

RECORDS UPDATE

306th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish to, fold and mail as per address on reverse side. Or, if obtained at a reunion, hand to Russ Strong)

LAST NAME: THOMPSON FIRST NAME: CARL R. TITLE:

STREET ADDRESS: 1824 STONEGATE TELEPHONE: (817)382-0053

CITY: DENTON STATE: TX ZIP: 76205

DATE JOINED 306th ASSOCIATION: 1986

REUNIONS ATTENDED: (Years) NO 306 1986 8th - WICHITA KANSAS

WIFE'S NAME: MARTHA M

LAST EMPLOYMENT: FORD MOTOR CO. 33 YEARS RETIRED 3-1-88

COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED:

DEGREE(S):

DATE:

1052  
1042  
1024  
1091

SERIAL #: 0680764

SQDN: 368

MOS: PILOT 4 ENG.

DATE ARR: 3-NOV-1943

CREW: JOHN GAESSLER CREW

DATE DEPARTED: 4-APRIL-1944

HIGHEST RANK IN 306th: 1st LT

SERVICE RETIREMENT DATE: 11-NOV-1945

RANK or GRADE: CAPT.

DECORATIONS WITH 306TH: AIR MEDAL - 3 CLUSTERS - DFC - UNIT CITATION -

TOP SERVICE ASSIGNMENT AFTER 306TH: [ FLIGHT COMMANDER  
ASST. OPERATIONS OFFICER  
PERSONAL EQUIPMENT OFFICER  
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS WITH 306TH: BOCA RATON AIR BASE - FLORIDA

QUESTIONNAIRE

CATERPILLAR CLUB - IRVING CHUTE COMPANY

NAME:

COMBAT JUMP DATE & MISSION:

HEIGHT WHEN BAILED OUT:

ANY PROBLEMS WITH PARACHUTE:

306th Bombardment Group. SQDN:

Russell A. Strong  
2041 Hillisdale  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Feb. 11, 1988

Russ-

Thanks for your dedicated service to the 306th.  
Going down the pilot list in the latest Echoes brought  
back many memories.

I note that the list indicates my name as co-pilot only.  
I came to the 306th as John Gassler's co-pilot--flew  
19 missions with him--one as observer tail gunner in  
wing leader plane and 6 as pilot. (list attached)  
I am also attaching some items you may find interesting.  
They are copies and do not need to be returned,

Sincerely,  
*Carl R. Thompson*  
Carl R. Thompson  
1824 Stonegate  
Denton, TX 76205





**O-P-E-R-A-T-I-O-N-A-L S-O-R-T-I-E R-E-C-O-R-D-S**

NAME THOMPSON, CARL R. SQUADRON 368th  
 RANK 1st Lt. GROUP 306th  
 DUTY Pilot SERIAL NUMBER 0-680761

Date	Group Mission Number	Individ Mission Number	R-E-M-A-R-K-S	Time	Total Time
Nov. 16	85	1	KNAREN, NORWAY ✓	7:45	7:45 CP
28	86	2	BREMEN, GERMANY ✓	6:20	14:05 CP
Dec. 1	87	3	LEVERKUSEN, GERMANY ✓	7:00	21:05 CP
5	88	4	LA ROCHELLE, FRANCE ✓	6:00	27:05 CP
13	90	5	KIEL, GERMANY ✓	7:35	34:40 CP
18	91	6	BREMEN, GERMANY ✓	7:40	42:20 CP
Jan. 5	98	7	KIEL, GERMANY ✓	7:50	50:10 CP
14	101	8	NOBALL, FRANCE ✓ AIRE	4:15	54:25 CP
21	102	9	NOBALL, FRANCE ✓ PAS DE CALAIS	4:35	59:00 CP
29	103	10	FRANKFURT, GERMANY ✓	7:20	66:20 CP
30	104	11	BRUNSWICK, GERMANY ✓	7:15	73:35 CP
Feb. 3	105	12	WILHELMSHAVEN, GERMANY ✓	6:45	80:20 CP
4	106	13	FRANKFURT, GERMANY ✓	7:05	87:25 CP
5	107	14	CHATEAUDUN, FRANCE ✓	6:00	93:25 CP
20	111	15	LEIPZIG, GERMANY ✓	9:20	102:45 CP
21	112	16	HOPSTEN, GERMANY ✓ LIAPPSTADT	7:30	110:15 CP
22	113	17	BERNEBRO, GERMANY ✓	9:05	119:20 P
24	114	18	SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY ✓	7:40	127:00 O
28	116	19	NOBALL, FRANCE ✓ BEAUVOT	4:35	131:35 CP
Mar. 8	121	20	BERLIN, GERMANY ✓	9:30	141:05 CP
9	122	21	BERLIN, GERMANY ✓	9:20	150:25 CP
* 15		25	BTH A.P. MEMO #35-1 ✓		
16	123	26	GESSERTSHAUSEN, GERMANY ✓ AUGSPUAG	9:00	159:25 P
18	124	27	LEHGFELD, GERMANY ✓ AUGSHAUSE	9:00	168:25 P
20	125	28	FRANKFURT, GERMANY ✓	7:15	175:40 P
22	126	29	BERLIN, GERMANY ✓	9:10	184:50 P
23	127	30	HAMB, GERMANY ✓	6:50	191:40 P

Pilot 6  
 Co-pilot 19  
 Observer 1  
 26

\* Special Credit 4

CARL R. THOMPSON  
 1824 STONEGATE  
 Denton TX 76205

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15		25	8TH A.F. MEMO #35-1		
16	123	26	GESSERTSHAUSEN, GERMANY ✓ <i>JAGSPLURG</i>	9:00	159:25
18	124	27	LEHHELD, GERMANY ✓ <i>AUGSBURG</i>	9:00	168:25
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22	126	29	BERLIN, GERMANY ✓	9:10	184:50
23	127	30	HAMM, GERMANY ✓	6:50	191:40

5  
 Total  
 mission

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) (A-29)  
Office of the Commanding Officer  
United States Forces

AGO 557,  
23 March, 1944.

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation for Re-assignment of CARL R. THOMPSON, First Lieutenant, O-680764.

