

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 HENDERSON N. KNIGHT
Address 15376 PALMER ROAD S.W. REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO 43068.
Telephone 614-864-2930. Date 12, SEPT. 1975.
Occupation CORRECTION OFFICER Employer STATE OF OHIO.
Address 254 W. SPRING ST. Telephone 466-2727.
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Service Record:

Before joining the 306th:

SEE REVERSE SIDE.

After leaving the 306th:

SEE REVERSE SIDE.

306th Record:

Arrival Date SEPT. 1942. Squadron or other unit 423RD BOMB. SQDN.
MOS ARMAMENT OFFICER-4822. Combat Status NON-FLYING
Missions Completed ~~SIX~~ SEVEN - SEE REVERSE SIDE
Promotions SEE REVERSE SIDE.
Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM BRONZE STAR.
 PH Battle Stars SEE REVERSE SIDE other

OTHER LIVING MEMBER! -
EX. CAPT. (FLYING STATUS) IN
423RD BOMB. SQDN.
(GRIM REAPERS)
MR. DAVID P. VAN ARSDALE
966 SOUTH HAMPTON ROAD
BEXLEY, ~~COLUMBUS~~, OHIO.
43213.

I APPOINTED 2ND LT., 2ND MAY 1942, WAR DEPT. S.O.#100; F.
DATED 18, APRIL 1942.

Other personal data:

II APPOINTED 1ST LT., 17, AUG. 1942, WAR DEPT. S.O. #221; PAR. 21,
DATED 17, AUG. 1942.

III APPOINTED CAPTAIN 28, AUG. 1943, H.Q. ETOUSA, S.O. #240, PAR. 11,
DATED 28, AUG. 1943.

IV APPOINTED MAJOR, 13, FEB. 1946 AT 17TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT,
~~XX~~ CORPS, BAMBERG, GERMANY (APO #783),

Description of Air Missions: AUTHORITY PAR. #3 WAR DEPT CIRCULAR #10, ~~PAR. 10~~
(What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your role? What heroics did you witness? What events were there of which you have special knowledge?) 1946.

BATTLE STARS!

I EUROPEAN AIR OFFENSIVE.

II NORMANDY.

III NORTHERN FRANCE.

IV RHINELAND.

V ARDENNES.

VI CENTRAL EUROPE

SERVICE PRIOR TO JOINING 306TH:-

I OHIO NATIONAL GUARD FROM 13, MAY ¹⁹³⁰ TO 30, MARCH 1932.

II REGULAR ARMY (INFANTRY) 31 MARCH 1932 TO 28 FEB 1935

III REGULAR " (COAST ARTILLERY CORPS) 19, MARCH 1935 TO 14 JULY 37.

IV ARMY AIR CORPS. ²¹ JULY 1937. TO 20, JULY 1940.

II ARMY AIR CORPS. 2, AUGUST 1940 TO 1, MAY 1942.

SERVICE AFTER LEAVING 306TH:-

I ARMY AIR CORPS 19, FEB 1946 TO 4, FEB. 1949.

II ~~ARMY AIR CORPS~~ AIR FORCE 5, FEB. 1949 UNTIL RETIREMENT

ON 31, MAY 1953.

MISSIONS:-

I WILHEM SHAVEN. 1, JAN. 1943,

II BREMEN. - 13, JUNE 1943.

III BERLIN. - 22, MARCH 1944

IV SAAR BRUCKEN, - 12, MAY 1944.

V NORALL TARGET - 6, JULY 1944,

VI WILHEM SHAVEN. - 27, AUG. 1944.

VII MEERSBURG, - 13, SEPT. 1944

Add additional pages, if necessary (MEERSBURG)
OR

27, June 1979.

Dear Bill.

We've got another name to add to our
806th Roster, it is: -

William Taylor
1878 East River Road
Spring Hill, Florida.
33512.

