

PERSONNEL RECORD UPDATE
306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to Russell A. Strong, Secretary,
306th BG Association, 5323 Cheval Place, Charlotte, NC 28205.

Date completed 10-8-93

LAST NAME: KLEIN, FIRST NAME: ROBERT B. MI: TITLE:
Street address: 1133 NORTH 78th STREET Telephone: (206) 523-2317
City, State, Zip: SEATTLE, WASHINGTON zip + 4: 98103-4811

Date of birth: 10-25-1919

Wife's name: RAE

College(s) attended:
UNIV OF WASH.

Degree(s):
MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING

Year(s):
1942-1954

Last employment & job title & retirement date:

THE BOEING AEROSPACE CO.
TEST ENGINEER, IUS PROGRAM
2-1-84 PLUS CONSULTING 5/87-10/88

Reunions attended:

306th SEPT 1993
8th AFHS AUG 86
92nd B/G; 1980, 1984, 1986, 1990 & 1993

Serial #:

AO-729870

Squadron:

4th Sta Comp.

Specialty:

FLYING CONTROL

Date joined 306th:

3 AUG 1944

If combat, what crew:

(PILOT 92ND B/G 3/43-5/44, OWN CREW)

Special duties or assignments w/306th:

FLYING CONTROL

Number of missions flown:

15

Date of last mission:

1-4-44

Date left 306th:

15 JAN 1945

Highest rank/grade w/306th:

1ST LIEUT.

Other 8th AF units served with:

11 CCRC
92ND B/G
379th. B/G

Top service assignment after 306th:

AF RESERVE, AIR REPAIR DEPOT,

FLIGHT TEST PILOT

USAF retirement date:

JUNE 1960

Rank/grade:

CAPT.

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units serving with the 306th, are sought by the secretary, as many of these do not appear in any collections of materials in Federal files:

If you know of others who served with the 306th who do not appear in the current directory, please add their names and current/WWII hometowns/or other addresses to the back of this sheet so that searches may be implemented to add them to our present 306th roster.

Robert B. Klein
1133 North 78th Street
Seattle, Wa 98103



Taking the Long Way Home: The Evasion of Ed Maslanka

12 December 1943

E & E Report No. 222 Evasion in France

Edward L. Maslanka, 1st Lt.
368 Bomb Squadron - 306 Bomb Group

Age: 23 years
Length of Service: 1 9/12 years
Home Address: Chicago, Illinois

MIA: 6 September 1943
Arrived in Spain:
29 October 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar:
10 November 1943
Arrived in UK:
20 November 1943

Members of Crew:

Pilot	2nd Lt	Wesley D. Peterson	MIA
Co-Pilot	1st Lt	Edward L. Maslanka	Narrator
Navigator	2nd Lt	Donald E. Phillips	MIA
Bombardier	1st Lt	August Winters	E & E Report 179
Radio Operator	T/Sgt	William B. Plaskett, Jr.	MIA
Top Turret Gun	T/Sgt	William L. Utley	MIA
Ball Turret	Sgt	Frederick E. Huntsinger	MIA
Waist Gunner	S/Sgt	George F. Monser	E & E Report 169
Waist Gunner	Sgt	William E. Scott, Jr.	E & E Report 173
Tail Gunner	S/Sgt	Douglas G. Wright	MIA

About 0600 hours on 6 September 1943 we took off from Thurleigh to bomb Stuttgart. I thought we flew the course as briefed, but the navigator said that we went in at 22,000 feet and started back at 17,000 feet, when we should have done just the reverse.

At any rate, we met head winds going in instead of tail winds. We flew north of Paris and had no trouble going in. Over the target we met a heavy barrage and the flak followed us for a few minutes. We opened the bomb bay doors, but because of the heavy clouds we did not bomb. We went on, opening our bomb bay doors three times and closing them again three times. It was about fifteen minutes before we released our bombs on some tiny town in the hills. Clouds were still heavy, but I could see what we hit.

