



306TH ECHOES

October 1976
Vol. 1 No. 2

ORGANIZATION AND ELECTION

During July a small group of 306th veterans met in Dayton and agreed to move for the organization of a 306th Association at the October reunion. A slate of officers will be presented, and steps taken to bring about an organization at that time.

MONEY!

If embryonic attempts to organize the 306th are to continue and prosper we will need money. If organized, dues will be set, but in the meantime, there is a need for money. Donations of \$5 to \$25- or even more--can be sent to Bill Collins to help with printing and mailing costs. A little help from a lot of us will go a long way towards making possible a continued resurgence of the 306th.

WHO'S WHERE?

Bill Collins has more than 1000 names on lists by states, under WW II era hometowns. He can use a lot of help in trying to locate these people. He is trying to get them out to people who might help, but he'd appreciate a lot of volunteers willing to spend an hour now and then in the search. If you have a WATS line for your state available, you can be of inestimable help. And experience shows that getting a 306th veteran on the line and chatting with him is an event you will find exhilarating.

Collins also continues to need inputs in this area from everyone. Look through your old address books, and other memorabilia for glimpses of the 306th. A name here and there is a real help in reviving interest in the Group.

GROWING, GROWING

At last count, we had 463 names and addresses on our 306th roster. This is a considerable improvement over last year but there have to be about 4,000 more in the hinterlands waiting to be found. Let Bill Collins know of any he might search for.

REUNION TIME!

Oct. 15-17 is reunion time in Dayton, at the new Stouffer's Inn. More than 40 of us have indicated our intentions of being there, but unfortunately for late arrivals, rooms in the new Stouffer will not be available.

But downtown Dayton has many other hostels, and everyone is welcome. Those who attended a year ago will attest that it was a great time, and one that you will not want to miss.

Get in your car, get on a plane, but get to Dayton for the 306th reunion.

As of Sept. 14, Bill Collins had reservations from the following: R. Argo, J. Bloom, R. Bordner, W. Borges, W. Boring, C. Bremer, W. Burroughs, W. Collins, J. Corcoran, A. Dickholtz, H. Doles, T. Shuller, A. Walton, Clay Wilson, E. Dostie, W. Fahrenhold, R. Graham, J. Gaydosh, W. Hifler, H. Hodges, R. Holbert, W. Houlihan, J. Kostal, A. Krajcic, C. Lamb, E. Odle, W. Pilat, H. Roeder, H. Roth, D. Schæack, Sharkey, E. Schwab, E. Smartt, Maynard Smith, R. Strong, and G. Wortham.

IN MEMORIAM

Largely through the efforts of Bill Houlihan, we are able to add to the list of post-war deaths:

Eric Anderson 368th
Bill Chapman Svc Gp
Ralph Chavez 368th
Jacob Douglas 423rd, 7-76
Billie Holmes Svc Gp
James McKinney 369th
Sigmund Nitka 423rd
John Sherdon 367th
Charlie Thomas 369th

EDITOR:

Russell A. Strong
Rt. 1
Scotch Meadows Dr.
Laurinburg, NC 28352

DIRECTORY:

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

ADDING TO THE LORE

In our continuing search for materials on the 306th, we have been privileged to read a diary kept by a staff officer during the first year of the group, and found it the most exciting single piece of information yet to come to our attention. Unfortunately, I cannot at this time reveal the source, but I found in it confirmation of much material that I had unearthed previously, as well as uncovering some excellent sketches of key personnel in the Group.

I have also found a few more Special Orders for the period preceding 1 Dec 43. If you have such records in your 201 file, or elsewhere, I would appreciate receiving a list of what you have, and of then borrowing for copying those orders I do not have. As these are not in governmental files, this is the only way they can be obtained and preserved. They are of major assistance in piecing together the personnel of the Group.

-Russ Strong

WHERE ARE ALL THE PICTURES?

