luton Parish Church. With the help of the Herald, bridesmaids and old friends were traced and Don and Eunice returned to England to re-affirm their vows last week. Here we record their big day, second time round.*

IT WAS so different 40 years before.

Eunice, the GI bride, borrowed a wedding dress from her next door neighbour, Joan Champkin, in Leagrave Road.



● Nostalgic sounds! Maurice Jones back on the piano.

Joan, now Russell, is still in Luton and living in Clevedon Road. She said: "I've still got the remains of the wedding dress. I cut it down to make my daughter's Christening robe."

There was nothing make-do about last week's occasion when Don and Eunice Upchurch stepped from the bright autumn afternoon into the white marble surroundings of Luton Parish Church.

This time Eunice wore a cream polyester satin cocktail-style dress, which came to a two-tier frill just below the knee.

Over the top of the sleeveless dress was a cream chiffon fitted over-dress with leg-of-mutton sleeves.

The chiffon had a small oval design appliqué all over it.



● Iced one! Don and Eunice cut the cake.

## Sounds like old times!

THE wedding hit a note of nostalgia in more ways than one.

A special guest was Maurice Jones, now in his 70s and living in Ludlow Avenue, Luton. He was manager of British Homes Stores in George Street when Eunice was taken on.

And when the band failed to turn up for the original wedding reception, at the old Co-op reception rooms in King Street, Maurice stepped in and played the piano.

Although his fingers are not so nimble as they were 40 years ago, Maurice sat down at the piano in The Red Lion on Thursday, just for old time's sake.

## Roses

She carried a small bouquet of red roses to match those pinned to her dress, and those on the lapel of Don's tan brown suit jacket.

Behind the couple walked the three original bridesmaids, Eunice's niece Sheila Constable, Joyce Royle, of Hagdell Road, Farley Hill, and Eileen Humphries, of Kingsway, Luton.

Having re-affirmed their vows the couple walked arm-in-arm out to meet the photographers and film crews. The dozens of friends offered their congratulations.

"I've never been kissed so much," said Eunice.

Then it was off to the reception at The Red Lion in Castle Street.

... AND THE HERALD PLAYS A ROLE IN RE-UNITING OLD FRIENDS FOR THE DAY

# PRAY IT AGAIN SAM...

UNCLE SAM was responsible for Don Upchurch's visit to Britain in 1944.

He met Eunice Isaac and the couple married. After they re-affirmed their vows on Thursday, Eunice said: "It is so romantic and exciting. I wanted to re-live the biggest step I made in my life.



• Joyce Royle.

"I was much more relaxed the second time around. I may have looked nervous. I was shivering from the draft in the church.

"Last time I didn't quite know what to



• Bridesmaid Eileen Humphries

expect. During this service I could think about the first time and the wonderful marriage we have got. I could relate with every word the vicar was saying."

Don said: "It was marvellous, the ceremony brought back so

many memories. When we came over earlier in the year I was sure we had made the right decision to celebrate the anniversary in this way.

"Thanks to the Herald we've managed to get in touch with so many of those who were at the original do."

Seventy people were there, 20 of them original guests.



• Flashback! Don and Eunice first time round.

Don added: "It's comforting to know that the marriage is lasting. Things are so unsure the first time. You can relax and enjoy the day just like everyone else the second time."

The couple left for a holiday in Edinburgh, the scene of the first honeymoon.

• The Herald appeared before millions on TV

last week.

The BBC news magazine programme, London Plus, presented the story of the GI bride wedding replay.

And the Herald, which unearthed the story and had exclusive coverage of the initial plans, was used to illustrate the report.

A copy of the paper appeared on-screen.



• Replay! The happy couple, second time round.



• Flashback to June and the Herald's exclusive story.

August 2, 1986

Dear Russ

How are you in this mid-summer? It is hot and unusually dry here on the East coast.

We hope your European escort trip worked out well. You seem eminently qualified to conduct such tours.

We were wondering if we could get back the Polaroid shot of us of putting a wreath on the 306<sup>th</sup> memorial at Sturleigh - which you ran in the Echoes recently. Thanks so much.

We have signed up for the  
Dayton re-union. The wife  
just had some surgery and  
her progress will determine  
if we actually make it.

Hope to see you there. Take  
care. Enjoy and look for-  
ward to your echoes.

Yours,  
Don + Eunice

DONALD E. UPCHURCH  
505 ROBERTS DR. NW.  
VIENNA, VA. 22180



505 Roberts Dr  
Vienna Va 22180  
May 12, 1989

Dear Russ

We just got back from several weeks in the UK, and had a good time as usual. Eunice's home is in Luton where she has many friends and relatives.

We visited with Gordon and Connie Richards in Oakley. There we also met Jim Richwine ( he was at Vegas, appears in Hq 306 photo) and his war bride. The Richards took us to a Glenn Miller concert at Northampton, by the McVey British band. The highlight was the presence of three of the original Miller players.

The Richards are great hosts and do their best to show visiting 306ers the old base, the memorial, and area trips. Their "museum" is tops and rivals anything Duxford ~~of~~ <sup>OR</sup> the Imperial War Musaeum in London has.