**TO :** Whom It May Concern.

1. Subject Officer has completed 191.40 hours of Combat Flying as a Pilot. He has complete a total of twenty-six (26) Combat Missions, and credited with an additional four (4) missions as determined by Ltr, Eighth Air Force, File 221, 4 March 1944, Subj: "Relief of Combat Crew Personnel" and Memorandum 35-1, Eighth Air Force, 4 March 1944. During the course of his missions he destroyed no Enemy Aircraft and has been decorated or is eligible for the following decorations:

Air Medal	Five Missions
Oak Leaf Cluster	Ten Missions
Oak Leaf Cluster	Fifteen Missions
Oak Leaf Cluster	Twenty Missions
Distinguished Flying Cross	Twenty-five Missions

2. Subject Officer's performance of duty is rated by his Commanding Officer as Superior.

3. Assignment of subject Officer, immaterial.

GEORGE L. ROBINSON,  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding.

GENERAL ORDERS }  
NO. 210 }

R E S T R I C T E D

E X T R A C T

Hq Eighth Air Force  
APO 634, 25 March 1944.

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Restricted TT Message #2139, Hq USSAF, 11 January 1944, the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following-named Officer, for extraordinary achievement, as set forth in citation. This individual has previously earned the Air Medal and Three Oak Leaf Clusters for wear therewith.

\* \* \* \* \*

CARL R. THOMPSON, O-860764, 1st Lieutenant, 368th Bombardment Squadron, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Pilot of a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Lieutenant Thompson, has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions and his actions are an inspiring example for his fellow flyers. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Lieutenant Thompson on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Paris, Texas.

\* \* \* \* \*

By command of Lieutenant General DOOLITTLE:

JOHN A. SAMPFORD,  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,  
Chief of Staff.

(Seal)  
OFFICIAL:  
EDWARD E. TORO,  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

A TRUE COPY:

*H. O. Beard*  
H. O. BEARD,  
1st Lt., A. C.

R E S T R I C T E D



368TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
Office of the Squadron Commander  
United States Forces

AFO 557  
26 March, 1944.

SUBJECT: Recommendation.

TO: Whom It May Concern.

1. First Lieutenant CARL R. THOMPSON, O-680764, of this Organization has served as Pilot of a B-17 airplane on twenty-five (25) sorties against enemy targets. Lieutenant THOMPSON is a member of one of the outstanding crews of this Squadron. During his many times in combat he has always remained calm and resourceful, displaying great courage and skill; thus demonstrating undeniable qualities of leadership which served as an inspiration to other crew members.

2. Lieutenant THOMPSON is an excellent officer of outstanding character and his ability to act in that capacity has been demonstrated on numerous occasions while a member of this Organization.

3. Lieutenant THOMPSON has been under my Command for the past five (5) months and has fulfilled the duties of a Pilot and other duties allotted him in an excellent manner. In consideration of his previous aerial training and the manner of performance of his duties, while a member of this Organization, I recommend him most highly.

*John M. Regan*  
JOHN M. REGAN,  
Lt Col, Air Corps,  
Commanding.

17 March 1988

Dear Carl:

Got your envelope today and appreciated the copies of orders. I did not have the November item, and had access to the February listing only thru microfilm.

I need a little more help. At times the group varied, and yours was one in which they did not list the various crew specialties on the orders when you reported. This was routinely done about 75 per cent of the time, and the remainder leaves me guessing.

Thus, I need information for:

Anthony Cieri

David L. Mills (there were two David Mills in the 368th at that time!)

David Gollaher

Theodore Lenoski  
Ben Mings and Roy Grothe

Also, why did Logan get a promotion to captain in April '44? Have I missed something? Was he squadron bombardier? Or have I miss read something along the way?

Any help you can give will be appreciated.

Also, do you know the present or 1943/44 whereabouts of any of these men whom we do not have on the mailing list?

Hope to see you in Vegas.

# Preserving Our Heritage

All of my life, my father has been telling stories like only he can tell them. As I came to appreciate his gift in the last few years, I also began to realize that he was not getting any younger. I worried that his stories would fade away with him, and that made me so sad to think about, for his stories were entertaining, thought-provoking, educational, and valuable.

Although he protested that "no one wants to hear my stories," I insisted that he allow me to tape him telling them. For several weeks, I spent a day with my parents, sitting on the couch for several hours with a tape recorder between us and my notes for prompting him should he need it. I also video-taped one of these sessions. When we were finished, I had one video-tape and five, 60-minute cassettes full of his stories from his childhood through his return from W.W.II.

Shortly thereafter, my family and I moved out-of-state and such a task would have been more difficult. Within just a few months, Dad had open-heart surgery and began his last year, dying only 15 months after our taping sessions, never having regained his vigor. If I had put-off the task at all, I would never have preserved his stories - our story.

Since his death, I have realized just what a treasure I have. Not only is our family history and that of our nation preserved, but also, my Dad's voice! Several have already inquired as to how soon they will get a copy - they just want to hear his voice! What if I had waited?!

Very soon, I will begin the process of transcribing these tapes, making them more long-lasting in the face of changing sound technology, then making copies of both the tapes and the transcript for all the households in my family. I have gathered the most important of his official service records to include as well. I want future generations of my family to realize what a great person my dad was and to understand his pride for his country and his pride for his service. I want them to appreciate the sacrifices and difficulties of his generation, and I want my own young children to have some way of knowing their "GranGran."

I miss my Dad! - Carl R. Thompson [b. 9/13/22, d. 11/23/99]  
306th BG, 368th squadron

Cynthia Thompson Carrell  
10 Cattail Rd.  
Searcy AR 72143  
501-268-8950

# The 27th Mission

In the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, eight men risk their lives to find one soldier behind enemy lines in order to send him home as all three of his brothers have been killed in action. When Pvt. Ryan asks how can he leave his comrades and not finish his mission, Capt. Miller responds that his mission, now, is to go home, to live a good life for his family that is worthy of these who have risked, and lost, their lives for his sake. At the movie's end, the old man Ryan visits Miller's grave and wonders if he lived his life well, if he was worthy in his mission.