I was getting worried about the gas and the time which we were wasting. We had the heaviest gas consuming plane on the field: we knew it, and apparently they realized it at the field, for they gave us quite a pep talk about it before we left. After we released our bombs we figured that we had just enough gas to

Russ
1) Is it possible to get copies of E & E reports 169, 173 & 179? I would like to read them.

2) My report on this mission is in rewrite currently. I will send a copy when complete. Possibly next week.

3) I am getting conflicting reports on Wes Peterson. Our class 42 - I records person has what he believes to be a current address in Santa Anna. It could be a spouse because no response was received at a reunion notice. I will write to the address and see what happens.

Bob Klein

21 November 93

Dear Bob:

Sorry I didn't get these things off to you earlier, but I seem to keep busy with a lot of things--like four days at Myrtle Beach last week!

I have only two of the Evasion Reports you asked about, but I think I have seen George Monser's and that it was very brief. That was the thing that struck me about Maslanka's, it was much longer than most.

After your note about Wesley Peterson, I shot from the top of my head and my record did not show him deceased. I then tried to follow your Santa Ana lead, assuming it was California, and could not get a phone number.

Perhaps when I get the CD Rom stuff in my computer before Christmas I may be able to find him on the nationwide search.

I am looking forward to your piece.

All the best,

22 Oct 1993

Dear Russ

Enclosed is a copy of the class of 42 I which graduated from the Roswell, New Mexico advanced flying school. This was a twin engine (AT-17, primarily) training school for officers planning to move into multi engine operations. According to the roster you provided, I find only one name from my class at Roswell, Franklyn D. Gile.

I arrived in England in Feb 1943 as a copilot in a crew, one of 22 crews, of replacement crews. Our original orders were to Iran and the 12th A.F. (later the 15th A.F.), we flew our airplanes the southern route and when we arrived at Marrakech, Morocco, our orders were changed to England. The twelfth AF did not want replacements, they wanted a full group. The 99th B/G was about 4 days behind us, so we waited at Marrakech until they arrived and our orders were swapped. (the 99th was scheduled for the 8th.)

I have also marked the enclosed list to show where others of my class went, insofar as I know. Others went to A/C, Photo recon etc (ie: P-38's, B-25's, etc).

The ^{306th} roster does not, apparently, include a list of deceased former members. Is there such a list with addresses? My 201 file contains other 306th orders with names such as, Edward M. Murphy, Walter I. Morey and Thomas F. Witt, (also Robt. W. Porter)

Sincerely
Bob Klein

HEADQUARTERS
 ARMY AIR FORCES ADVANCED FLYING SCHOOL
 ROSWELL ARMY FLYING SCHOOL
 ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

T2/ASF/jp

September 29, 1942

1. The following named Aviation Cadets, Class 42-I, have graduated and accepted appointment as Second Lieutenants in the Air-Reserve at this station, September 29, 1942:

