

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to
Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval
Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

Date completed 8/12/91

LAST NAME: WALCIR FIRST NAME: Richard E TITLE: Colonel

Street address: 22411 Cyprus Pl. Rd. Telephone: (804) 829-2932

City, state, zip: Williamsburg, VA 23185

Date of Birth: May 28, 1919 Wife's name: Rebecca

College(s) attended: Penn. State Univ. of Va. Degree(s): B.A. J.D. Year(s): 1942 1951

Last employment and job title:
Professor of Law and Associate Dean
Marshall-Wythe School of Law

Reunions attended: (by year or location) College of War. & Mary
Dallas - Ft. Worth
Wash. D.C.

Serial #: 460489 Squadron: 367th Specialty: Adjutant
Executive Off.
0-35588
8761-19

Date joined 306th: _____ If combat, what crew: _____

Special duties or assignments w/306th: _____

Number of missions flown: Two Date of last mission: unknown

Date left 306th: Oct, 1944 Highest rank/grade with 306th: Major

Other 8th AF units served with:
Hq. Air Training Comd. 119 TAC
Hq. PACAF
149 5th AF

Top service assignments after 306th: _____

USAF retirement date: Oct 31, 1970 Rank/grade: Colonel

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units, will be welcomed by the secretary.

If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search further for them.

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
 Russell A. Strong, 4900 Appleridge Ct., Dayton, Ohio 45424

I am endeavoring to put together a good history of the 306th Bombardment group, an idea which has been in my mind for some years. I am working diligently on the matter, collecting all kinds of data and working through the official history and records of the group. I served as a navigator with the 367th Squadron from June through November, 1944, and currently am director of news and information services at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. I solicit your assistance in my project.

I am interested in any special materials which you may have, such as good photographs of personnel, battle damage, plane insignia, etc. I am also interested in commendations (other than the usual Air Medal and DFC) you may have received, special stories which you may have in your possession, letters that are highly descriptive of combat action, or any other documents. I would appreciate receiving xeroxed copies. But, if you do not have such facilities readily available, I would appreciate the loan of materials which I might copy and return to you immediately. I am also interested in manuscripts of memoirs which you may have prepared, particularly if they were done within a couple of years of the events. Again, I would appreciate copies or the opportunity to copy them.

Name Richard E. WALCK
 Address Rt. 1, Box 183A, Williamsburg, Va 23185
 Telephone (504) 829-2932 Date _____
 Occupation Prof. of Law Employer College of Wm. & Mary
 Address Williamsburg Va Telephone (504) 229-300 X398

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

The 306th was my first permanent assignment

After leaving the 306th:

I accepted a regular commission in the USAF (Judge Advocate) and retired as a Col. in Oct 1970

306th Record:

Arrival Date 09 June 1942 Squadron or other unit 367th
 MOS ? Combat Status No
 Missions Completed 2
 Promotions To Major with the 306th
 Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM
PH Battle Stars 4



CHARTERED 1693
COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY
MARSHALL-WYTHE SCHOOL OF LAW
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23185

4/30/81

Dear Russ,

I have identified the character in the photo ~~on~~
the photo itself. We were high school classmates.
Bill & I were in the 367th and Apple was a
finance clerk on a nearby base. Bill was
a co-pilot and was lost over France on
about his sixth mission. He evaded capture
through the grace of the trees - trench and now
lives in Fla. Apple died of natural causes
several years ago.

Your nephew Robert Thomas was in my
Torte class. He is doing well here and
we are delighted to have him.

Best regards,

Wick Hald

Rt. 1, Box 183A
Williamsburg, VA 23185

May 17, 1983

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillisdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Russ:

Thank you for the inscription in the book. I'm enjoying reading it but I must confess that it is very traumatic to relive those early days at Station 111. Also, I very much enjoy each issue of the 306th Echoes and most especially the issue about last fall's reunion at Thurleigh. I would very much have liked to be there but unfortunately my job responsibilities would not permit it.

We have enjoyed having your nephew Rob Thomas here. I'm sure you know he graduated this past Sunday. He has shown remarkable improvement each semester and most particularly in his last semester. He is going to be a fine lawyer.