Towards the end of Dad's life, he asked - more than once - "Why was I allowed to live - out of all of us?" Only 16 of the 60+ men in his squadron came home. I believe the answer was that, like Pvt. Ryan, Dad had another mission: to live a good life for his family. Yes, Dad you were worthy of your (27th) mission.

[This was part of our family Christmas newsletter 12/99]

Cynthia Thompson Carrell  
10 Cattail Rd.  
Searcy AR 72143  
501-268-8950

Mid Air Collision  
 Page 176 your book

This is a copy of my  
 log of officers who left  
 the 768<sup>th</sup> of our barracks  
 during the 4 1/2 months of  
 my stay at Thurleigh.

768 sqdn 16 of 62 completed tour  
 Our barracks 4 of 25 completed tour

Early Nov. 43 - Late March 44

down	finished
4 Goad	1 Robinson
4 Wattle	1 Cook
4 Laker	1 Bellamy
4 Hosen	1 P.A. 15
4 Reed	1 Pava
4 Simon	1 Slif
4 Jay	1 Eazel
4 Boulton	1 Hagan
4 Colman	1 Monty
1 Stephenson	1 Kelly
4 Smith	1 Gould
4 Leake	1 Lina
4 Jiv	4 Va
40	(16)
16 out of 62 finished	
368 SQDN:	
down	finished
6 Goad	1 Hagan
4 Hosen	1 Hill
4 Laker	1 Jiv
1 Gordon	1 Hagan
1 Stephenson	
1 Hagan	
1 Leake	20 - 4
1 Brown	
1 Crowl	
1 Jiv	
4 out of 25 finished	
OUR BARRACKS	

Massler  
 Thompson  
 Hughes H  
 Logan B

8th Lost 41

#17, BERNBURG FEB 22 - 41

Logan hit JU 88 2nd AT.

RIGHT AT TARGET 6 10 9<sup>15</sup>.

CAME IN very close & caught  
me off guard. Had fighter  
attached all the way out  
and saw many others on  
the way in. Saw 3 go  
down on the way in one  
in pluck. I saw several  
planes of our group go  
down when we were on  
17 or 20 came through that  
ground. Circle out 100 but  
didn't get official claim.

lost 7 from base. Proctor  
got shot down in plane  
and had flounder before.

I saw 4 parachutes in  
the way in. Lost 20 men  
& plucking around & saw

ESTIMATED 100-150 HIT

7 from 706<sup>th</sup>  
LOST

I scribbled a short  
note after each  
mission.

These are pages from  
my notebook for  
our 17 & 18 missions  
Bernburg & Schweinfurt

- attached also is an extra 36<sup>th</sup> note card - I had two!

Bombing continued

+

gives facts. fire could see  
straps or spinners & marking on  
side of plane & wings.

Bill had in his log 11 bombs  
down & we also circles  
out which our boys saw  
direct & about in position.

We came back over ~~the~~ flash  
& was about a 1/2 way and  
ever saw also I ask took  
we over Rotterdam flash.

We got about 2 flash but  
I have pic of flash which  
cut some charge wire on #1

(Bill saw plane land off  
of bomb small town the bird  
out. Bill saw 10 chute out  
of plane plane. SCHWEINER PT  
Nothing but rough.

Law B-24's shot down  
fitter & 20 mm around  
B-24's

SCHWEINFURT

#18. FEB 24

49

I flew as tail gunner for  
Colonel Roger with Logan  
as bombardier. Made a  
dry run on target. Made  
very accurate. Misses  
hit us on the way  
in and came through  
in many as 27 at a time.  
I got some shots from  
tail. FW of 10/95 down  
several fellows got  
hit by flack over  
target. John flying second  
element lead got hit  
in #2 lost hydraulic line  
& tire. High & low wings  
leaders shot down.  
Two large rocket explosion  
estimated 60 ft.

OVER



NO.	RAID	DATE	LOST PAGES
1.	KNABEN	NOV 16	5
2.	BREMEN	NOV 26	29
3.	LEVERKUSEN	DEC 1	27
4.	LA ROCHELLE	DEC 5	11
5.	KIEL	DEC 13	5
6.	BREMEN	DEC 16	11
7.	KIEL	JAN 5	25
8.	AIRE	JAN 14	3
9.	PAS DE CALAIS	JAN 21	6
10.	FRANKFURT	JAN 29	31
11.	BRAUNSWIG	JAN 30	20
12.	WILHELMSHAVEN	FEB 3	4
13.	FRANKFURT	FEB 4	21
14.	CHATEAUDUN	FEB 5	2
15.	LEIPZIG	FEB 20	21
16.	LIPPSTADT	FEB 21	15
17.	BERNBURG	FEB 22	41
18.	SCHWEINFURT	FEB 24	49
19.	BEAUTOT	FEB 28	6
20.	BERLIN	MAR 8	38
21.	BERLIN	MAR 9	7
			OVER

✓ 22. AUGSBURG } MAR 16 - 22  
✓ 23 AUGSBURG } MAR 18 - 43  
✓ 24. FRANKFURT } MAR 20 - 6  
✓ 25 BERLIN } MAR 22 - 13  
✓ 26. HANNO. } MAR 23 - 27

No. 1.

LOST

Agoston Nov. 16 - 2

Large pile of material  
out of window box over

to get well attacked by  
2:30 pm. Oct 31 - 1908

Agoston, Nov. 20 - 3 cal.  
boxes & 2 - 2 am.

lots in morning. 1 through  
to make some tubular engine parts

of steel. No. 2 LOST.  
Agoston, Nov. 26 - 29.

lots of black, this pile  
on up with some smaller

groups.

No. 3

LOST

Levee Rusen Dec 1 - 27

lots of black & piles on  
lower gorge. 1 saw

3 piles of black & one pile  
of iron

lots of black pile in  
the black out on floor

Apr 4. LOST  
In Rodolphe Dec. 5. 11

Long run down in  
sub then Brand. Found  
back before descent from  
a small hole, little hole,  
brought water back.

April No 5. LOST

Dec 13 5

the piton on summit saw  
5 on one guy. Mad Maxon  
almost ditched because  
of frozen rope & solvent  
! When shot down by U.S.S.  
in dog fight. P.F.F.  
lots of holes - small  
holes.