I met Taylor today. He was in the
423rd Bomb Squadron. He was in the
ordnance section and was in charge of the
sketch range at Thuleigh. He married a
girl from the village of Keyroe, just off of
the base. - Remember Keyroe, Bill? - I do!
your Buddy,
Knight.

12, Feb. 1980.

Dear Bill,

I just read in the current issue of the 8th Air Force News, in the Claim to Fame Dept., where a ball turret gunner in the 446th Bomb Group claims to have been the Tallest Ball Turret Gunner at 6 feet.

Well, Bill, we in the 306th can't let that go unchallenged.

I clearly remember a former First Sergeant of one of the squadrons in our 306th Group went on combat and I always heard that he was a ball turret gunner. We could never figure out just how he made it. - But that was his problem!

He was Ex First Sgt. of either the 367th, 368th or 369th Sqdrns. - Not mine! (423rd).

He stood at least 6 feet 2 inches and his last name was something like: Coombly, Cooley, Corrie or Cowly. - I can't remember now!
Curry

Bill, try and check this out in our next 306th Echo, OK? **HANK CORDERY**

'Till I see you in Orlando
Henderson Knight

8 Nov. 1979.

Dear Bill,

I'm glad I saw you in Phoenix. - My 'living' wife and I had a wonderful time. We are looking forward to the reunion in Orlando next year.

Now, why I'm writing is I've found another missing member of the 306th. He is: -

MR. CALVIN EWELL
41ST TERRACE SOUTH
VETERANS VILLAGE
NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA.
33552.

Could you possibly send him an old copy of the 306th Echo?

as always
Norman F. Knight

P.S. This man was a cook in the 367th Bomb. Squadron and went on to Germany with the 306th Group.

HENDERSON N. KNIGHT

Captain, United States Air Force, Retired

15376 Palmer Road, S.W.

Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

25, October 1977.

Dear Bill,

Well, here I am again Bill. In my letter a couple of days ago there was something I forgot to tell you. - So here it is: -

I had a Corporal in my Ammunition Section in the 423rd Bomb. Squadron by the name of Robert Scales. He came from Ohio too.

In 1943 he transferred to the 367th Bomb. Squadron, Ammunition Section.

He came from one of these three places:

- I FIRST CHOICE. - Akron.
- II SECOND " - Canton.
- III THIRD " - Youngstown.

Bill maybe you could look in your telephone directory to see if you can find him. - OK?

yours Truly,
Henderson N. Knight

NOT Yo.

HENDERSON N. KNIGHT

Captain, United States Air Force, Retired
15376 Palmer Road, S.W.
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

24, October 1977.

Dear Bill,

I have one more name to add to the 306th roster.
This man was in the 423rd Bomb. Sqdn all the way from
Woodover, Utah in 1942 until after VE Day at Thurlough.
He was my section chief in the Armament section and did
a whole of a job for me - in fact, Master Sergeant West
was my "good right arm".

I hadn't written to him since we parted at Thurlough
in 1945. But about two weeks ago my wife and I drove
over to Stillwater, Ohio (population about 550) to try and
find him.

Can you imagine the look of surprise on West's face
when I told him who I was?

Well, Bill, here is all information you want for our Group Roster.

Howard A. West
Box 23
Stillwater, Ohio,
44679.

Yours Truly,
Henderson N. Knight

HENDERSON N. KNIGHT

Captain, United States Air Force, Retired

15376 Palmer Road, S.W.

Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

5, August 1978.

Dear Bill:

Enclosed you will find my Change of Address Card, as we are moving to Florida the end of this month.

Will you please do me a favor and make certain that I will keep on getting my copy of the 306th Echoes?