Russ, I would like to relate an interesting and rewarding experience I had and ask your advice. In the summer of 1971, with my wife and daughter, I visited our old base at Thurleigh. I drove up to what was then a back gate near the enlisted mess hall. I asked the guard if I might come in and he said, "Oh no, sir - the base is highly restricted." I told him who I was, showed him my military J.D. card and told him I had been stationed there during the war. He said, "Let me ring up my sergeant." He did and the sergeant with a driver of a van soon appeared. They took us for a grand tour of the base and I soon discovered that they were intensely interested in finding out from me everything I knew about the wartime history of the base - they were both veterans of the British army. They asked, "Who or what were the Eager Beavers?" I told them that that was the sobriquet of one of our four squadrons. They said, "Well, we shall show you the Eager Beaver building." They took us to our old flight line where the long concrete block building that served as the administration building for the 368th was still standing and still in use. When we got to the front of it they said, "What a pity - it is gone." When I asked what was gone, they said, "The Eager Beaver sign." The building was freshly painted and I noticed that something was lying on top of the small portico over the door. We retrieved it and, sure enough, it was the Eager Beaver sign, which had been there probably since the 368th first occupied the building. Most of the white background is gone but the black lettering is all intact. The sergeant said, "You shall have it." I protested, saying that I believed it should stay on the building, but he insisted I take it because in its badly weathered condition it would not last much longer.

Russell A. Strong
May 17, 1983
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When we got back to our car the sergeant's superior, an inspector by rank, and his driver were waiting to meet us. We had a delightful conversation with him. As we left the inspector had the five of them in line at attention and they gave us one of those delightful British salutes.

I relate all this to tell you how I happen to have the sign and to ask your advice about what to do with it, if anything. Do you think the Richardson's would want it for the museum at Thurleigh? If so, I will be happy to ship it to them if you will give me their address.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick".

Richard E. Walck

22 May 1983

Col. Richard E. Walck
Rt. 1, Box 183A
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Dear Dick:

It was nice to hear from you, and we were especially appreciative of the kind remarks which you had to make about our nephew Rob. He is a fine young man and I am sure will do well in the legal profession.

I was also happy to learn that you are enjoying the book. And I appreciate the difficulty you are having with some parts. Mack MacKay told me a while ago that he was unable to read it because after a page or two it left him in a shambles.

I like your story on the sign, and I think it is most appropriate that it go back to England. Gordon and Connie Richards will look after it well, and it would certainly be a fitting part of a 306th Museum when it comes into being. Their address is 14 Pavenham Road, Oakley, Beds., MK 43 7SY, England.

Unless you register a noisy complaint, I will plan to use the tale in the next issue of Echoes, and to report the sign's impending return.

I will be in Bedford in mid-July and will be seeing the Richards at that time.

Thanks for writing.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

cc: Gordon & Connie

Route 1, Box 183A
Williamsburg, Va. 23185
10 March 1976

Mr. Russell A. Strong
4900 Appleridge Court
Dayton, Ohio 45424

Dear Russell,

This is in response to your letter of 6 February seeking rosters, addresses, etc. of 306th personnel. I have carefully searched the few records I have of that era without success. Probably few exist outside of official repositories because as I remember those rosters were all classified confidential. For the names you have without addresses, have you asked for the assistance of the Records Dept. in St. Louis? They had a fire years ago which destroyed some records but I believe most were saved.

I do know about Ronald McCormick mentioned in your letter. He died of natural causes in the early 1960's. His widow's name is Norma and her address is 1272 Bayard Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55116. Charles Hoffman who was a S/Sgt. in the 367th lives in Washington Court House, Ohio. I have no address for him but that is a small town and a letter there should reach him.