No 6. Bremen Dec. 16 LOST

Jan Bremen had few pits  
P.F.F.

No 7.

Kiel Jan 5 25

Got visibility saw and  
smoke coming up through  
smoke no down saw  
me 110- JW 190-210.  
Bill Lusk & J. H. Baker  
got some good at least  
110 which I saw smoking  
pink flash boots.

Coleman crew claims 3  
109-190-88

No 8. Jan 14 3

AIRE Short Trip to  
rocket court, some  
flash no filter, good  
weather.

No 9. Jan 21 6

San De Calpis  
Some flash to rocket court,  
clouds didn't bomb.

made several of runs

No 10

Frankfort Jan 29 - 31

P.F.F. Heavy flock &

fites on straggles.

One at least of 6-1005

came in on trail. saw

short high white flock.

Got one 20 m in firm

Wissam & Bill got good shot.

No. 11.

Frankfort Jan 30 20

Very bad Contrails & clouds

out to get. Moderate

flock, formation got

split up on target. We

saw a few enemy fites

& one silver (spinning) 109

came out of cloud & almost

hit us <sup>at 1000</sup> very bad weather.

No. 12. Feb 3 4

Wilhelmshaven Very bad

weather. Bunk up for night.

North of 2 Russian islands &  
came back through strait  
on the deck. 4 birds of flock  
& only 2 water seen by  
crew. 4 birds passed out  
in front of 27000 ft.

# 13 (108) FEB 4 21

FRANKFURT. Very bad  
flock all day navigation  
must have taken us  
over long gap in Europe  
and some of birds.

Hit over Chos twice but  
ship couldn't get bomb out  
so we didn't bomb Frankfurt  
I saw birds take on small  
village. 1 or 2 small flocks.

# 14 FEB 5 - 2

Cherbourg airfield near  
Paris Fr. hit airfield but  
flock there very accurate  
saw plane get direct hit.

in wing tip careening  
One hit in Tokyo think  
our plane. Almost had  
collision near field.

Carried baby traps.

Feb. 20 #15 (DFC) 21

LEIPZIG  
very strong, began led  
& hit factory, sky full  
of dog fights & about 57  
I get 109. Lots of enemy  
fighters.

#16 FCB 31 15

LIPPSTADT didn't hit primary  
but hit airfield. Lots of  
enemy fighters. had 2 FME 10  
attacks twice. The Hughes got  
official credit for one which  
crashed into 17. My first  
mission as FIRST PILOT.

210 WAS VERY CLOSE.  
MODERATE FLACK.



# 17, BERNBURG FEB 22 - 41

Logan hit JU 88 PLANT,

RIGHT AT TARGET 6 109's

CAME IN very close & caught  
me off guard. Had fighter  
attacked all the way out  
and saw many fighters

the way in. Saw 3 go  
down on the way in one  
in plott. I saw several

planes of our group go  
down when so many in  
14 to 20 came through the

straw. One got 190 but  
didn't get official claim.

1st 7 from base. Product  
fell out down in place  
we had flown by before.

I saw 4 paratroopers in  
the way in. Saw 20 men  
in plott and had 4 men

ESTIMATED 100-1 PLANE

4  
fitter parts fine could be seen  
stripes or spinners & smoking on  
side of plane wings

Bill hit in his log 11 bombs  
down & we about circled  
out which our boys saw  
hit & about in position.

We came back over Ruhr plain  
& were about a base and  
ever saw also I ask took  
us over Rotterdam plain.

We got about 8 plane but  
I have piled up plane which  
cut some charge wire out.

Clint saw yellow land off  
of bomb small town than his  
ant. Bill saw 10 white ant  
of plane plane SCHWEINE 13  
Nothing hit rough.

Law B 24's shot down  
fitter of 20 mm around  
B 24's

SCHWEINFURT

#18. FGB 24

49

d flew as tail group for  
cloud layer with target  
as bomb site. Most a  
day on target. Made  
very accurate. Misses  
hit on the way  
in and came through  
as many as 22 at a time.  
I got some shots from  
tail. FW of 1095 down  
several planes got  
hit by flack over  
target. John flying second  
element lead got hit  
in #2 lost hydraulic line  
& tire. High & low down  
leaders shot down.  
One large rocket explosion  
estimated 60 ft.

OVER

BEAUTOT (CALAIS)

19 - FEB 28 6

drove with John &  
Logan out lead sq. Logie  
made several runs on  
target but weather so  
heavy we missed. Practically  
no black.

#20 MAR 8 BERLIN 8

9:30 mission. Moderate  
black. On way out  
fighter hit 24. I saw  
one go straight down  
in spin with nose up.  
Ray saw 2-24 crash  
into ground. W. J. bomber  
left leaving plane to take  
that fighter's support.  
John took over lead of sq.  
right. Kelly turned back.  
Good visibility. Clear  
over target.

#21 BERLIN MAR 9 - 7

batfinder miss in  
low solid clouds.  
lot of flock, but not  
acquaint. hdn leaf  
W/12/10/10! Good filter  
support.

#22 MAR 16. 22

AUGSBURG (JOHN FINISH)

a flavo-pilot with part  
of a new crew. Feathers  
on engine over French coast  
on way back. That's what  
came back & closed cabin.  
Very accurate flight on  
airfield in France. A  
couple of small birds  
P.F. probably missed them  
have 1-109. Some by engine  
didn't attend to. Some  
also in distance. Spiff  
secret in France.

#23 MAR 18 — 43

AUGSBURG  
(LECHFIELD)

Airfield good visibility  
& good bombing. Very  
accurate but light flack.  
GOOD NAVIGATION. One  
210 or 410 started in on  
tail but 77 filters within  
down. Mollate, Mills  
Lenoski & Cieri finished

#24 MAR 20 6

FRANKFURT

Very bad weather toward  
back with bombs. The  
enemy filters. Light  
flack seen in Frankfurt  
got left wing a good amount  
a hole in 454. several  
other small holes. Flack  
100 miles south of course in town  
It is enough to fly formation  
but not to hit.