	NAME	ENL. ASN	OFF. ASN	ADDRESS
2	Albright, Clarence Stanley	(13048816)	(0-729786)	Columbia, Pennsylvania
2	Alexander, Robert Charles	(19038229)	(0-729787)	Fontana, California
2	Amberson, Jack Emery	(17024759)	(0-729788)	Cheyenne, Wyoming
	Amundson, Veryl Alma	(17042747)	(0-729789)	Lamoni, Iowa
*	Atwood, Charles John Jr.	(19090636)	(0-729790)	Terre Haute, Indiana
	Barker, Caleb Newbould	(20272879)	(0-729791)	New Rochelle, New York
2	Bartman, Walter Michael	(13010567)	(0-729792)	N. Braddock, Pennsylvania
99th	Barton, Terry Reed	(19033003)	(0-729793)	Spokane, Washington
92nd	Basler, Sterling Arthur	(17005745)	(0-729794)	Rapid City, South Dakota
2	Behme, Lewis Alexander	(39152102)	(0-729795)	Los Angeles, California
8th	Bennett, Charles Arthur	(19040558)	(0-729796)	Santa Cruz, California
	Biddick, Curtis Rundle	(19024327)	(0-729797)	Davis, California
8th	Black, George Garner	(19040564)	(0-729798)	Henryetta, Oklahoma
2	Black, Vernon Ellwood	(19082390)	(0-729799)	Madera, California
99th	Boggio, Reynolds (none)	(19090656)	(0-729800)	Los Angeles, California
	Breitbart, Robert John	(17042768)	(0-729801)	Dubuque, Iowa
2	Brewster, Edgar Littleton	(19078150)	(0-729802)	Burbank, California
2	Brown, John Mack	(19040508)	(0-729803)	Gardnerville, Nevada
99th	Bruno, James Frank	(16049435)	(0-729804)	Waukesha, Wisconsin
2	Buchanan, Warner Knight	(36037092)	(0-729805)	Lawrenceville, Illinois
8th	Buck, Wayne LeRoy	(17042820)	(0-729806)	Washta, Iowa
2	Burrows, Daniel William	(17048604)	(0-729807)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
2	Cadwell, Truman Fletcher	(17042933)	(0-729808)	Mason City, Iowa
2	Cassaday, Charles Gray	(17042748)	(0-729809)	Denison, Iowa
2	Chapman, Carl Joseph	(19026553)	(0-729810)	Salem, Oregon
	Chase, Lionel Edward	(19068117)	(0-729811)	San Diego, California
2	Clark, Albert Wesley	(10100076)	(0-729812)	Honolulu, Hawaii
	Clemons, Frank Burr Jr.	(17042780)	(0-729813)	Bettendorf, Iowa
	Cockerill, James John	(11998811)	(0-729814)	Muscataine, Iowa
2	Cord, Archie Basil Jr.	(17042774)	(0-729815)	Des Moines, Iowa
8th	Cosgrave, Richard Paul	(19039973)	(0-729816)	Glendale, California
99th	Dahl, Eldon Harold	(19071033)	(0-729818)	Bozeman, Montana
8th	Davies, Albert Henry	(17062590)	(0-729819)	Chicago, Illinois
	Davis, Thomas Jefferson Jr.	(17044099)	(0-729820)	Piedmont, Missouri
	Davison, Max Arthur	(17043027)	(0-729821)	Fairfield, Iowa
	Denton, John Reid Jr.	(14066452)	(0-729822)	Raleigh, North Carolina
	Denton, William Jackson Jr.	(6950838)	(0-729823)	Paris, Texas
	Devine, Joseph Richard	(17043030)	(0-729824)	Sigourney, Iowa
2	Dodge, Gilbert Reid	(17064173)	(0-729825)	Dighton, Kansas
	Downey, Charles Frederick Jr.	(17064164)	(0-729826)	Kansas City, Missouri

Class 42-I, Cont'd.