I had an interesting experience in the summer of 1971 which may interest you. I was in England and with my wife and daughter I drove up to our old base at Thurleigh. It is now an REA installation and as best I could find out has sort of a combination of Eglin-Wright Patterson-NASA mission. It is evidently a highly classified installation because when I asked the guard if we might come in and look about he said "Oh, no sir". I continued my conversation with him, told him I had been stationed there for 2½ yrs. during WW11, showed him my ID, etc. and he then he said, "Please wait until I ring up my sergeant". To make a long story short the sergeant soon appeared with a driver and a van. They piled the three of us into the back and gave us an extensive trip around the base without admitting us to any buildings. Our (367th) site 6 had nothing left but the concrete slab floors for the buildings and the old coal compound. The area where the chapel, E/M mess, BX, etc. were in the last stages of being razed. A new 10,000 ft. runway took out the whole area where the officer's messes were located and the Hq. area is gone. However, our old runways are still there (now unused) as is one of the hangers and some of the smaller concrete block buildings.

The Sgt. and his driver were ex-British servicemen and they were very interested in gathering information from me about the base and its personnel during WW11. They asked, "Who or what were the Eager Beavers?" I told them that it was a nickname of one of our squadrons and they said "Well we shall show you the Eager Beaver Building. The sign is still up". We drove to the long concrete building which had been the Hqs. of the 368th. When we arrived one said, "What a pity, the sign is gone". The buildings were newly painted and I noticed something laying on the roof of the little entrance portico. We got it down and it was the sign with EAGER BEAVERS still intact in black paint but most of the white background gone. They then said, "You shall have it - please take it home". I remonstrated saying that I thought it should go back up on the building. They insisted that that would be wrong as it was quite obvious that it would not last much longer exposed to the weather. We returned to the gate where their "Inspector" was waiting with his driver. He had heard we were on base and was anxious to talk to us. After a very pleasant conversation we put the sign in our old Volkswagon and departed. As we left the Inspector, who had formed the little contingent of drivers and guards into a line, called them to attention and gave us one of their inimitable salutes. It was a very satisfying experience.

I now have the sign in my garage and am very anxious that it be turned over to someone who might preserve it. Do you know if the AF museum would be interested and if so, to whom might I write?

I want to commend you for your outstanding efforts in this matter. Are you accepting monetary contributions for the project? If so, I hope the enclosed small check will help.

Sincerely,

Dick
(Richard E. Walck)

15 March 1976

Dear Dick:

Many thanks for your response, and for the check. (Decided I might want a wider column after I started typing, hence the strange appearance.)

I shall give Charles Hoffman a ring tonight, and if he has anything of interest, I'll hop over to WCH, Ohio. It is about 30 miles east of here.

Hang on to that Eager Beaver sign. We might just have a place for it one of these days.

In the communique I sent to you I included one to Phil Kraft, only to learn that he had died last December.

I have visited recently with the likes of John Bairnsfather and Charles Duy, and found both of them in excellent health and of help to me. Bairnsfather looks exactly as he did during the war. Put a uniform on him and stand him in front of a map, and you'd think you were ready for a briefing.

Duy lives in Mansfield, O., north of Columbus, with a most attractive wife. He is in the advertising business, with only one client, an insurance company, and nearing 71 has all the work he wants and appears to be very happy with life. (The wife is not the one he had during the war, but was acquired later).

Several others have reported to me experiences similar to yours in visiting Thurleigh, stirring a lot of old memories.

You don't happen to have any decent pictures of the base do you? I've unearthed a couple of good aeriels, but am seeking others. Have an excellent one of the Clay Pigeon sign, furnished by John Grimm, who lives here in Dayton.

I've also seen George Robinson, Robert Williams, John Regan, and quite a number of others, as well as corresponding with a large group. Have had a couple of occasions to talk with Paul Osburn, onetime 367th navigator, and plan to see him again soon. He gets into Dayton frequently.

But I had a strange experience this last summer. I went over the day after D Day, and my pilot with a short, baldheaded fellow, Milton Adam. He was a bit of a strange character then, but a super flier. I had kept track of him and knew he was in California, and about three years when in San Diego talked with him by phone. He wanted to see me if I ever got to California. My wife and I took a trip out there last summer, and I wrote him telling him that we would be coming near him and I planned to stop. He wrote back immediately, and I read between the lines that he really didn't want to revive any memories of the war. When I got to California I called his wife, and she confirmed my suspicions that he wanted nothing to do with WW II memories, so we passed him by. Some time when I'm out that way, I'll stop in unannounced for a 10 minute call. He was a great guy to fly with, but emotionally he had a lot of problems then.