# 25. BERLIN MAR 22 - 13  
Bombed PFF but could see  
part of town. Very  
intense & accurate flack  
Ball turret operator  
passed out. Had part  
of a new crew. Got 40  
holes from flack. over  
Berlin & very accurate over  
Summer Lake. Hole in  
tank & several around Bill  
& in back of intercom panel.  
Large hole in left  
wing <sup>door</sup> ~~side~~ Bill finished.

# 26. HAMM. MAR 23 - 27  
Bombed near in RR YARDS  
LOTS of flack but we didn't  
get much on us. Could see  
Rhos really flack. Saw  
no enemy fighters. AIR FULL OF  
G. BOMBERS & FIGHTERS. SAW 37 BOMBERS  
ROY - MIN 65 - & I finished

# 26

Bombardier dies because  
of no oxygen. (Plane  
collision in practice  
mission had to be shut  
down <sup>SPITE</sup> because on AFCE)  
(BAD Mt. air collision  
fire went together)  
(COLEMAN'S CREW  
not claimed 14 before they  
went down)

(The course 5-20

(Our practice for 3 & 4  
both feathers.)



In the 4 1/2 mos.  
 I was flying  
 missions with  
 officers left the  
 368<sup>th</sup> I was one  
 of the 16 who  
 completed the  
 tour & came home

Our barracks did  
 even worse  
 4 of 25

Down	Found
4 G. J.	1 Robinson
4 M. L.	1 ...
4 L. A.	1 ...
4 H. S.	1 ...
4 R. E.	1 ...
4 J. M.	1 ...
4 J. W.	1 ...
4 B. G.	1 ...
4 C. H.	1 ...
1 S. P.	1 ...
4 J. K.	1 ...
4 F. L.	4 ...
4 D. N.	(16)
46	
368 SODN	
4 out of 25 found	
OUR BARRACKS	

This is the Air Force record of sorties I flew.

You will note that the record gives me credit for 30 sorties--I actually flew 26. 8th Air Force Memo #35-1 gives credit for 4 since the first 21 were flown during the time when 25 was considered a tour. My last 5 were flown after the tour was raised to 30. I flew 19 as copilot with John Gassler--6 as First Pilot--and 1 as Observer, in tail gunner position, on group lead plane.

O-P-E-R-A-T-I-O-N-A-L S-O-R-T-I-E R-E-C-O-R-D-S

NAME THOMPSON, CARL R. SQUADRON 368th  
 RANK 1st Lt. GROUP 306th  
 DUTY Pilot SERIAL NUMBER 0-680761

Date	Group Mission Number	Individ Mission Number	R-E-M-A-R-K-S	Time	Total Time
1943					
Nov. 16	85	1	KNABEN, NORWAY ✓	7:45	7:45
26	86	2	BREMEN, GERMANY ✓	6:20	14:05
Dec. 1	87	3	LEVERKUSEN, GERMANY ✓	7:00	21:05
5	88	4	LA ROCHELLE, FRANCE ✓	6:00	27:05
13	90	5	KIEL, GERMANY ✓	7:35	34:40
16	91	6	BREMEN, GERMANY ✓	7:40	42:20
1944					
Jan. 5	98	7	KIEL, GERMANY ✓	7:50	50:10
14	101	8	NOBALL, FRANCE ✓	4:15	54:25
21	102	9	NOBALL, FRANCE ✓	4:35	59:00
29	103	10	FRANKFURT, GERMANY ✓	7:20	66:20
30	104	11	BRUNSWICK, GERMANY ✓	7:15	73:35
Feb. 3	105	12	WILHELMSHAVEN, GERMANY ✓	6:45	80:20
4	106	13	FRANKFURT, GERMANY ✓	7:05	87:25
5	107	14	CHATEAUDUN, FRANCE ✓	6:00	93:25
20	111	15	LEIPZIG, GERMANY ✓	9:20	102:45
21	112	16	HOPSTEN, GERMANY ✓	7:30	110:15
22	113	17	BERNBURG, GERMANY ✓	9:05	119:20
24	114	18	SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY ✓	7:40	127:00
28	116	19	NOBALL, FRANCE ✓	4:35	131:35
Mar. 8	121	20	BERLIN, GERMANY ✓	9:30	141:05
9	122	21	BERLIN, GERMANY ✓	9:20	150:25
15		25	8TH A.F. MEMO #35-1		
16	123	26	CESSERTSHAUSEN, GERMANY ✓ AUGSBURG	9:00	159:25
18	124	27	LEHFEELD, GERMANY ✓ AUGSBURG	9:00	168:25
20	125	28	FRANKFURT, GERMANY ✓	7:15	175:40
22	126	29	BERLIN, GERMANY ✓	9:10	184:50
23	127	30	HAMM, GERMANY ✓	6:50	191:40

19 Copilot  
 6 First Pilot  
 1 Observer  
 26

Copies of typical  
notes that I made  
on each of my missions.  
It appears that neatness  
& spelling were not  
important to me  
at that time.

Carl

# 17, BERNBURG FEB 22 - 41  
Logan hit JU 88 plant-right  
RIGHT AT TARGET 6 109's  
CAME IN very close & caught  
us off guard. Had fighter  
attacks all the way out  
and saw many fighters on  
the way in. Saw 3 go  
down on the way in - one  
explode. I saw several  
planes of our group go  
down when as many as  
15 or 20 came through at a  
time. Cierr got 190 but  
didn't get official claim.  
Lost 7 from base. Proctor  
& Fall went down in plane  
we had flown day before.  
I saw 4 parachutes on  
the way in. Lots of 20mm  
exploding around and saw  
ESTIMATED 100-150

fighter fighters face could see  
stripes on spinners & markings  
sides of plane & wings.  
Bill had in his log 11 bombers  
down & we also circled  
one which our boys saw  
ditch & sent in position.  
We came back over Köln flack  
& was about as bad as I  
ever saw. Also I took to  
see over Rotterdam flack.  
We got about 8 flack holes.  
I have piece of flack which  
cut supercharger wire on # 1.  
Crew saw plane level off  
& bomb small town then  
bail out. Bill saw 10 chutes  
out of Garrett's plane. SCHWING  
Nothing but noise.  
Saw B 24's shot down  
fighters & 20mm around  
B 24's