On a recent trip to Washington, and after considerable difficulty, Historian Strong located the USAF Audio-Visual Service, and began the search for 306th photos. Their collection is disappointing to say the least, although I saw many, many 305th and 91st pictures.

Then, recently, some explanation came in a letter from Francis Waugh, #1 EM in Thurleigh's photo section: "When we first got there the photo section inherited the old base photo lab. We had no equipment other than personal cameras, and the Poles left only an old copy camera that used glass negatives. So, other than

GENERAL OFFICERS

Did you know that nine general officers in the Air Force at one time served in the 306th? It is an illustrious group of men:

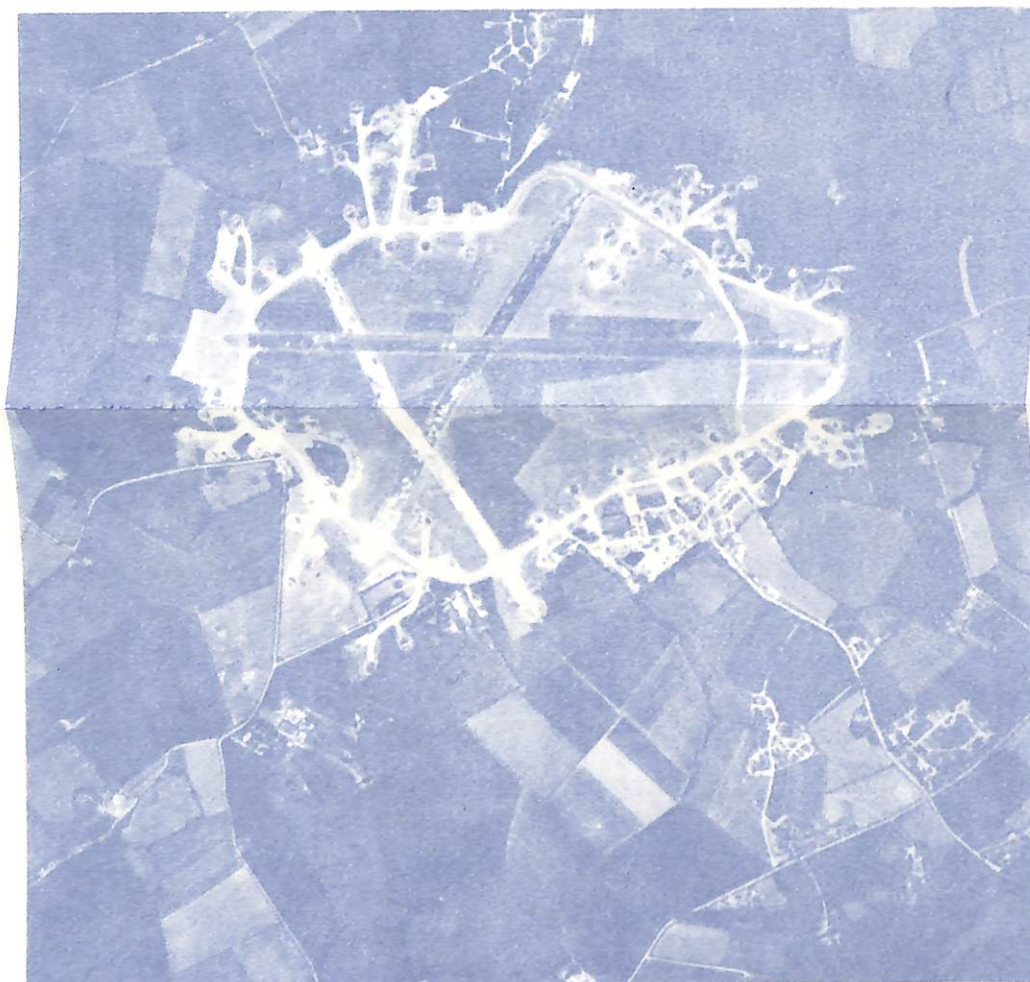
Gen. Curtis LeMay
First Gp Executive officer in Utah
L/Gen Frank Armstrong
Second Gp CO
L/Gen James W. Wilson
Sq CO, Gp Ops and Exec Off.
M/Gen Joseph Belser
Pilot
M/Gen Albert Bowley
Pilot
M/Gen James Cheney
Gp Navigator
M/Gen Delmar Wilson
Gp Exec Off
B/Gen Claude Putnam
Third Gp CO
B/Gen William Rader
Sq CO, Gp Deputy CO