	NAME	ENL. ASN	OFF. ASN	ADDRESS
	Drake, Joe Hunter	(18059227)	(0-729827)	Ancho, New Mexico
8th	- Duffey, William Marion	(39001724)	(0-729828)	Berkeley, California
	Duker, Orlo Francis	(20921081)	(0-729829)	Long Beach, California
	Dye, Glenn William	(15074465)	(0-729830)	Broadacre, Ohio
2	Ecklund, Robert Dean	(19052690)	(0-729831)	Harveyville, Kansas
2	Elliott, Elmo Adam	(19026554)	(0-729832)	Tranquillity, California
2	Evans, Herschel Daniel	(17052389)	(0-729833)	Little Rock, Arkansas
	Ewoldt, Allan James	(17043608)	(0-729834)	Hartley, Iowa
2	Farley, Donald Alden	(17042003)	(0-729835)	Albion, Nebraska
8th	- Fellonbaum, William Ramler	(19039933)	(0-729836)	San Bernardino, California
	Fienup, Victor Eugene	(17044097)	(0-729837)	St. Louis, Missouri
	Fisher, Gilbert Wray	(17041900)	(0-729838)	Easton, Missouri
	Freeburg, Howard Leland	(17062566)	(0-729839)	Walnut Grove, Minnesota
2	Fulkerson, Floyd Hurt Jr.	(17052240)	(0-729840)	North Little Rock, Arkansas
	Garner, Eldon Russel	(19019335)	(0-729841)	Brady, Montana
8th	- Garvey, John Lawrence Jr.	(19060837)	(0-729842)	Stockton, California
	George, Robert Joseph	(19024321)	(0-729843)	Indio, California
2	Gifford, Frank (none)	(19039923)	(0-729844)	West Los Angeles, California
	Gile, Franklyn Dennis	(19039967)	(0-729845)	Long Beach, California
8th	- Gladhart, David Fredrick	(19047614)	(0-729846)	Weiser, Idaho
	Gordon, Richard Mark	(16068098)	(0-729847)	Omaha, Nebraska
8th	- Gunn, Harold Woodrow	(19072920)	(0-729848)	Salt Lake City, Utah
99	- Hager, James Smith	(17061582)	(0-729849)	Fairbury, Nebraska
	Hankinson, Gordon Joshua	(17038880)	(0-729850)	Vincennes, Indiana
99	- Hayes, James Harmon	(18015609)	(0-729851)	Odessa, Texas
8th	- Hayes, Theodore Olin	(19080356)	(0-729852)	Baldwin Park, California
	Heath, Hemphill Vern	(19040568)	(0-729853)	Oakland, California
	Helstrom, Harold Berger	(36232483)	(0-729854)	Madison, Wisconsin
8th	- Hocker, Homer Lee	(19079640)	(0-729855)	Los Angeles, California
303	- Holder, Alvin Doris	(17061568)	(0-729856)	Butterfield, Missouri
	Hollenbeck, Ronald William	(19039938)	(0-729857)	Burbank, California
	Holmes, Theodore Breckenridge	(19089610)	(0-729858)	Palo Alto, California
99	- Holt, William Harvey	(19088315)	(0-729859)	San Diego, California
2	Hopper, Byron Atherton	(20906704)	(0-729860)	Pasadena, California
	Humes, William Edward	(19049787)	(0-729861)	Oceanside, California
	Hunter, Frank Hamblin	(19072906)	(0-729862)	Salt Lake City, Utah
2	Imes, Robert Eugene	(19079681)	(0-729863)	Los Angeles, California
99th	- Imric, Robert Graden	(19074470)	(0-729864)	Goodnoe Hills, Washington
	Jackson, Malden Maurice	(37039793)	(0-729865)	Lincoln, Nebraska
99th	- Jacobs, Russell Turner	(11044919)	(0-729866)	Columbia, Missouri
	Kallmeyer, Kenneth Aubrey	(17030007)	(0-729867)	Glasgow, Missouri
*	King, John Theodore	(19052469)	(0-729868)	Johnsville, California
2	Klang, Irving Elmer	(19079625)	(0-729869)	Chicago, Illinois
92nd	- Klein, Robert Brooks	(19075228)	(0-729870)	Seattle, Washington
2	*Kozina, Anthony Francis	(39678537)	(0-729871)	Las Vegas, Nevada
2	Langdon, Walter Paul	(6988825)	(0-729872)	Cincinnati, Ohio
99	- Larkin, Marion Joseph	(17041910)	(0-729873)	Baileyville, Kansas
	LeBlond, Richard Edmond	(19078676)	(0-729874)	Hollywood, California
2	Leeman, Nemo Ralph	(19024356)	(0-729875)	Oakland, California
2	Levy, Clifford Victor	(17041949)	(0-729876)	Kansas City, Missouri
2	Lindberg, Carl Donald	(19090635)	(0-729877)	Hollywood, California
	Lippman, Fritz Albert	(19089607)	(0-729878)	San Francisco, California
	Lowery, Edward Edgar, Jr.	(19024351)	(0-729879)	San Francisco, California
99th	- Lyon, Roger Charles	(19089606)	(0-729880)	North Hollywood, California

