

17 May 1976

Col. Charles B. Overacker
2 Barn Road
Belvedere, CA 94920

Dear Col. Overacker:

For about a year and half I have been deeply immersed in research on the 306th Bombardment Group, in preparation for writing a history of the organization.

A week ago I was in Chicago for a dinner of 306th veterans, including several men who had been with the original group when you were in command.

In conversation, one of the men told me that you had testified before a congressional committee concerning the air war. As such things are somewhat difficult to trace 30 years later unless you have a good starting point, I am writing to ask if you could tell me a little about this and as to when it occurred so that I can go about securing a transcript of your testimony. It was my understanding that this came about during the war, so I feel it would be especially valuable.

I would also appreciate any other materials or insights you might be able to provide me, and on my next trip to California I would hope that I might have an opportunity to talk with you.

I know that these events happened a long time ago, but I feel that there is a great need to bring them into new focus, and I think that some of the contributions you made were highly significant, for instance, the matter of the low level attacks by B-17s.

The accompanying pages will tell you a little more of what I am about, and I would certainly appreciate hearing from you at this time. I have interviewed Colonel Robinson, and I hope to see Colonel Putnam in the near future also.

The 306th will have its second annual reunion Oct. 15-17 here in Dayton, because of the Air Museum, and at that time we expect to produce a formal organization.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

4900 Appleridge Court
Dayton, Ohio 45424

6 April 1975

Dear Colonel Overacker:

I am working on a history of the 306th bomb group and therefore am seeking out those persons who held important command positions with the organization at various times.

My own service with the organization was from June to November of 1944, flying 34 missions as a navigator with the 367th squadron.

I am aware that one history has been written, but that was done immediately after the war was over and I feel leaves much to be desired as an objective report of the combat record of this illustrious organization.

I am now reading the various records of the group and expect to wade through quite a volume of paper in trying to piece together the whole story. Considerable push is also being given by the staff of the Air Museum, located about three miles from my home, in this effort, and it was through the good offices of Curator Royal Frey there that I was able to find your address in his directory of the Daedalians.

First, I am interested in knowing if you have written anything of your own WWII experiences, and if you have, if you would be willing to let me see such a manuscript?

Secondly, would you be willing to answer questions of mine from time to time covering the period in which you commanded the group?

If you are willing to answer questions, let me ask you several that come immediately to mind:

Could you tell me something of your own personal military history both before and after your service with the 306th? I would hope to include in such a work some biographical sketches of appropriate length for principals.

Could you in any way picture the climate that existed among this intrepid group of brave young men during the early combat experience?

While I know that the relief of Major Holt as CO of the 367th squadron came after your transfer, do you know anything of the events surrounding this?

I am enclosing a list of principal officers, none of whom I have yet been able to locate in the early stages of this work. Can you give me any direction to any of them?

I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong
4900 Appleridge Court
Dayton, Ohio 45424

22 September 1980

Col. Charles Overacker
421 Dexter
Denver, CO 80220

Dear Col. Overacker:

I will be in Denver on Thursday, Oct. 9, and would very much like to see you at that time.

As I have worked through a manuscript on the 306th, I have been impressed by the role you played in the formation and early development of the group, for I believe you had a profound impact on what did happen in combat.

Therefore, I would like to talk with you about two matters:

- 1) The formation of the Bomb Group and its preparation for combat;
- 2) The infamous low level raid to St. Nazaire, in which your stand was certainly proven to be 100 per cent correct, and the arm chair strategists were wrong.

I would consider it a great personal favor to me if you would be so kind as to see me that day.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

PS - I will plan to call you by about 9 a.m. on the 9th.

CHARLES B. OVERACKER

Oct 2, 1980

Dear Strong -

I have your letter of Sept 22,
and I will be available on Oct 9
when you plan to be in Denver.

Call me ; 399-5372, at your
convenience and we'll get together.