It sure would be nice to keep on getting it, as I enjoy it so much.

yours Truly,
Henderson N. Knight

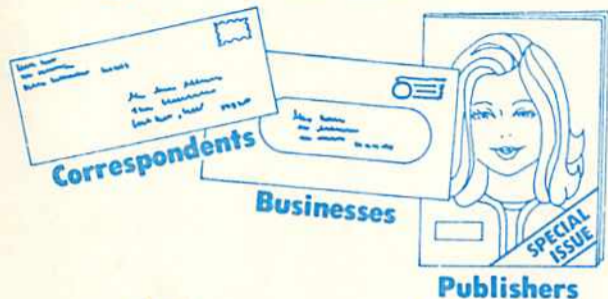
**As soon as you know your new address,
mail this card to all the people, businesses,
and publishers who send you mail.**

For publishers, paste old label over name and old address sections and complete new address section.

Your Name	Print or Type—Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial HENDERSON N KNIGHT 15376 PALMER RD SW REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO 43068	New Area Code and Telephone No. if known
Old Address	No. and No.	
New Address	City, State and ZIP Code No. and Street, Apt., Suite, P.O. Box or R.D. No. (In care of) 4116 15TH STREET EAST City, State and ZIP Code NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA. 33552.	
Sign Here	Henderson N. Knight	Date new address in effect 1, SEPT. '78. Account No. (If any)

Receiver: Be sure to record the above new address in your address book at home or office.

Change of Address card for:



Name WILLIAM M. COLLINS

Address 2973 HEATHERBRAE DR. P.O. Box

City POZANP State OHIO ZIP 44514

20, JAN. 1981.

Dear Bill;

Many thanks for being so prompt
in sending me Bill Flemmigan's address.

Now, you sure are 'one the ball'.

Say Bill, I noticed the article below
in this month's V.F.W. magazine on
page 42 under "Notices". I wonder if
it wouldn't be a good idea to have it
in our next issue of the 306 of Echoes.

I'll bet that Harris would like it.

Yours Truly,
Henderson K. Knight

8th AF, 306th BG, 987th Bomb Sqdr.—Need to
contact anyone remembering my being shot down
over Schweinfurt, Oct. 14, 1943; about my back
injury upon landing, my being held in Stalag
XVII, Krems, Austria, or our forced march.—
James E. Harris, 555 E. Munroe St., Little Falls,
N.Y. 13365.

21 February 1981

Mr. James E. Harris
555 E. Munroe St.
Little Falls, NY 13365

Dear James:

In response to your note in the VFW magazine, a place to begin might be those other 306th EM who were shot down 14 Oct 43, and for whom we have current addresses:

Richard H. Vader, 3 Pine St., Baldwinsville, NY 13027
C. Gus Lamb, 167 Atlantic Av., Carle Place, NY 11514
Robert D. Folk, 25351 P Dr. S, Homer, MI 49245
C. Mace Fatigati, 9301 Merrimobr Bl., Largo, FL 33540
RAYMOND J. Ristau, 322 W. Church, Utica, IL 61373
Ernest J. Gilbert, 538 Bolan St., Marietta, GA 30060
Willard H. MC Quarrie, Box 45002, Houston, TX 77002
Richard L. Kern, 2225 Maryland, Topeka, KS 66605
Pierre J. Noisat, Jr., 5375 Belgrave Pl, Oakland, CA 94618

I have no way of knowing whether any of these men might be able to help you or not, but at least they would be sympathetic to your plight.

Sorry I can't be of more help.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

27, JAN. 1982.

Sir:

About six weeks ago I mailed an Official 306th Bombardment Group Insignia to you. To date I haven't heard from you whether or not you received it.

Will you kindly send me a card telling me if it arrived or not?

Yours Truly,
Henderson N. Knight.

P.S.

I hope to see you in Cincinnati in October at the Eighth Airforce Reunion.

2, JAN. 1982

Dear Russell:

Enclosed you will find a 306 st Bombardier
Group Insignia.

I think it would be good to be on our
Thurligh Memorial. - Don't you?

It is official and was approved on
January 6, 1943.

The white portion of the insignia should
be colored gold, but I don't have any
crayon that color to do it properly, so
I left it plain.

My son Gary, said he would make
them for \$7.50 each. That covers postage
and insurance.