# 17 Bernburg Feb 22 41 lost  
Logan hit JU 88 plant-right at target 6 109s came in very  
close & caught us off guard. Had fighter attacks all the  
way out and saw many fighters on the way in. Saw three go  
down on the way in - one explode. I saw several planes of our group  
go down when as many as 15 or 20 came through at a time.  
Cierr got 190 but didn't get official claim.  
Lost 7 from base. Proctor & Fall went down in plane we had  
flown day before. I saw 4 parachutes on the way in. Lots of  
20 mm exploding around and saw Estimated 100-150  
fighters face to face - could see stripes on spinners & markings  
on sides of plane & wings.  
Bill had in his log 11 bombers down & and we circled one which  
our boys saw ditch & sent in position. We came back over  
Köln flack & was about as bad as I ever saw -  
Dash took us over Rotterdam flack. We got about 8 flack holes  
& I have piece of flack which cut supercharger wire on # 1.  
Crew saw plane level off & bomb small town then bail out.  
Bill saw 10 chutes out of Garrett's plane. Saw B 24s shot down  
fighters and 20mm around B 24s

SCHWEINFURT

#18 FEB 24

49

I flew as tail gunner for Colonel Roper with Logan as bombardier. Made a dry run on target. Flack very accurate. Fitters hit us on the way in and came through as many as 22 at a time. I got some shots from tail. FW & 109's down several fellows got hit by flack over target. John flying second element lead got hit in #2 lost hydraulic line & tire. High & low sqdn leaders shot down. Saw large rocket explosion - estimated 60 fitters.

OVER

# 18 Scheinfurt

Feb 24

49 lost

I flew as tail gunner for Colonel Roper with Logan as bombardier. Made a dry run on target. Flack very accurate. Fitters hit us on the way in and came through as many as 22 at a time. I got some shots from tail. FW & 109s. I saw several fellows get hit by flack over target. John flying second element lead got hit in #2 lost hydraulic line & tire. High & low sqdn. leaders shot down. Saw large rocket explosion - estimated 60 fitters.

2-19-94

Russ-

I hope you and your family had a good 1993. Information in Echoes indicates that you had a good reunion in Seattle. Martha and I went to Alaska last summer. We wanted a more complete tour than the 306th one so we went on a cruise up the coast and a trip up to Fairbanks, Denali, Acorage, etc. Looking back on the England trip, I believe it was the greatest we have ever or will ever be on.

Please send me the remainder of my mission reports. Enclosed is \$35 check<sup>sk</sup> to cover these 20. If you were able to find anything on the 8 Mar 44 Berlin one please send that info. too. Mission list attached.

I am enclosing a few copies of old orders, etc. from my 306th file. Use them in any way you want.

I personally appreciate all of the work you have done for the 306th. We owe you a lot.

Sincerely,

*Carl R. Thompson*

Carl R. Thompson

1824 Stonegate

Denton, TX 76205

817 243-5807

9 February 1944  
(date)

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

(In compliance with Circular 50-4)

1. I certify that I have studied all available operating instructions and have received instructions in the operations of all instruments, controls, starting, ignition and fuel systems and other special installations of the type B-17G airplane, and I have answered the questionnaire as set forth by the Operations Officer, 306th Bombardment Group (H), and am familiar with the combat crew duties on this particular type airplane.

Carl R. Thompson  
(name)

Carl R. Thompson  
1st Lt., AC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(rank)

2. I certify that I have, this date, completed the check flight of 1st Lt. Carl R. Thompson, on the type B-17G airplane, and that he is now qualified as Airplane Commander and Pilot of same.

Check Pilot.

James B. McMahon  
(name)

James B. McMahon  
1st Lt., AC.  
A Flight Commander.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(rank)

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) (A-29)  
Office of the Commanding Officer  
United States Forces

APO 557,  
23 March, 1944.

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation for Re-assignment of CARL R. THOMPSON, First Lieutenant, O-680764.

**TO :** Whom It May Concern.

1. Subject Officer has completed 191:40 hours of Combat Flying as a Pilot. He has complete a total of twenty-six (26) Combat Missions, and credited with an additional four (4) missions as determined by Ltr, Eighth Air Force, File 221, 4 March 1944, Subj: "Relief of Combat Crew Personnel" and Memorandum 85-1, Eighth Air Force, 4 March 1944. During the course of his missions he destroyed no Enemy Aircraft and has been decorated or is eligible for the following decorations:

Air Medal	Five Missions
Oak Leaf Cluster	Ten Missions
Oak Leaf Cluster	Fifteen Missions
Oak Leaf Cluster	Twenty Missions
Distinguished Flying Cross	Twenty-five Missions

2. Subject Officer's performance of duty is rated by his Commanding Officer as Superior.

3. Assignment of subject Officer, immaterial.

GEORGE L. ROBINSON,  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding.



GENERAL ORDERS }  
NO. 210 }

RESTRICTED

EXTRACT

Hq Eighth Air Force  
APO 634, 25 March 1944.

1. 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, the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following-named Officer, for extraordinary achievement, as set forth in citation. This Individual has previously earned the Air Medal and Three Oak Leaf Clusters for wear therewith.

CARL R. THOMPSON, O-680764, 1st Lieutenant, 368th Bombardment Squadron, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Pilot of a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Lieutenant Thompson, has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions and his actions are an inspiring example for his fellow flyers. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Lieutenant Thompson on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Paris, Texas.

By command of Lieutenant General DOOLITTLE:

JOHN A. SANFORD,  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,  
Chief of Staff.

(Seal)  
OFFICIAL:  
EDWARD E. TORO,  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

A TRUE COPY:

*H. O. Beard*  
H. O. BEARD,  
1st Lt., A. C.

RESTRICTED



America's veterans ...  
friends we'll remember.

Russ —

Not necessary  
to return

Carl



Oct. 8, 1994

Hello Russ,

I hope this finds you and yours in good health.

Martha and I vacationed in North Carolina in July. My brother lives in Durham.

Thanks for sending the mission reports.

