

2973 Heatherbrae Drive
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306TH ECHOES

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SECOND ANNUAL REUNION

Although there are small reunions of 306th personnel in restricted areas, or involving groups who served together, only the second national reunion of the Group ever organized will be held Oct. 15-17 in Dayton, Ohio.

The first reunion last October in Miami Beach brought 45 men from coast to coast. Although small, it was an unqualified success to those who attended, and it was the single largest contingent showing up for the 8th Air Force reunion.

Those who attended were thrilled by the enthusiasm, and to a man commend your attendance at Dayton this year.

Dayton was chosen because of the USAF Air Museum, and if you haven't seen a B-17 in 30 years, you won't want to miss this chance. All of the other WWII planes are also on display, and there's even a Thurleigh picture on display.

THE LONG SEARCH

For more than a year, Bill Collins of Poland, O., has been heading up the 306th veteran identification movement. It is slow, tough going, and thus far only a little over 400 addresses have been unearthed. We think about 7000 men served with the 306th, and that probably about 4000 survive today. We need your concerted help in searching memories, old address books, scrap books, your present locale, etc., to find even more veterans.

If you were on a combat crew, what do you know today about those who flew with you--where were they from? where might they have gone to college?

What about the men in your barracks? Or your office or shop? In the bomb dump? Etc.

We need names, addresses, leads, and a little of your time. Write a letter or two. Make a phone call. Perhaps get a note in your local newspaper. Check with your library, the American Legion and VFW groups. If you have a WATS line available, make some phone calls for the 306th, and send your results to Bill Collins.

ANOTHER NEWSLETTER

Although this first issue is going to press later than planned, another newsletter may come out before the October meeting. If you have any contributions to make, please send them to Strong.

CHICAGOANS MEET

Under the guidance of Bob Starzynski, a group of Chicago area 306th vets met May 8 in Chicago for dinner and reminiscing. They have put on a few years and a few pounds, but they were a good looking group of men, and still interested in the 306th.

THE RESEARCH SCENE

In seeking records of the 306th, Russ Strong has run into some oddities, one in particular in which he needs help. Group Special Orders were not routinely saved until 1 Dec 43. He has copies of all subsequent orders, but is only able to get the earlier orders as he finds them in the files of individuals. If you have any special Orders from the beginning thru November 30, 1943, he'd appreciate your copying them and sending them to him.

THE DIRECTORY

There will be available at the Dayton meeting several copies of the latest list of addresses--and it is hoped that in the future a directory may be published. With your help this can be done. We are tempted to give you a sampling, but just don't know where to begin.

THE HISTORICAL SCENE

Russ Strong, 367th, says he has waited for 30 years for a detailed history of the 306th, and as no one else has come forth, he has been researching such a book for the last year and a half. It is interesting work, and he's located a number of 306th legends who have proven to be fascinating.

But, he needs help from everyone. Past historical attempts, not to be deprecated

because they are important, tended to amplify the very early, hectic days, and to omit the later months when people were still being killed and the war had not yet be won. Strong hopes to strike a better balance, and also to picture in more detail the work behind the scenes that kept the planes in the air.

He wants to know more about YOUR role, and would appreciate hearing from you.

PRODUCING THE NEWSLETTER

This first newsletter comes to you through the combined efforts of Russ Strong, as editor; Bill Collins, as leader of the *identification effort*; and Harold Lightbown, who has operated a Boston printing business since leaving the 306th.

Two addresses you may need are:

Wm. M. Collins, Jr.
2973 Heatherbrae Drive
Poland, Ohio 44514

Russell A. Strong
St. Andrews Presbyterian College
Laurinburg, NC 28352

AVAILABLE READING

Of course, many of you have seen First Over Germany, the work of Art Bove and others which appeared in 1946. This is the basic book today on the 306th.

If you haven't seen it, The Mighty Eighth is well worth looking up and I'll bet you'll want your own copy!

Skyways to Berlin and First of the Many are two classics, long out of print, with tales of the 306th.

The entire record is to be found on microfilm, available from the USAF Historical Center at Maxwell Field, Ala., for \$17. But, you need a reader and its mighty hard on the eyes to work with it.

Many records are still extant, at the National Archives in Suitland, Md., and the USAF Historical Center. They are great browsing, but it is expensive to get copies and takes a great deal of time.

OTHER RESEARCH ON THE EIGHTH

The nostalgia wave hits at about 50, or so, say the experts, and in the case of the Eighth Air Force has brought forth a rash of books and research projects. Despite all that has been printed, there is still a great deal to be done. Hence, the work being done on the 306th, on other groups, on specific missions, etc.

###One British 306th devotee is working on a listing of plane names, but needs plane numbers to go with them. Can you help?

###Another Britisher is working on a book on the Hamm mission of 22 Apr 44. He is in touch with some of our people. Col. Robinson was the air commander that day and Maj. Cheney was the lead navigator. Maj. Phillips was the lead bombardier. The 306th lost no planes on a rough raid, with only Lt. Curtis having serious difficulty.

DECEASED SINCE 1 MAY 1945

In trying to bring the record up to date we must publish a list of those whom we know have died since 1 May 1945. This is by no means complete, nor is all pertinent information about individuals available at this time.

We would appreciate names and details on others who should be listed.

Robert Knox Andrews, GpHq
L/Gen Frank Armstrong, Group CO, Aug 69
Joseph L. Brennan, 423rd, 13 Feb 76
Ivan Brill 423rd
George R. Buckey 367th, 13 Mar 70
Ernest G. Cayard 367th, 22 Nov 64
John S. Chalfant 368th 423rd, GpHq,
22 Jun 75
Richard H. Claeys 368th, 19 Aug 46
Douglas R. Coleman GpHq, 7 Nov 69
Peter Ferrari 367th, 1972
Frank E. Ford 367th, 17 Dec 67
Harold R. Fossum 423rd
Rudolph Horst III 369th, 2 Oct 45
John C. Joplin 369th, 2 Oct 45
Howard W. Kelly 367th, 16 Jan 69
Jack Earl Klutz 367th, 12 Jun 74
Phil G. Kraft 423rd, 24 Dec 75
William Leiser 367th, 1965
William A. Lindsey 367th, Jun 61
Alfred S. Lubojacky 369th, 15 Feb 46
Edward W. Magee 367th, 6 May 66
Richard H. Metzger 367th
Ronald F. McCormack 367-th, GpHq, 60
William I. Osgood 369th, 2 Oct 45
Marion C. Plumb 367th
B/Gen Claude E. Putnam Group CO, May 65
Anthony Rastenis 367th, Jul 73
Edward N. Ryan 369th, 2 Oct 45
Henry H. Schmitz 369th, 2 Oct 45
Ralph E. Simester, chaplain
Adam L. Snavely 367th, 22 May 69
John Stanko, 369th, 19 Jun 76
Clifford J. Stantion 367th, 72
Leroy C. Sugg 423rd
Joseph L. Threlkeld 369th, 2 Oct 45
Hudson H. Upham Group CO, 1 Nov 46
Alfred W. Weld 368th
Frank E. Wright 369th, 2 Oct 45

Please send any additions to the editor.

July 1942 - May 1945	367th
Wendover Field, Utah	368th
Thurleigh, Beds., England	369th
	423rd

and service organizations