

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and return to
Russ Strong at the reunion, or mail to Russ Strong, 5323 Cheval
Place, Charlotte, NC 28205) Little Rock 1989

Date completed 7-13-91

LAST NAME: KRISTOFF FIRST NAME: RAYMOND TITLE:

Street address: 93 CORNWALL DR. Telephone: (203) 742-0881

City, state, zip: COVENTRY, CT. 06238 FEEL FREE TO
"CALL COLLECT."
ANY TIME

Date of Birth: 7-13-21. Wife's name: ANNETTE.

College(s) attended: X Degree(s): X Year(s): X

Last employment and job title:

RYTMAN GRAIN CO. GENERAL FOREMAN.

RETIRED IN 1976.

Reunions attended: (by year or location) X

Serial #: 31170553 Squadron: 368TH Specialty: SPARE B.T.G. FIRST AID, + ARMENT.

Date joined 306th: END OF 1943 If combat, what crew?: FLEW WITH DIFFERENT CREWS

Special duties or assignments w/306th: WHERE NEEDED (IN B.T.)

Number of missions flown: 15 or 16? Date of last mission: MAR. 44 OR FIRST PART OF APRIL 44.

Date left 306th: END OF MARCH OR APRIL 43? Highest rank/grade with 306th: S/SGT.

Other 8th AF units served with: 457TH B.G. 750TH SQUAD.

Top service assignments after 306th: FINISHED ^{MY} 30 MISSIONS WITH THE 457 B.G. - STAYED ON AS B.T.G. INSTRUCTOR FOR FEW WEEKS

USAF retirement date: Rank/grade: THEN HEADED HOME.

AFTER I GOT BACK THEY PUT ME IN THE HOSPITAL FOR 8 MONTHS - (COMBAT FATIGUE) THEN DISCHARGED Me.

Copies of old 306th orders, either from the Group or Station 111, or any of the squadrons or other units, will be welcomed by the secretary.

If you know of other 306th people who do not appear in the directory, please add their names and current or former addresses to this sheet so that we may search further for them.

AS NEAR AS I REMEMBER - AFTER 10 OR SO MISSIONS I WAS ASSIGNED AS REG. BALL GUNNER ON THE "VAPOR TRAIL" PLANE, THE ONLY NAMES I REMEMBER WAS LT. FIELD THE PIOLET + (OVER)

+ SIDNEY SALEPSKI. "WAIST GUNNER." I HAD
 SID'S ADDRESS + WROTE TO HIM AFTER THE
 WAR. HE ANSWERED, SAID HE CHANGED HIS
 NAME TO SIDNEY SAYLES, - I WROTE TO HIM A
 COUPLE TIMES AFTER THAT, BUT HE NEVER
 ANSWERED. HIS ADDRESS WAS N.Y. SOMEWHERE?

When I joined the 306th (from the Ordnance Co.)
 The C.O. gave me strict orders not to keep a
 diary or ever mention combat. That's why
 it's hard to remember much about the people
 & I all happened so fast, (as I expected to get
 some training before going into combat.) I
 had never been in a plane, or off the ground
 or fired a 50 Cal. gun, but sure learned fast.
 (Seems like I was jinked) Had so many
 "aborts" + "scrubs" + real rough missions.
 Was stuck in the Ball + had to land in it
 with the guns "half way down" - lost in
 the fog over France with equipment all
 shot up. "FLEW SOME REAL ROUGH MISSIONS,"
 I DID MANAGE TO KEEP RECORDS OF THIS.

1944

JAN. 4 KIEL

JAN 5 KIEL

JAN 7 LUDWIGSHAFEN

JAN. 11. HABERSTALT

JAN. 29. FRANKFURT

JAN. 30. BRUNSWICK.

FEB. 3 - WILHELMSHAFFEN.

FEB. 4 - FRANKFURT

FEB. 5 - CHAUC-DUN

FEB. 25. AUGSBERG,

MAR. 3, BERLIN "ATTEMPT"

MAR. 6. BERLIN.

MAR 16. AUGSBERG

ARR. 9. GYDINA "POLAND"

ARR 11. STETTIN

APR. 13 - SCHWEINFURT

APR 17 - BERLIN

APR 22 - HAMM

MAY 1. FRANCE

MAY 12. LUXKENDORF

MAY 20. PARIS

MAY 23. METZ

MAY 25. METZ

JUNE 6. INVASION

JUNE 8. FRANCE?

JUNE 4. PARIS

JUNE 19. BORDEAUX

JUNE 20. HAMBURG.

JUNE 14. PARIS

"SPELLED A BEST I KNOW"

July 5, 1991.

Dear Russell:

I just happened to see the reunion notice in the VFW magazine & would like very much to get some information.