	NAME	ENL. ASN	OFF. ASN	ADDRESS
	Malone, Everett Francis	(11998764)	(0-729881)	Alhambra, California
305A	- McKeegan, Rothery (none)	(19024314)	(0-729882)	Lafayette, California
2	McMillen, Joseph Allen	(17041907)	(0-729883)	Coldwater, Kansas
99	- McHew, Bill Roy	(38015353)	(0-729884)	Enid, Oklahoma
2	Miley, Robert George	(17042776)	(0-729885)	Harrisburg, Illinois
	Millen, Harold Rankin	(19040514)	(0-729886)	San Francisco, California
*	Mitchell, William Robert	(17064161)	(0-729887)	Kirksville, Missouri
2	Moyers, Brian Kent	(17038879)	(0-729888)	St. Louis, Missouri
	Obarski, Stanley Joseph	(11998789)	(0-729889)	Brooklyn, New York
2	O'Brien, William Stephens	(19079641)	(0-729890)	Tarzana, California
8A	- Osborne, Fred Earle, Jr.	(19073424)	(0-729891)	Santa Barbara, California
2	Palmer, Hiram Clare	(17030010)	(0-729892)	Novelty, Missouri
2	Payne, George Norman	(17039375)	(0-729893)	Little Rock, Arkansas
2	Penick, Edward Moore	(17052242)	(0-729894)	Little Rock, Arkansas
2	Parello, Dominic Bert	(19073425)	(0-729895)	Santa Barbara, California
305	- Peterson, Wesley Donavon	(17062577)	(0-729896)	Wheaton, Minnesota
*	Poindexter, Henry Pratt	(17041946)	(0-729897)	Kansas City, Missouri
8th	- Powell, Thaddaeus Vaughn	(18013913)	(0-729898)	San Angelo, Texas
	Friday, John Warren	(19047598)	(0-729899)	Gateway, Oregon
*	Ravellette, Theodore Louis	(19026466)	(0-729900)	Sacramento, California
	Ray, John Thomas	(19047595)	(0-729901)	Klamath Falls, Oregon
	Reed, Victor (none)	(13048833)	(0-729902)	Sheridan, Pennsylvania
	Reeder, Sumner Henry	(17044096)	(0-729903)	St. Louis, Missouri
*	Reynolds, Lowell Clifford	(19061145)	(0-729904)	Taft, California
	Robbins, Hubert Clay, Jr.	(17044385)	(0-729905)	Piggott, Arkansas
2	Robinson, Robert Felton	(20919899)	(0-729906)	South Gate, California
2	Robinson, Roy (none)	(17061079)	(0-729907)	Van Buren, Arkansas
	Roessig, Allen William	(17042034)	(0-729908)	Omaha, Nebraska
2	Rose, Wilbur John	(17061061)	(0-729909)	Peru, Indiana
	Ruse, Robert Louis	(39017486)	(0-729911)	Inglewood, California
*	Sawyer, Joseph Addison	(19067642)	(0-729912)	Los Angeles, California
	Schmidt, Jack Cavanaugh	(19026331)	(0-729913)	Blue Lake, California
2	Shore, William Henry	(6263280)	(0-729914)	Amarillo, Texas
2	Shuck, Jack Dean	(17061576)	(0-729915)	Springfield, Missouri
2	Stanton, William Albert	(17061072)	(0-729916)	Fort Smith, Arkansas
	Stratton, James Philip	(17041959)	(0-729917)	Hutchinson, Kansas
2	Summers, George Elwood, Jr.	(12044715)	(0-729918)	Endicott, New York
	Teale, Garth Edwin	(37034006)	(0-729919)	Omaha, Nebraska
2	Thies, Everett Almer	(17062609)	(0-729920)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
	Thomas, Herbert Dale	(17042022)	(0-729921)	Mead, Nebraska
*	Thompson, Clarence Junior	(39087377)	(0-729922)	Hanford, California
	Thorburn, Donald Grant	(19054601)	(0-729923)	Cut Bank, Montana
	Thurston, Fred Folsom	(19075826)	(0-729924)	Arco, Idaho
	Train, Patrick George	(11998770)	(0-729925)	San Francisco, California
2	Treumann, Manville Giles	(19022308)	(0-729926)	Grafton, North Dakota
	Turgeon, Leo Paul	(11045852)	(0-729927)	Framingham, Massachusetts
	Turner, Harold Benjamin	(19089632)	(0-729928)	San Jose, California
	Tyler, John Joseph	(19039919)	(0-729929)	Highland, California
	Upton, Bruce Sheldon	(19039934)	(0-729930)	San Bernardino, California
	Valentine, William John	(17037309)	(0-729931)	Austin, Minnesota
	Vance, Paul Worlton	(19072960)	(0-729932)	Alpine, Utah
	Van Tassel, Newman (none)	(36215328)	(0-729933)	Oshkosh, Wisconsin
	Vinson, Matthew LaFayette	(38052821)	(0-729934)	Moscow, Texas
	Wallace, Robert Blair	(17042042)	(0-729935)	Omaha, Nebraska

Class 42-I, Cont'd.