Of that group, only Armstrong and Putnam are deceased.

aerial bomb spotting cameras we had no opportunity like other groups to get many ground pix for at least a year after we got there. Even after we got a Speed Graphic, we had to cut aerial film into 4x5 pieces and load film holders because we had no other film.

"In the last couple of years we were so busy with bomb spotting cameras and early experiments with copying radar scope images that we didn't have much time to do extracurricular photography like some of the other bases."

So that's the story on why you don't see many 306th pictures in books today



THE BASE

Late in 1942, when the men of Thurleigh were wondering if they would be transferred to North Africa, the base was formally turned over to the Americans--the 306th Bomb Group. This picture was probably made in 1944. Can you locate your site? Your hardstand? The club? Hdqs? Your work area?

306th Bomb Group Post Dayton News Letter dtd 28 October 1976

SHORT BURSTS - 306th again had most at Dayton, won first place - 84 plus spouses. Totals to about 160. There were 816 at the banquet. More than one-fifth were 306th. Someone gave me \$10.00 at the elevator for the set of pictures displayed in the hospitality room. Please identify and will mail immediately. Received many pictures from Bill Gentle, Group Photog, will send them to Russ Strong for his history, thanks Bill. Letter from June Paull in Bedford, Secretary of 306th Historical Society in Bedford, sent them \$20.00 for start. If you have any Pound Notes send to me, I'll forward to Bedford for their fund. If you go to Bedford, look up Keith Paull, he welcomes all 306 ers. Will act as host. Who was at Dayton? Col G L Robinson plus: R Argo, R Ashwood, H Balawajder, J Bollm, R Bordner, W Borges, W Boring, C Bremer, Cathy Brennan, W Burroughs, W Carlile, W Colantoni, W Collins, W Coons, J Corcoran, A Dickholtz, E Dinstbier, H Doles, E Dostie, W Fahrenhold, C Fisher, J Gaydosh, R Graham, C Hayen, W Hifler, H Hodges, R Holbert, W Houlihan, H Hutchinson, J Inman, K Jackson, P James, CF Jones, J Kostal, A Krajcik, C Lamb, E Leahy, R Lavery, J Lenagan, G Loveland, J Marciano, R McGill, D Michael, C Mullen, J Mynatt, D Norman, L Northcott, E Odle, W Pilat, F Rector, A Resser, H Roeder, D Ross, H Roth, D Schrack, E Schwab, D Sharkey, T Shuller, E Smartt, MH Smith-CMH, G Stahl, R Starzynski, J Stoner, D Upchurch, C Vondrachek, A Walton, A Wiehe, C Wilson, R Williams, G Wrotham, E Blucher, W Churchman, J Grimm, W Hull, B Jefferies, A LaChasse, J Lee, W Leggett, J MacPherson, D Sebastian, R Shultz, R Sprunger & R Tripp. Ray Tripp won Special Award for traveling farthest - from Hawaii. Wanted to get this info to you as insert in ECHOES II. Want to thank all who assisted in the reunion especially the Grimms, Bordners and Corcorans. Next reunion is St Louis in early October 77. Also only 250 seats available for England in August 77. Reunion went fast in Dayton, the Museum was big attraction. Snuffy Smith sprained his arm when he landed at the bottom of the stairs, only known casualty. If you have any items of interest for the ECHOES, write Russ or me. Next issue - after the new year. Best wishes for the Holidays. Will keep you informed. *Bill Collins*