I in Dec. of 1943 I joined the 306th & 368th Squadron & flew about 15 missions & then was transferred to the Pathfinder field, for the plane to be fitted with the Pathfinder equipment. I was a spare ball turret gunner & flew with different crews & when I finally got on as a regular crew member, that's when it happened. When we got there & found out that the Pathfinder equip. went in place of the ball, I went back to the 306th. (I'm not sure, but I think the plane was called "The Vapor Trail" & Lt. Field was the Pilot.)

The 457th Bomb Group was just getting settled & the older experienced groups had to send a few men from the ranks, to help them from our experiences. That's when I went & finished my missions. ^{457th BG} 750 Squad.


The reason I don't have any information is because when I came from the 1060 - 327th Service Group ("Ordnance") the CO at the 306th.

gave me strict orders that we weren't allowed to keep a diary or write anything about what we were doing. I had never been off the ground, or so much as been ⁱⁿ a plane. In my way - I went up once ~~to~~ when they "slot-timed" a plane & the next day they called me for a mission. That was to Kiel Germany Jan 4th 1944. The next day was the same to Kiel & on the fifth to Ludwigshafen. On Jan 11th my 4th mission I got credit for shooting down a Messerschmitt. Got the Air Medal for that & then a oak leaf cluster for my fifth mission.

In my way about all I have is the dates of my missions & things are pretty screwed up as far as remembering just when I left the 306th. I do know that I had 6 crash landings with the 306th.

Please let me know what goes on, now. Do you have an organization now? Were any books written about the 306th? I would sure like to be part of it.

Sincerely
Ray Kristoff

 RAYMOND KRISTOFF
93 Cornwall Dr.
Coventry, CT
06238-1607

Army Serial # 31170553

7-13-91.

Dear Russell:

Thank you very much for your prompt action with all the information about the 306th. I really appreciate it. Things were kind of mixed up about my combat, the way it all happened. Since leaving the hospital after 8 months things were quiet & I never heard a word from anyone who I served with during the war. (over 40 years)

About 5 years ago, I got a call from our sailor's gunner on the Flad Dodge. He said they tried to locate me for years & finally got me. I joined the 457th Bomb Group Assn. & went to one reunion with them & am going again this Fall. If things go right I hope to go to England next year with the 306th. My wife has "Lupus" & has flare-ups once in awhile, so it's pretty hard to plan ahead.

During my missions with the 306th I was put in for the "Silver Star" by the Pilot, but was transferred before it came thru. Also my discharge shows only 3 clusters to the Air Medal. I received the Air Medal on my 4th mission & a cluster for 5 missions. & with my moving around things got screwed-up. I was supposed to

have 5 clusters to the Quit Metal, as well as the Silver Star. I sent a form the V.A. office gave me & sent it in, but their reply was that my records show what is on my discharge. I T really doesn't matter anyway.

Am sending check for the Association \$25. & \$38. for the book. A ltr \$5. to C Dale Bruce for 306th Echoes.

Please excuse the sloppy writing & spelling. Today is my 70th birthday & my 3 daughters & rest of family & friends gave me a big surprise party, so I'm pretty (popped-out)

Thanks again.

Ray Kristoff.

AM for destruction of E/A

GENERAL ORDERS)
NO. 36)

R E S T R I C T E D

E X T R A C T

Hq 1st Bombardment Division,
APO 634, 31 January 1944.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and teletype, Hq VIII Bomber Command, S1632C, 26 September 1943, the AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following-named Enlisted Man.

Citation: For meritorious achievement in the destruction of one enemy airplane, while serving as crewman on a bombardment mission over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by this Enlisted Man upon this occasion reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

* * * * *
* RAYMOND J. KRISTOFF, 31170553, Sergeant, 368th Bombardment Squadron, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 133 School Street, Manchester, Connecticut. * * * * *

By command of Brigadier General WILLIAMS:

BARTLETT BEAMAN,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:
ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.,
Lt. Col., A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

R E S T R I C T E D

GENERAL ORDERS }
NO. 119 }

RESTRICTED


EXTRACT

Hq Eighth Air Force,
APO 634, 4 March, 1944.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Restricted TT Message #2139, Hq USSAFE, 11 January 1944, an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following-named Enlisted Man for wear with the AIR MEDAL previously awarded.

Citation: For exceptionally meritorious achievement, while participating in five separate bomber combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by this Enlisted Man upon these occasions reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

* * * * *
RAYMOND J. KRISTOFF, 31170553, Sergeant, 368th Bombardment Squadron
306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address:
133 School Street, Manchester, Connecticut.