	NAME	ENL. ASN	OFF. ASN	ADDRESS
2	Walton, LeRoy Scott	(20916269)	(0-729936)	Watsonville, California
	Wayland, Harry Richard	(20450636)	(0-729937)	Knoxville, Tennessee
	Weant, Willie Baxter	(14062585)	(0-729938)	China Grove, North Carolina
	Wernich, Paul William	(36201625)	(0-729939)	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
	White, Charles Milton	(19078763)	(0-729940)	Los Angeles, California
2	Will, Theodore Saint Clair Jr.	(14078952)	(0-729941)	Atlanta, Georgia
	Williams, John Daniel Jr.	(19047584)	(0-729942)	Portland, Oregon
2	Wilson, Claude Woodrow	(17961070)	(0-729943)	Fort Smith, Arkansas
X	Wolf, Gayle Christy	(15074425)	(0-729944)	Circleville, Ohio
	Wolfe, Oliver Perry Jr.	(11998793)	(0-729945)	Beechhurst, L.I., New York
2	Wood, Charles Cole	(15074459)	(0-729946)	Hamilton, Ohio
2	Wrapp, William Elton	(20720979)	(0-729947)	Omaha, Nebraska
	Yeager, Chester Robert	(17042926)	(0-729948)	Altoona, Iowa

* ATC LONG BEACH, CALF.

2. 51st PHOTO RECON, COLORADO SPRINGS, COL.

3. THE BALANCE TO 2ND A.F., SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.
* THENCE TO BOISE IDAHO, OR SPOKANE, WASH.

April 14, 1995



Robert Klein
1133 N. 78th
Seattle, WA. 98103-4811

Dear Russ

Sorry to take so long replying to your letter and enclosure of 12 Dec 94. These past seven months have been extremely stressful for me. My mother died Sept 28, 1994. She would have been 100 on Dec 28, 1994. My wife Rae became very ill in November, had a blood clot Dec 5th, which required surgery to remove, then she died Jan 14 of heart failure caused by medication she had been taking for 22 years for her rheumatoid arthritis. Then my sister-in-law died of cancer April 4, 1995. My emotional swings have been extremely devastating. Rae and I had been married October 2, 1942, just 3 days out of flying school and receiving my commission.

Regards the log entries from Bill Carlile I cannot remember details and dates at that time, however I do recall some events from Thurleigh that Bill may be able to put dates to. At this point in time I don't believe any harm can come from recounting

the more lurid of these stories.

- 1) The day the two 305th B-17's collided over the S.E. corner of the airdrome. I had been on a pass and learned of the event when I returned. I obtained and still have a contact print of the collision. The photographer was a friend.
- 2) The day the former 306th copilot came to a party in his P-47. He had completed his indoctrination and was ready for his first combat mission. I had been on duty that night and had just rolled into the sack in my room (across from Maj. ?), as I went to sleep, I heard the P-47 engine start and then the T/O roll. Next thing I heard was the explosion of the P-47 hitting the ground as the pilot attempted to execute a barrel roll too low to the ground. I hit the floor on that one.
- 3) The day #2 engine caught fire while doing maintenance work on a hardstand just south of the tower, with a north wind, they burned most of the nose off the A/S before they got the fire out.
- 4) The day we heard the screams of an airplane in a vertical dive. There was about a 500 foot ceiling I would judge. We dashed

out on the balcony and located the source of the noise about 2 miles off the north end of the field just as a Halifax came out of the overcast in a vertical dive - vision is in my mind forever.