I am still working part time for Ford Motor Co. Climate Control Engineering. Keeps me busy with my volunteer church work, etc.

The church window turned out to be a heart break situation for me. I worked most of a year, full time, as chairman of the building committee on the major (1.7 mil) renovation of our great old building. The artist who designed the twenty windows is an Eighth Air Force buff and he designed the plane and insignia into the window without my or the window committee's knowledge. He wanted it to be a surprise since the window was dedicated to me and Martha.

After we returned from England the <sup>BUILDING</sup> window committee and our minister made the decision to remove the "Instrument of War". The artist disagreed, however, he was overruled and they required that the plane be removed. They reluctantly allowed the insignia to remain.

I feel very strongly about the cause that the B 17 represents. It was not the individual recognition but recognition of all of our comrades. As you read this I know you can feel my pain which is still there.

The artist made a very nice panel with a B 17 in it for me to have at home.

I am enclosing extra photos of the window and also a brochure describing the dedication of all of the windows, of which we are very proud.

I say again---thanks for all of your work for the 306th

Best wishes,

Carl

Thanks for the new directory. It included information on two of our crew members, I have contacted them ~~from~~ by telephone after 51 years.







0680764



**First United Methodist Church  
Denton, Texas**

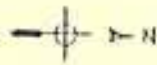
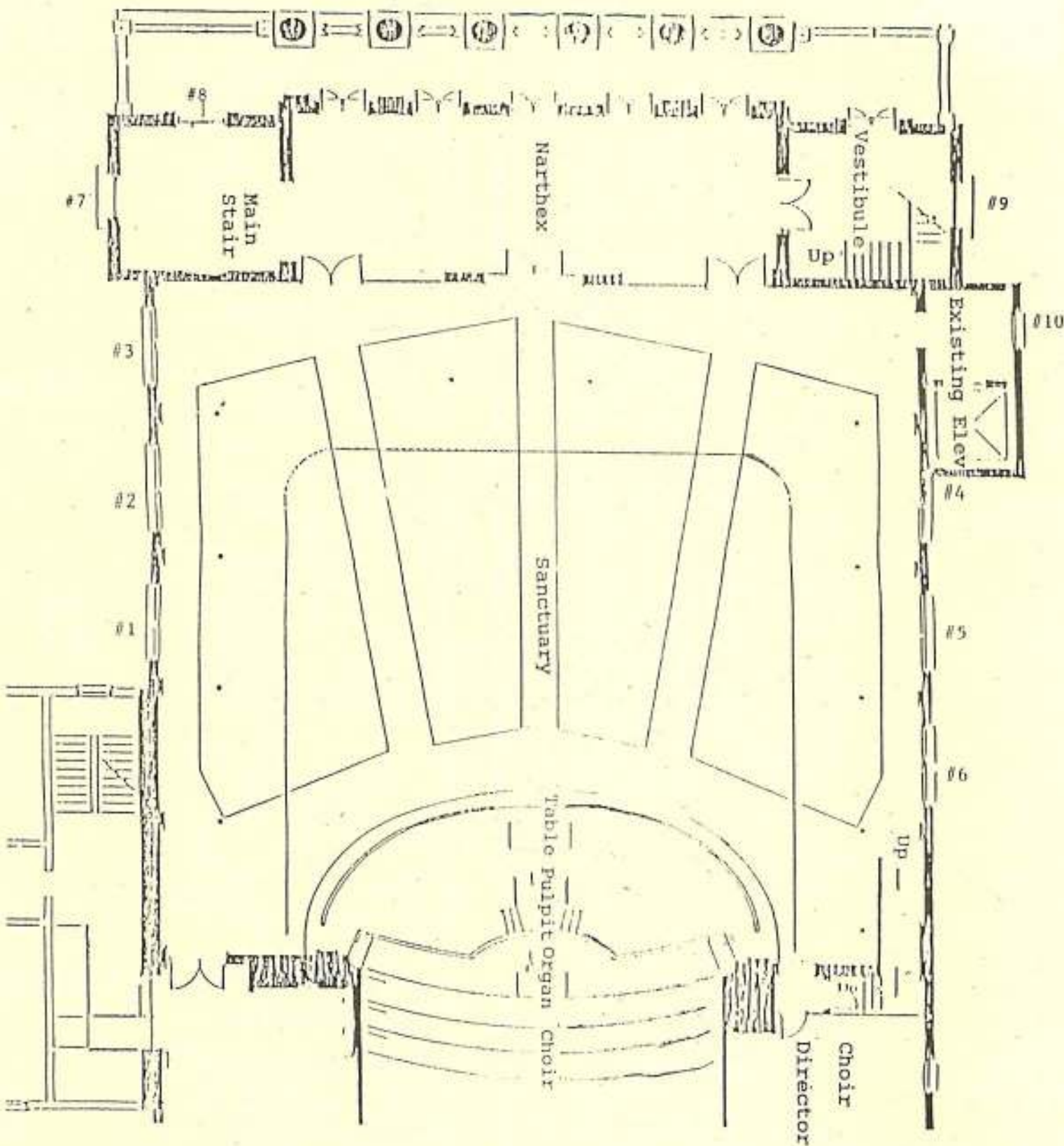


**Dedication of the Stained Glass Windows  
John Kebrle, stained glass artist**

**September 13, 1992**

**8:30 and 10:45 a.m.**

SANCTUARY LEVEL





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DENTON, TEXAS  
September 13, 1992

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN THE SANCTUARY

#1

In Memory of  
GEO. M. and ELEANOR HOPKINS  
by GEORGE M. and JANE HOPKINS  
Theme: The NATIVITY

Star of the Nativity overhead, Bethlehem in background, Lily symbolic of the  
Annunciation, Crowns of the Three Kings

#2

In Memory of  
THE M. L. RAMEY FAMILY  
Theme: CHRIST PREACHING TO THE MULTITUDE ON THE SEA OF GALILEE  
Shell symbolic of baptism, Bible symbolic of spiritual knowledge

#3

In Loving Memory of  
GORDON RANDOLPH HICKMAN  
by his wife RUTH ANN HICKMAN and daughters, EDEN, GINGER, and SHELLY  
Theme: CHRIST FEEDING THE 5,000  
Cup and bread symbolic of Communion, pitcher and basin symbolic of Foot Washing