By  Major General DOOLITTLE:

* * * * *
JOHN A. SAMFORD,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:
EDWARD E. TORO,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

RESTRICTED

OLC for five missions

GENERAL ORDERS)
NO. 41)

R E S T R I C T E D

E X T R A C T

Hq 1st Bombardment Division,
APO 634, 3 February 1944.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and teletype, Hq VIII Bomber Command, S1632C, 26 September 1943, an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following-named Enlisted Man, in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded.

Citation: For exceptionally meritorious achievement, while participating in five separate bomber combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by this Enlisted Man upon these occasions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

* * * * *

RAYMOND J. KRISTOFF, 31170553, Sergeant, 368th Bombardment Squadron, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 133 School Street, Manchester, Connecticut.

* * * * *

By command of Brigadier General WILLIAMS:

BARTLETT BEAMAN,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:
ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.,
Lt. Col., A. G. D.,
Adjutant, General.

R E S T R I C T E D

This was awarded when I finished with The 457 B.G.

RESTRICTED

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 113)

EXTRACT

Hq., 1st Bombardment Division,
APO 557, 22 June 1944.

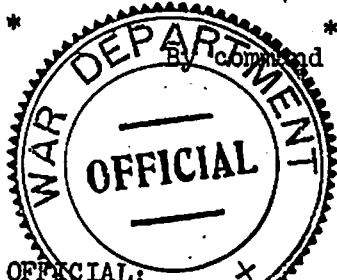
I. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, File 200.6, 1 June 1944, subject, "Awards and Decorations", the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following-named Officers and Enlisted Men, for extraordinary achievement, as set forth in citation.

* * * * *

RAYMOND J. KRISTOFF, 31170553, Staff Sergeant, 750th Bombardment Squadron, 457th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Force, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Ball Turret Gunner of a B-17 airplane on a number of bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Kristoff, fighting from his gun position, has warded off many enemy attacks and has materially aided in the success of each of these missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Kristoff on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 133 School Street, Manchester, Connecticut.

* * * * *

By command of Brigadier General WILLIAMS:



OFFICIAL:
ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.,
Lt. Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

BARTLETT DEAMAN,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

RESTRICTED



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that
 RAYMOND J. KRISTOFF,
 31170553; Staff Sergeant,
 750th Bomb Squadron (H), 457th Bomb Group (H),

Army of the United States

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military
 service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest
 and Faithful Service to this country.*

Given at ARMY AIR FORCES CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL, FORT LOGAN, COLORADO,

Date 2 MAY 1945

William M. Jackson
 WILLIAM M. JACKSON,
 Lt. Col., Medical Corps.

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL Kristoff, Raymond J		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 31170553	3. GRADE S/Sgt	4. ARM OR SERVICE Air Corps	5. COMPONENT AUS
6. ORGANIZATION 750th Bomb Sq, 457th Bomb Gp (H)		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 2 May 1945		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION AAF Convalescent Hospital, Fort Logan, Colorado	
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 133 School St, Manchester Hartford Co Conn			10. DATE OF BIRTH 13 July 1921	11. PLACE OF BIRTH Hartford, Connecticut	
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT See #9			13. COLOR EYES Blue	14. COLOR HAIR Lt Brown	15. HEIGHT 5'7"
			16. WEIGHT 136 lbs	17. NO. DEPEND. One	
18. RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify)	19. MARITAL STATUS SINGLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify)	20. U.S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Surface-Grinder Operator 4-78,513		

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION 28 Aug 1942		23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 11 September 1942		24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE Hartford, Connecticut	
25. SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		26. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. 4C		27. COUNTY AND STATE Hartford, Conn	
		28. COUNTY AND STATE See #9		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE	
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Aerial Gunner 611			31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (I.e., Infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) Marksman - Rifle 1903 5 May 1943		
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS Participated in 30 heavy bombardment sorties over enemy occupied territory from 4 January 1944 through 20 June 1944. Air Offensive Europe 4 July 1942 to 5 June 1944. Normandy campaign 6 Jun 44 to 24 July 44.					
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal and 2 Bronze Battle Stars Air Medal and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters Distinguished Flying Cross Distinguished Unit Badge *					
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION None					
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES			36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN		
SMALLPOX 3-6-44	TYPHOID 3-6-44	TETANUS 3-6-44	OTHER (specify) Typhus 3-6-44	DATE OF DEPARTURE 1 July 43	DESTINATION European Theater
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE			38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD		
CONTINENTAL SERVICE			TOBISW SERVICE		
YEARS 1	MONTHS 6	DAYS 11	YEARS 1	MONTHS 1	DAYS 20
			Staff Sergeant		
			18 Aug 44		
			U S A		
			20 Aug 44		
39. PRIOR SERVICE None					
40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION Certificate of Disability for Discharge AR 615-361 end 2d Indorsement Headquarters Fort Logan Colorado, 30 April 1945					
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED Armament course, RAFTTC, Kirkham, ETO Machine Shop course, Will Rogers Fld					
42. EDUCATION (Years) 9 High School 2 College 2 1/2					

PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES			44. MUSTERING OUT PAY		45. SOLDIER DEPOSIT		46. TRAVEL PAY		47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF CREDITING OFFICER	
YEARS 2	MONTHS 8	DAYS 1	TOTAL \$400.00	THIS PAYMENT \$00.00	None		\$ 99.95	\$248.98	E. M. Lightfoot, Col. Agent for J. F. Condon, Lt Col, FD.	

INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT: IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WITHIN THIRTY-DAY PERIOD AFTER SEPARATION, INSURANCE WILL Lapse. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS DIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.											
48. KIND OF INSURANCE		49. HOW PAID		50. DATE OF NEXT PREMIUM DUE		51. DATE OF NEXT PREMIUM DUE		52. PREMIUM PER MONTH		53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO	
Life	U.S. Govt.	None	Allotment	Direct to V.A.	30 April 1945	31 May 1945	\$ 5.25			Continue	Discontinue Only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

54. PHOTOGRAPH	55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives)	
	*Good Conduct Medal 2 Overseas Service Bars Lapel Button issued Credited with one enemy aircraft shot down. Time lost under AW 107:5 Days ERC fr 28 Aug 42 to 11 Sep 42	
56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <i>Raymond J. Kristoff</i>		57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) STUART PERRIN, 1st Lt, AC Separations Officer

Best Mr Jones:

11-11-92.

Did the 306th ever have
memberships cards for our
members? & it could be
done a lot of ways, so it
wouldn't cost anything;
such as having some made
up & if a member wants
one - he could send for

Reply (Jan 93)

it, along ^{with} whatever the cost -
plus a couple extra bucks.

I am proud to be a member
of the 306th & am willing

to pay my share for a
card. All the other things

I belong to have some sort
of identification. Sincerely

93 Cornwall Dr

Coventry CT 06238

Roy Kustoff

Mar. 25, 92.

Dear Val:

Enclosed find check to keep the 306 going. I found out about the 306th association a couple years ago & now have the book & really enjoy it along with 306th Echoes.

After several missions as a spare Ball gunner, I was assigned to St. Philip's crew the ~~Flat~~ "Vapor Trail." In the last "Echoes" our plane wasn't listed. These pictures enclosed, may not be good enough for re-print, but I'm sure St. Philip's Field could furnish some better ones. He is listed in the 306th roster. I talked to him & he said he would help. Also one page 223 & 224 of the "First Over Germany" book - Bottom of 223 page & top of 224 is the story of our experience that day. I might make it in the Echoes, (if they run short of stories). I was the Ball gunner that day & never a day goes by but thoughts of it run thru my mind. (OVER)

About our 14th mission we were transferred to the 305th B.G., to be fitted with Path-finder eq'ys. Being a Ball gunner I was sent back to the 306th (as the path-finder eq'ys. took the place of the Ball) Then I was sent up to the 459th B.G. because they were new & the older B.G.'s had to send experienced men to help them get started.

After a few missions as spare Ball gunner I got on the "Flak Dodger" as a regular & finished my missions.

Sincerely

Ray Kristoff.

P.S.

I think it would be nice if we could get membership cards for our organization - I know it costs money. I would more than willingly pay my share.

Ray Kristoff
93 Cornwall Dr.
Coventry, Ct.

06238

1-16, 93

Dear Russell,

Received your card about "membership cards" & was pleased to hear from you. It's not that important, just thought it would be nice to have one. Nothing fancy. Just a simple card, that ~~would~~ could

be sent out ² with the Echo's.

9 my way, it's not important.

I had a nice chat with

Phil Field, last nite. He
was the pilot of the "Vapor
Trail". I was the Ball gunner.

Also called Bernie
Jefferies - Tail gunner. He
(OVER)

celebrated his 50th anniversary,
one of his relatives presented
him a tape, with a poem about
our experience of the March
6th Bombing of Berlin. It
really brought back memories
of that day. Would be a nice
poem for "Echo".

Tape Love
Ray Krustoff

11-15-93,

Dear Secretary:

Please send me a
368 Combat Diary.

Enclosed check for \$17.00

Ray Kristoff.

MR. RAYMOND KRISTOFF
93 CORNWALL DR.
COVENTRY, CT. 06238-1607



"OVER"

Will be ordering 3 First over Harmony
books soon for my 3 Daughters. Would
it be possible to have them
autographed by the author?

Ans 11-24-93

L