- 5) The night I was on duty ~~there~~^{here} was a pea-soup fog. We got a call from the British to turn on our perimeter lights as one of their Mosquito's was lost in the area. We did so and went out on the balcony to listen. Sure enough we heard the airplane engines, but they seemed to fade into the distance. Later we got a call back from the British to turn off the lights as their airplane was out of fuel. The next morning - in the daylight the crashed remains were found just off the S.E. corner of the field - almost in the yard of the house at that location. I went out to examine the site and found human remains still there. Medics were called to come complete the clean-up.
- 6) Having been a pilot with the 92nd 13/6 I was guilty of commenting on the radio to various crews (pilots) to assist with runway alignment during landings in inclement weather.

Usually during returns from missions. One day they were landing to the North in very cold air. This fairly new crew was returning on two engines. He lowered his gear on the downwind and then full flaps on final approach. He then yelled & can't see - windshield had iced over, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off the end of the runway and about 100 feet in the air, the left wing dropped to the ground (about 80° of angle), the airplane rotated on the wing tip (bending it up), slammed onto the ground and continued rotating until it was facing about 170° opposite to landing direction. The tail swung across an open excavation, wiping off the tail wheel and buckling the fuselage. Minor injuries, but scratch one airplane, I remember as I watched all that thinking (but saying nothing) use only $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ flaps, full power, 2500 rpm, and stick your head out the window to see. Oh well - no lives lost.

7) Then there was the day that led to my transfer from Thurleigh to Kimbolton. A condition had developed where various vehicles were crossing the runways and taxi strips (perimeter road) in front of airplanes resulting in some near accidents and upset crews, let alone

(5)

staff personnel, Group ops issued an order forbidding this activity by anyone. Captain UNK picked up his lead (squadron) crew officers in a jeep and crossed the runway in use in front of a landing airplane. I intercepted him on the perimeter track and verbally assaulted him in front of his passengers - lousy tact - is none at all. Somewhat later, said Captain appeared in the tower and in a very angry tone proceeded to dress me down. I think he would have struck me if there had been other personnel present. He tried to put me into a brace i.e. Capt to Lieut. My training for the job had made it very very clear that when on duty in my area of responsibility I was the officer in charge. I very politely told the captain of some sort that he had disobeyed a base order and if he wanted to complain - go to base ops. He did! Maj UNK called me to his office to hear my side of the story, which I repeated as outlined here. He thanked me and the next thing I knew I had orders to Kimbolton and Jerry Blaise came to Thurlough.

8) One night during the winters of 1944/45 it was foggy and things were shut down. Fellows

in the tower decided they wanted something to eat. Out came shot guns, spot lights and a couple of vehicles. Along some the more deserted areas of the field were jack rabbits. Pretty soon rabbit stew or some other version was on the fire (coke stove, open top).

- 9) During this same period we had extended period of snow and below freezing temperatures. A sheet of ice covered the runways. In the dead of the night a jeep would tear down the runway and then crank the wheel hard over and hit the brakes. Objective, how many 360° spins could they achieve. I don't remember who won that contest.
- 10) A young woman from Wellingborough had been my dance date several times at Rodington while I was with the 92 nd B/c. At one of the 306th parties there she was in a new suit, of which she was very proud. I left the party early and somehow she found which barracks I was in. Two different times she came and knocked on my door, it was locked and I was in bed. The second time the Major (unk) across the hall told her to leave

- and not come back.
- 11) One night while ^{I was} on duty at the tower, Lt Heworth arrived with two young ladies. One for him and me to occupy the other (according to his view point). I finally locked him and the girls in the duty officers room. There was a mission to prepare for and get off. There they remained until the field quieted down well after the mission had been dispatched. Some unknown officer wanted in the room during the height of the activity. I refused to unlock the room by some unremembered pretext.
- 12) I had moved to another barracks in another site. Across the hall was Capt. Petermans room. One day he told me he had a girl locked in his room and I was to make sure no one entered. I was on night shift and trying to sleep. Along came the girls father raising a hell of a ruckus because he was sure his daughter was in that barracks. After three or four interruptions I finally got the MP's to escort him off base.

Why was I the fall guy for all these extra-curricular ~~curricular~~ activities? Mister nice guy? Well, not really.