The Gordons maintain close contact with the 306th Strat Wing at Mildenhall, where the active duty people give them all kinds of support. Gordon says he now needs 4 of the 306th Bomb Gp association caps to give to the new Commander and his staff at Mildenhall, and asked me to look into this. Do you know who has a supply of these?

Can these possibly come out of the Association treasury as these surely would qualify as an official promotion. ?

At Las Vegas there was a small PX in operation, but I don't remember if there were any caps.

Anyway I would appreciate your reply and any thoughts on getting these to Gordon and Connie. I think the Memorial dedication is this coming weekend at Madingly Cemetery.

Let me know. Your ECHOES is better all the time.

yours.  
Don Up.

Q& May 1989

Dear Don:

I have checked the inventory of hats, and we are out at the moment. As soon as we replenish, which should be some time in the next three months, I will see that four hats at shipped to the Richards for distribution.

There will be no charge for them.

Glad you had another good trip to England. June and I are planning to be there sometime in 1990. We haven't decided yet on our time schedule, but we are hoping to stay four to six weeks.

We have some visiting on the continent we want to do from a London base, and then further exploration of England and Scotland, as well as a lot of sightseeing in Londong itself.

The 306th organization is now planning a 1992 reunion in England to observe the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Group at Thurleigh. That was a September event, with the planes arriving generally on Monday and the ground troops on Friday of the same week.

I'll keep on top of the hat situation.

All the best,

14 August 1991

Dear Don:

It was nice to hear from you, and your story on the Mission Report files.

I am sure that they all arrived at National Archives at some point, but between the time they arrived and the time I began working in them in 1975, strange things had happened. They may not have been very well policed because there are missions missing in which I had a personal interest, so I have looked repeatedly during the past 16 years and have never seen these folders.

Either they have been misfiled or they have been stolen. I know that in the 80s Archives began to have serious problems with people walking off with the originals and they clamped down on their rules for searching and they do not permit you to bring in anything other than a page of notes, and they don't permit you to leave until all of your carryout materials have been carefully checked over.

I find the rules somewhat irritating, but as long as there are people coming in who are dishonest, I am happy that they are trying to control everything.

I learned a while ago that the similar British office discovered that one of their regular visitors over a period of years had absconded with 15,000 pages of WWII information. It was all recovered, but the man wasn't even jailed by the courts, just told not to do it again.

I am still waiting for the materials I selected in early April, and they report that the materials were copied and mailed—but I have never received them. The director of Modern Military Records says they are so short handed and crippled with "non-workers" that it is extremely difficult to keep pace. Their requests are up like 300 per cent over when I began working in the records.

I will keep on searching at Archives and at the USAF Center at Maxwell AFB, and between the two I expect to eventually have some kind of reports on all missions.

One of the strange things I learned a long time ago is that the Mission Loading Lists are stored elsewhere than in the Mission Report files, so I have been able to access these for crew lists when I can't find them elsewhere. During the coming months I plan to audit everything I have for mission pages, such as one or two missing Crew Interrogation reports out of a mission, with the one most likely to be gone the lead plane report.



I have *generally* organized the Crew Interrogations by the takeoff number if it is listed, as this speeds up telling you whether you have everything or not.

My feeling is that the files were kept with some diligence at Thurleigh, and that probably they arrived in Washington in that condition. But I have been told by one of the Archives hands that when he came to work there in about 1970 files were in a deplorable condition, some just stacked on the floor, cards in helter skelter piles and the like.

In the last several years the 306th files have been gone through by Archives personnel to remove the many duplicate copies in them, which eases the search, and have been placed in acid-free folders. But, due to the original paper used for the records, I think their life is not going to be long.

Once I quit working with the 306th collection it will all go to the USAF Academy Library, which will give them a unique collection of materials on one WWII bomb group.

It was nice to hear from you and I hope that your health is at least holding steady at this point.

My wife and I, and Don Ross and his wife, are off to Bedford and London next Monday to work on the 1992 reunion. After several days there, my wife and I are heading to Brussels where we will pick up a car, and then drive to Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, and back through Luxembourg and Brussels, then back to London to catch our direct flight back to Charlotte. While I one job I ran tours to Europe, going five times, my wife and I have never taken off with a car on our own, so we think it will be a great adventure.

All the best to you, Don,

505 Roberts Drive  
Vienna, Va 22180

Dear Russ

July 24 '91

Got the Echoes, July issue.

I noticed you are looking for missing data on 13 missions. Apparently there are no Mission Reports for these at the National Archives.

The Mission Reports there are those assembled by Group Intelligence. Having been through many of them they are rich in detail & the crew interrogation forms in each folder are invaluable.

I don't know whether you knew that at the Archives (Washington Records Center, Suitland, Md.) are also Mission Reports of each and every mission prepared by Group Operations. I was a Sergeant in Op. Ops. and personally typed & worked on these the day after each mission. They are there because I have gone through some of these.