Walck - 2

There is a possibility that I may get to Williamsburg in the near future. If I do, I'll try to make time to sit down for a chat with you. I'll give you a ring if I'm coming. I lived in North Carolina for nine years, and on our 25th wedding anniversary, I took my wife to Williamsburg for three days--sans kids-- and we had a fantastic time visiting and eating.

I got started on my work on the 306th about 15 months ago. I have three rolls of microfilm from the Air University which have a lot of the records, including several rosters. But there is a lot that isn't in the film and must be culled from the National Records Center at Suitland, Md., or the Air University at Maxwell AFB. I hope to get to both and get down the stuff I want. I tried to do some of it long distance, and with the aid of a nephew, but that didn't work very well, and I will just have to get there myself.

People keeping asking me when I'll have a book finished, and I figure that I've probably got another year's research under the best of circumstances. And then comes the writing, which would probably consume another year.

Perhaps you've seen Art Bove's book, First Over Germany, which came out in 1946. It is pretty sketchy and somewhat inaccurate I find as I really delve into things. I hope to correct a lot of that and to flesh out the big story about the group. I think it had a fantastic record, most of which has not been told.

If I get to Williamsburg, I'll give you a call, and if you come across any data about the 306th, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong 4900 Appleridge Court Dayton, Ohio 45424

513/233-8735

5 June 1977

Mr. Richard Walck
Rt. 1, Box 183A
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Dear Dick:

I am looking for a legible copy of Special Order #200, 30 July 44, on which I find your name. Do you have a copy in your 201 file? If you do, I'd appreciate getting a copy of it.

Research is going well, and I should be ready to begin writing by the end of the summer.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

3/30/87

Dear Russ,

Please excuse my tardiness in responding to your letter - we were out of town when it arrived.

The officer in the picture was Captain Ronald ^(Ron) McCormick who was adjutant of the 36th. He was part of the original complement at Wendover. He was rotated home early because of poor health. He died in the early 1960's. His home was in St. Paul, Minn. I knew him well - he was a very fine person.

Thanks you for the news about Rob. I'm glad he has found a niche other than with a big law firm. I think it is almost criminal the way they work their people - especially

the young associates. Please
give him my regards when
next you see him.

I have retired. I decided
that 30 years in the IFF and
15 years of teaching were enough.
I do miss it - especially the
students but I am adjusting.

I will see you in D.C. we
are mailing our reservation
today.

Sincerely,

Dick Halck

P.S. I hope it is OK that I kept
the letter with the picture - Some
of the names tend to fade after
so many years!

2/13/92

Russell -

Click had a stroke 5 Jan. (we closed on our house on the 31st!) - is now in a rehab center here in Richmond but we come "home" the 18th.

The reason I have home in quotes - we don't have a home now except our condo in Fl. which we had planned to go to o/a 6 Jan. - the best laid plans! The address for the directory is our daughters where we will be until we can go to Fl. - hopeful

in a couple of weeks. Our address there is ^{#22A} 1500 Gay Rd. Winter Park, Fl. 32787. Phone (407)628-5352

We had planned to buy or build in or around Williamsburg, but right now our plans are on hold until we see how Click recovers.

Have a great time in England - we were giving it serious consideration until -

Becky Whitlock

I know Dick would want me to contribute
to the 306th for operating expenses.

I want to thank whoever is responsible for
the obituary in the recent issue. There are
a couple of things which are incorrect. Dick
graduated from the University of Virginia Law School.
Dick taught at Marshall Wylde and was
Associate Dean for the last 3 years of his tenure
at Marshall-Wylde retiring in 1984. Dick was
a visiting professor of law at the University of
Delaware 1984-1985. Dick and I have two
children - not three.

This is F.T.O. and need not be corrected.

Sincerely

Rebecca H. Walek