The ones he makes are each hand made
and are properly colored and are suitable
for framing. (Much better than this one).

I would like to see this mentioned in our
306 st Echoes. - Maybe with a drawing of it to
show prospective buyers. - It's a good deal!
your truly,
Hendrick J. King

This Insignia was reproduced by. —

LARRY W. KNIGHT

1842 138TH AVENUE

TAMPA, FLORIDA.

33612.

TEL. # (813) 977-4819.

16 February 1982

Dear Henderson:

I must apologize for not getting back to you, but I have been extremely busy with finishing the book, going to England for 10 days, and trying to keep my job moving as well.

I am returning the original which you mailed me, but would like one that is not colored so that we could run it in Echoes. The colors won't show up there and I think detract from the black and white design.

I would plan in Echoes to describe what the colors are and to make your offer then.

As I said, I'm sorry not to have gotten back to you, but my correspondence of late has suffered somewhat.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

Capt. H. N. Knight USAF (Ret.)
4116 15th Street East
New Port Richey
Florida 33552

15, MARCH 1982

Hello Russell!

Many thanks for returning the 306th
Bomb Group insignia.

Enclosed you will find some newspaper
clippings that I received today from
England. Maybe it could be mentioned in our
306th Echo.

Small world isn't it?

Your Group Friend,
Henderson N. Knight

12, Feb. 1982.

Sir:

Several weeks ago I mailed you a 306th Bombardment Group insignia (Official).

To date I've never received anything from you telling if you have ever gotten it.

One of my sons did the work on it and I thought it quite good.

It is worth about Ten Dollars.

If you haven't received it as yet, I suppose you never will.

The Official Group Crest would look good on our Dunleigh Memorial. - Right?

Now, if you don't like it, I would be more than glad to pay the return postage on it. - Because I don't have one myself.

Yours Truly,
Henderson N. Knight.

PS

Hope to see you at the Reunion in Cincinnati in October.

Capt. H. N. Knight USAF (Ret.)
4116 15th Street East
New Port Richey
Florida 33552

25 Sept. 1984.

Mr. Russell A. Strong
2041 Killdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I have found a new member of our
306th Bomb. Group. - He is:

COCKRAN

Mr. Walter Cochran
6829 Isleside Drive
Holiday, Florida.
33590.

Cochran was a navigator in the 369th
Bomb. Squadron at Tusley. He flew
12 missions. He arrived in 1945 and went
to Germany with the Group after the war.

Yours Truly,
Henderson N. Knight

HENDERSON N KNIGHT
4116 15TH ST E
NEW PT RICHEY, FL 33552

20, Dec. 1986.

Mr. Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillisdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan.
49004.

Sir:

Enclosed please find my One Dollar
donation toward the publication of our
306th Echoes paper.

In return, would it be possible to
mail me the October 1986 addition?
(This Vol. 11, No. 4)

My wife and I were at the Reunion
in Dayton, in October and our pictures
are in that issue.

Thanking you in advance for your
trouble in this matter.

Grim Peapers,
Capt. Henderson N Knight, USAF (RET).

1, Oct. 1987.

306th Echoes.
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan.
49007.

Dear Sir:

The widows of two of the men in
my 423rd Bomb. Squadron Armament
Section wrote and told me that their
husbands had died in August. - They were: -

^{STILLWATER}
M/Sgt. Howard A. West from Ohio and
Cpl. Charles H. Wilcox " ^{Dale,} Indiana.
Will you kindly print the above notices
in the next issue of our 306th Echoes?

Yours Truly,
Capt. Henderson N. Knight, Air Force (RET.)

