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423RD BOMB SQ. MAJ WILSON C.O.

DEAR SIR:

I RECEIVED THE 306TH BOMB GROUP DIRECTORY AND WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE IT. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT ALL THE MEN'S NAMES BUT IT SEEMS THERE SHOULD BE A LIST OF ALL THE OLD ORIGINAL MEN WHO JOINED THE 306TH AT WENDOVER. I HAPPEN TO BE ONE OF THE MEN WHO JOINED THE 306TH AT WENDOVER WENT OVER SEAS TO THURLEIGH AND SERVED TILL THE DURATION OF THE WAR.

THERE ARE SOME OTHER MEN WHO DID THE SAME BUT I DO NOT SEE THEIR NAMES IN THE DIRECTORY. MAYBE I CAN HELP WITH SOME OF THESE.

- 1- FRANKLYN TUREK - Southington - Conn
- 2- DEMPSEY TURNER - Louisiana - ^{TEXAS} BORDER
- 3- ERNEST ~~GAUL~~ - Chicago - Illinois
GAUL
- 4- WILLIE HAWTHORNE - MASSACHUSETTS
- 5- A FELLOW NAMED COOLEY FROM LOUISIANA
WHO WAS A BUDDY OF WILMER STAWN 423RD

I HAPPENED TO BE A CREW CHIEF IN THE 423RD BOMB SQUADRON AND HAD A FEW COMBAT CREWS FLYING PLANE. I LOST ONE PLANE THAT CRASH LANDED IN ENGLAND AFTER A RAID ON BERLIN. IT WAS FLOWN BY CAPT. CARLSON AND HIS CREW - CAPT CARLSON I BELIEVE WAS FROM CALIFORNIA. THIS IS THEIR STORY AS TOLD TO ME

MISSION - BOMB BERLIN - THE FLIGHT WAS NORMAL TILL THE BOMB RUN WHEN THEY ENCOUNTERED HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT FIRE - THEY WERE HIT AND LOST TWO ENGINES CONSEQUENTLY THEY HAD TO JETTISON THE BOMB LOAD AND LOST ALTITUDE - THE INTERCOM WAS DAMAGED AND THE CREW FROM THE RADIO ROOM BACK COULDN'T CONTACT THE CREW UP FRONT

So thinking they WERE going DOWN they BAILED OUT. MEAN TIME AFTER LOOSING A LOT OF ALTITUDE CAPT CARLSON HAD THE PLANE UNDER CONTROL AND STARTED TO HEAD BACK TO ENGLAND AS THEY PASSED OVER BELGIUM they WERE FIRED ON BY SOLDIERS ON THE GROUND AND COAST ARTILLERY AS THEY HEADED OUT OVER THE NORTH SEA NOT KNOWING JUST HOW FAR they WERE FROM ENGLAND AND RUNNING LOW ON GAS they WERE thinking OF Ditching when AN R.A.F. AIR SEA RESCUE PLANE APPROACHED them their CREW NOTICING they WERE thinking OF Ditching MOTIONED them THAT ENGLAND WAS NOT TO FAR OFF so they MADE IT TO ENGLAND AND CRASH LANDED ON THE COAST.

CAPT. CARLSON AND CREW WERE GLAD TO MAKE IT BACK BUT CAPT. CARLSON WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT LOOSING PART OF HIS CREW WHO LATER WERE REPORTED P.O.W.