I can probably bill you in on some
of the early days of the 306th

Overacker

Chas B. Overaker

10/9/80
at Denver, CO

b Calif
g U of Cal '25

Commis 2nd Lt USAF Res. '25

Ordered to flying school for 6 week primary flight training
Ent as a cadet, grad Nov '27

Commis reg any Oct '27

17th & 19th Bomb Groups at March Field
Hanford, Oliver & Holt all there.

Went to McCord field - regu comm.
Reg - group ops officer

Communications officer for 1st wave flight of
B17s to Hawaii.

2nd AF at Spokane

Halvorson reg.

Checked out in 17's at March

Ordered to activate 306th group

Only pilot checked out in 17's.

he was sent to help out, not intended to stay
New tent blew down on 3 tons.

Elko, part of division.

No equipment for aerial gunnery training.

low-level

A suicidal mission, it is by British flak experts
They have been talked into it by British flak experts

Newt, this is suicidal, Those are orders,
from Eisenhower. You've got to go.

Called Eisenhower

We've got to try it.

It won't be any old anything,
we'll get the hell shocked for.

Turkel got in it group stuff it.

We went.

Beautiful bomb run.

Just before bombs away. They exploded.

Terry began massive action.

lost both wings

The ends of Portcath w^l disturbed
by actions.

Some del^{ns} ^{at} ^{the} ^{end} ^{of} ^{the} ^{road} ^{are} ^{disturbed} ^{by}
roadwork - "unbecom^g to
offices".

Restored broken glasses.

Wrote conciliatory letter.

O says Ambrose was "a dumb shit"

@ PR job.

Our war room platform

Told of troubles in bombing

"Perhaps in the interim before we
capture weather, we ought to try
low level."

Then got in trouble w/ Arnold.

To Eglin at proving ground for rest of war.

Retired 30 June 1956

~~Wesley~~

Sunderland Wilson





Col. Overacker on bass with
unidentified officer



King George VI greeting Lt.
Riordan's crew

13 Nov 42



(216 - THUR. - 306 B.G.) (13-11-42)

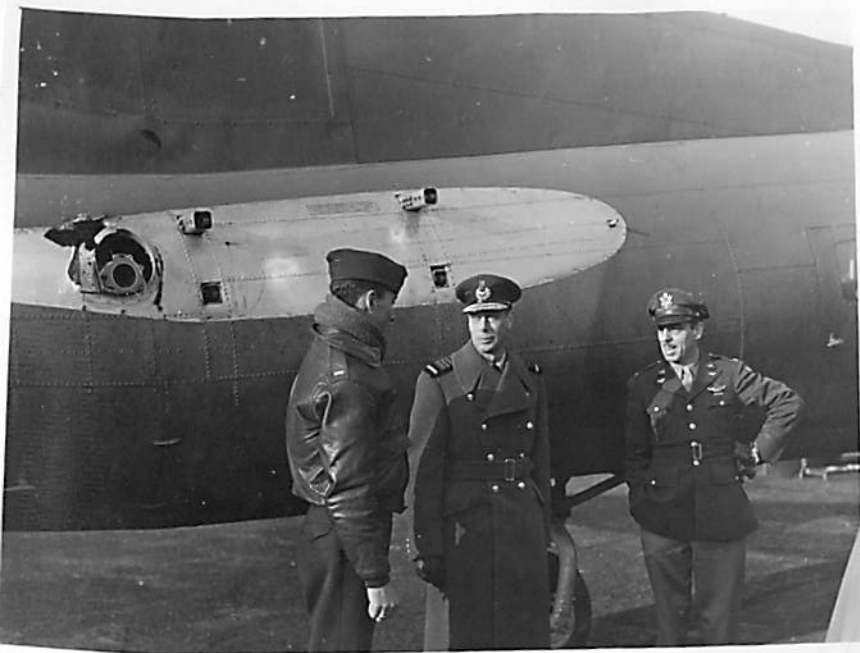




King George VI talking with Lt.
Regan. Col. Overacker between.

13 Nov 42









Nov. 42

Lt. Riordan, King George VI,
Col. Overacker.