614/922-3976 - Aug 30, kidney failure.
Lavel Vally Oil Co ret'd by you ago

812/

Updating the 306th

Name CAPT. HENDERSON N. KNIGHT, (RET.)
Street address 4116 15TH STREET EAST
City, state NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA Zip 34655-3301
Telephone (813)-376-3139

306th Organization: (If you prefer an organization other than that shown on the label, please indicate 423 RD)

Military Rank: That for regular retired officers is shown as indicated in the 1972 USAF Register. If yours is incorrect or unlisted, please indicate that which is correct: RETIRED
Rank CAPT. Regular _____ Reserve _____

Title: Professional titles are indicated if known. If you would prefer to have one used, please indicate it _____
If you would prefer to have no title used, check here

Do you know the present or former location of any 306th people whom you do not find in the current directory? If so, please list them below with last known location. This may be a complete present address, a WWII address, or only a city and a state. We will endeavor to locate such persons as time permits.

ROYSTER MELTON

RR#2

MADISONVILLE, KENTUCKY,

42431

TEL.# 502-821-0543.

Searching: If you care to assist in searching out information on people in your area, the secretary will be happy to send you his State Lost List. Please check

CAPT HENDERSON N KNIGHT
4116 15TH ST E
NEW PORT RICHEY FL 33552

34655

8, Dec. 1988.

Sir;

There are two errors in the latest issue of the 306th Echoes that I wish you would correct under New ~~For~~ Addresses.

I First of all, Howard Bowler was a Staff Sergeant in the 423rd Bomb Squadron serving under me for over 3 years as a turret specialist. He was never in any other squadron as listed.

II And Royce Melton was a Corporal Armorer serving under me for over 3 years and was never in any other squadron beside the 423rd Bomb Squadron.

Thank You Very Much,
Capt. Henderson N. Knight, U.S. AF RET.
(30 years service for Uncle Sam).

PS

I talked long distance to Bowler about a week ago in Denver. He agreed that he was never in any squadron but the "423rd."

CAPT

HENDERSON N KNIGHT, USAF. RET
4116 15TH ST E
NEW PT RICHEY FL 34655

28, July '90.

To Whom It May Concern:

In writing this letter to inform you that a former member of the 423rd Bomb. Squadron died on the Second of July this year.

Corp. Leslie Sedney was one of my armors in the 423rd. I was the squadron armament officer.

I found out about his passing away when I called. His wife told me he died on the Second of July.

His name and address is on page 16 of the 306th Bomb. Group Directory which just came out.

If you should care to call his wife to verify this, her phone number is:

1-914-967-9116.

Yours Truly
Capt Henderson N. Knight USAF. RET

20 July 1990

Mrs. Leslie Gedney
23 Rosemere St.
Rye, NY 10580

Dear Mrs. Gedney;

I want to extend my personal condolences, and those of the 306th Association, to you and your family at Leslie's death.

I received a note today from Henderson Knight informing of the fact.

As is customary, I have changed the mailing label for 306th Echoes to your name, and we will be happy to continue you on the mailing list as long as you so desire. If at any time you wish to make a change, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

~~Russell A. Strong~~

cc: Henderson Knight

35151045
WREICVALEDEHYT 27/08
300TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Capt Henderson N. Knight, AF, RET

3236 La Verne Court

New Port Richey, Florida

3, Nov. '92.

To Whom It May Concern:

On page 10 of the latest 306th Echos vnder. Can you
have I been? I recognized one of my armores passing
with the crew on the second picture down.

He is in the middle row on the very left. He was
Corporal Roth and I believe he came from Wyoming.

Yours Truly

Capt Henderson N. Knight, A.F. Ret.

423rd Armament Officer.

CAPT H. N. KNIGHT USAF-RET,
3236 LA VERNE COURT
NEW PORT RICHEY
FL 34655-3301

23, JULY 1994.

Mr. Russell A S Trong
5323 Chevle Place
Charlotte, North Carolina

Sir:

Will you kindly pass me a
copy of those General Order
which contains my name for the Air
Medal.

I was never given a copy. The
Air Medal was just thrown on my
bed.

Thanks for your information.

Yours Truly,
Henderson N. Knight

Sent
25 July 94