Contents of each:

- Detailed cover ltr of the mission by the Op Ops O to CO Op
- Drawn route by Op Navigator of routes flown
- Reports by Armament

Officer of # bombs dropped,  
ammunition expended

- Strike photos
- Possibly flying control tower report
- Engineering officer report,  
damaged, lost a/c, etc, fuel consumed
- I believe also the original  
field order (yellow, 2'-3' in length)
- Other info
- Possibly crew lists

These mission reports by Ops. were  
shipped to Adjutant General, Wash.  
We had to make our own wooden  
shipping boxes in fall 1945.

Each folder was carefully lettered  
by our Sgt HAHW using the  
lettering set. Our folders all  
followed a fixed pattern of contents,  
fastened into the folder.

I am sure when shipped we  
had a folder for every mission.

I feel your missing data can  
be found in these. I forgot how  
I asked for these at the Center  
(i.e. how the Center title  
them or file them).

Keep up the good work on  
the Echoes.  
Yours,  
Don Upchurch

phis. WASH POST  
DONALD E. UPCHURCH 11/11/92  
Air Force Officer

Donald E. Upchurch, 68, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel who served on the Vienna Town Council from 1975 to 1985, died of cancer Nov. 10 at the Hospice of Northern Virginia. A resident of Vienna, he had lived in the Washington area for 32 years.

Col. Upchurch retired from the Air Force in 1971 after 28 years in the military. Assigned for the most part to personnel work, his last post was as a manpower specialist at Air Force Headquarters.

Col. Upchurch was born in Carterville, Ill. He attended Southern Illinois University and received a bachelor's degree from the University of San Francisco and a master's degree in government and politics from the University of Maryland.

He began his career with the Army Air Corps, serving in England during World War II. He continued in the Air Force Reserve for five years after the war and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War.

His later Air Force assignments included posts in Japan, Illinois and California. In the Washington area, he served with a reserve unit and as an ROTC instructor at the University of Maryland before being posted to the Pentagon.

After he retired, he worked part time in the audit department of the Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

In addition to his town council service, Col. Upchurch was a volunteer at the national presidential campaign headquarters of Democratic Sen. Edmund S. Muskie in 1972, president of the Madison Park Civic Association in Vienna and a member of Vienna Baptist Church, the Eighth Air Force Historical Association and the Retired Officers Association.

His military honors included the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Eunice Upchurch of Vienna; three daughters, Carole A. Grady of Fairport, N.Y., Sharon K. Liercke of Herndon and Deborah L. Morrison of Naples, N.Y.; a brother, Warren D. Upchurch of San Antonio; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

# Former councilman Upchurch dies

By JENNIFER COMITEAU

Journal staff writer

Cancer claimed the life of former Vienna Town Councilman Donald E. Upchurch last Tuesday, but friends and relatives say nothing can take away their memories of him.

"He was a very caring man and very conscientious about his civic duties," said his wife, Eunice. She was a G.I. bride who met her husband while he was stationed outside her hometown of Luton, England during World War II. The two married there in 1944.

"He loved to go back," Eunice Upchurch said Thursday while thumbing through pictures taken when she and her husband renewed their wedding vows in 1984. The couple spent their second honeymoon in the Edinburgh hotel they shared the first time around.

Eunice Upchurch said her hus-

band was committed to maintaining Vienna's small-town atmosphere when he served on the Town Council from 1975 to 1985. And "he was always available" to listen to citizens with concerns, she said.

Councilwoman Martha H. Pruett agreed. That's why she voted for him. "He was a fine, honest, Christian man who carried those beliefs over to his decisions on council," said Pruett, who was elected to council in 1988.

"He was a very agreeable sort of person," Pruett said. "He used good common sense to try and do what was best for the entire town."

Upchurch, 68, is the second former councilman to die this year. E. Ross Buckley, a councilman from 1976 to 1986, died of leukemia on June 30.

Councilman Rodger W. Seeman said he never clashed with Upchurch on any issue. Seeman, who joined

the council in 1983, served with Upchurch for two years. "I don't recall anyone ever facing off on an issue with Donald Upchurch," he said.

Citizens and council members respected Upchurch's decisions, especially those relating to financial matters in town, Seeman said. "He was our financial wizard. . . . our watchdog," Seeman said.

"He was very zealous in guarding the coffers," agreed Vienna Mayor Charles A. Robinson Jr. Robinson, who has served on council since 1962, said Upchurch was a hands-on type of councilman who investigated citizen complaints and situations around town.

Upchurch was forced to give up his seat in 1985. "He really hated to give it up at the beginning of his illness," Eunice Upchurch said.

Ann Witzig, who lived near Upchurch on Roberts Drive in north-

west Vienna, said the retired Air Force lieutenant colonel was very outgoing despite the pain caused by his disease. "Everyone just loved Mr. Upchurch," Witzig said. "With all his difficulties, he was always so kind."

Upchurch, who has three daughters, would bring toys he found to Witzig for her children to play with. He also found time to talk with his neighbor about the deteriorating water quality of the Potomac River, which is of great concern to her.

Sabra Rupe said Upchurch was "very neighborly" and would pick up groceries for her if she asked. "He was there if there was sickness, death, or a street party," Rupe said. She said she helped her neighbor of 20 years win election to the Town Council by campaigning for him.

"He loved government and history," Rupe said. "That was his forte."