#4

In Memory of  
CECIL A. KING and HAZEL K. KING  
by BOBBY F. and WILLIE JOHNSON  
DEBRA F. and SARAH JOHNSON SQUIRES  
Theme: THE LAST SUPPER  
The Lamb with Resurrection Banner symbolic of  
The Lamb of God

#5

In Loving Memory of  
ISABELLE ARMISTEAD HALL SCOTT  
In Honor of  
RICHARD E. J. SCOTT  
by BEN and ELIZABETH HALL WEISS and FAMILY  
Theme: GETHSEMANE  
Hands symbolic of prayer and praise, three crosses symbolic of Calvary

#6

In Memory of  
MR. and MRS. W. CLAUDE CASTLEBERRY, CLAUDE JR. and ISLA MARIE  
by MRS. FRANCES CASTLEBERRY LUNSFORD and BOB CASTLEBERRY  
Theme: RESURRECTION  
Candle symbolic of Light of the World, The Empty Tomb

#7

Given to the FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, DENTON  
by BILL and ROSE WATSON  
in the YEAR OF OUR LORD 1992  
Theme: THE COVENANT  
Stars symbolic of the twelve tribes of Israel

#8

In Honor of  
LOUISE M. and J. STANLEY MONROE  
by THEIR FAMILY  
MARGIE and ROY APPLETON, MARILYN and ALEX DICKIE, JR.  
and GRANDCHILDREN  
Theme: THE GOOD SHEPHERD

#9

In Honor of  
MRS. ANNIE LUCILLE MICHAEL  
In Memory of  
J. B. MICHAEL, SR. and MRS. NONA RUTH WOOD  
by DON and NORMA WOOD  
Theme: THE CREATION

#10

Given by the GUYER FAMILY  
JOHN and PAT  
SHARON, RONALD, and REBECCA  
Theme: THE 23RD PSALM

#11

In Loving Memory of  
WILLIAM FRANKLIN MAXCY and LILLIE FEREBY KIRK MAXCY  
and LEONARD KIRK MAXCY  
by MABEL E. MAXCY  
Theme: MUSIC

Symbols: singing birds, music in nature - Angel, heavenly music - children singing,  
Voices of the people



America's veterans...  
friends we'll remember.

Russ -  
window #

15

Keys



#12

Appreciation to  
AM C. CROUCH  
GIVING and FAITHFUL SERVICE  
and THIS COMMUNITY  
US and FRIENDS  
CIRCUIT RIDER

God is living and active, sharper than a  
..." Hebrews 4:11

#13

TO OUR BELOVED J. D. HALL and FRAN SCOTT  
from ISABELLE and JACK SCOTT  
Theme: MANNA FROM HEAVEN

"Not by bread alone..." Luke 4:4 "He who comes to me shall not hunger." John 6:35

#14

GIVEN BY THE BUNGALOW CLASS  
FOUNDED 1938

Theme: BLESSING THE CHILDREN

"Let the Children come to me...for of such is the Kingdom of God" Mark 10:14

#15

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE, GENERAL CONTRACTORS, ASSOCIATES,  
and NUMEROUS FRIENDS DONATED THIS WINDOW IN HONOR OF  
CARL and MARTHA THOMPSON

WHO LED US DAY BY DAY THROUGH THE BUILDING PROGRAM

Theme: WASHING OF THE DISCIPLES' FEET

Wheat and grapes symbolic of bread and wine

#16

In Loving Memory of

JACK deCORDOVA

by FRANCES and RICHARD deCORDOVA

Theme: BETRAYAL and DENIAL

Symbols: thirty pieces of silver - the cock crowing

#17

IN PRAISE OF CHILDREN

by DON and MARION ROBINSON

Theme: MUSIC

Symbolic of Instruments for making music - organ pipes and the lyre

#18

In Memory of  
DR. and MRS. MILTON DAVIS  
by ETHELYN DAVIS  
Theme: PENTECOST  
Ship symbolic of the Church

#19

In Memory of  
HAROLD R. and ANNA R. DETRICK  
Theme: "GO YE THEREFORE....."

#20

In Loving Memory of  
JACK and OPAL BONDS  
by BILL, BETTY, JEANNE, and PAUL  
Theme: THE CONVERSION OF PAUL

COMMITTEE for STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

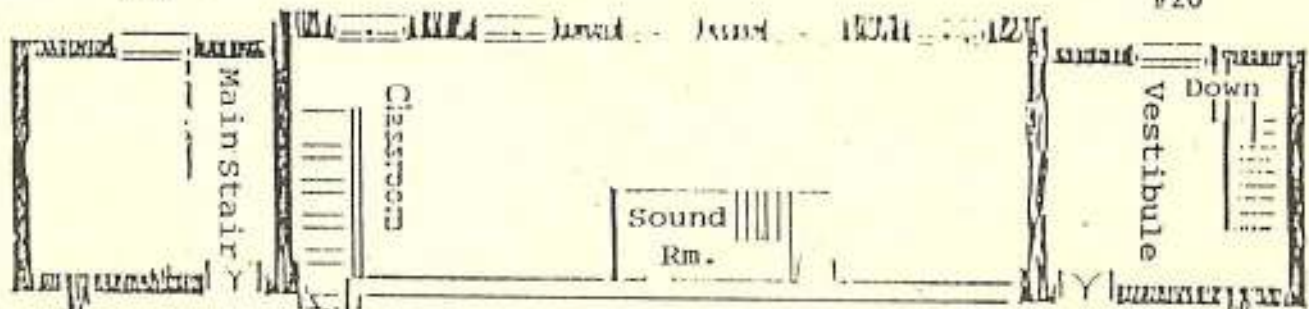
Chairman: Billie Johnson  
Connie Akers  
Millie Giles  
Jack Highfill  
Jane Hopkins  
Linda Howes  
Mabel E. Maxcy  
ex officio: William C. Crouch  
John Thornton  
Justin Tull

BALCONY LEVEL



#19

#20



#13

#14

#12

#15

#11

#16

#17

#18

BALCONY

