

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Russell A. Strong, Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Dr. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Name MARVIN LUTHER BROWN
Address PEEL, ARKANSAS 72668
Telephone 501-436-5390 Date 4/29/79
Occupation BOAT DOCK OPERATOR Employer SELF
Address SAME Telephone SAME

Service Record: Serial No(s) 38602917

Before joining the 306th:
INDUCTED: CAMP SGT. ROBINSON LITTLE ROCK ARK
BASIC TRAINING - SHEPHERD FIELD TEXAS
GUNNERY SCHOOL - KINSMAN ARIZONA
CREW ASSIGNMENT - LINCOLN NEBRASKA
~~COMBAT TRAINING~~ - STOIX CITY, IOWA SHIPPED OUT - BOSTON, MASS

After leaving the 306th:
BADLEY FIELD, CONN. BOSTON, MASS. CAMP CHAFFEE - FT. SMITH, ARK
SANTA ANNA, CALIF.

KEESLER FIELD, MISS.

DISCHARGED - BARKSDALE FIELD, LA. NOV. 3, 1945

306th Record:

Arrival Date DEC. 1944 Squadron or other unit 423

MOS 612 Combat Status BALL TURRET GUNNER

Missions Completed 30 more or less

Promotions Staff Sergeant

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH 3 Battle Stars MEMORY FILLS ME! other lost out finds

CAMPAIGNS: ARDENNES - RHINELAND - CENTRAL EUROPE -
RIBBONS: AMERICAN THEATER - EUROPEAN AFRICAN MIDDLE EASTERN (OVER)
AIR MEDAL (3 OLC) - VICTORY MEDAL

Other personal data: OUR CREW WAS LEAD CREW ON SEVERAL MISSIONS. CAPT. LEMON E. SMITH WAS PILOT. LLOYD U. JEFFERSON WAS BOMBARDIER AND HARLAN D. WOLFE WAS NAVIGATOR. I WAS PHOTOGRAPHER WHEN WE HAD THE RADAR IN THE BALTIC TURRET LOCATION. LLOYD U. JEFFERSON LIVES AT 1500 MONMOUTH DRIVE RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23233 AND IS QUITE INTERESTED IN 306 BB HISTORY. HE MIGHT BE OF GREAT HELP TO YOU. CAPT. SMITH WAS OPERATIONS OFFICER. LATE 1944 TO END OF WAR.

Description of Air Missions:

(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?)

I remember one mission that only a few planes went on when we carried two bombs per plane and they were some twenty feet long and 16-18 inches in diameter. They were fastened along the fuselage under the wings and we were to drop them on the submarine pens at Kiel. We could only get to about 20,000 feet (like to never get off the ground!) and then when we dropped the bombs we gained altitude FAST! We hit our target but I never learned how effectively.

Feb. 3, 1945 The entire 8th AF hit Berlin. We were 3rd over the target. Briefed 10 lengths cloud coverage - we got to the target and it was clear as could be in a huge ~~circle~~ circle with the city in the center. We got back to Thurlough and to our barracks and the radio told us that 8th AF planes were still returning. Our plane was shot full of holes several times but only minor injuries to our crew. Engineer lost enough blood once to require a transfusion but he was O.K.

We bombed what appeared to be a beautiful green meadow in southern Germany but black oil smoke poured out. A great camouflage job by the Krauts! That was early 1945.

I have a leather jacket patch (logo) from the 423rd ~~AF~~ ^{AF} when I was known as the "Fiery Phantoms". Before the "Grim Reaper" name came to be - I believe. It's the same picture different name.

I have a copy of special orders No. 139 sending 9 crews of us back to the states dated 19 May 1945.

A listing of all combat missions from 1/6/45 to 4/18/45 lists target hit and combat time of mission.

My individual flight record.

A certificate of appreciation for war service from General Arnold

Special orders # 87 dated 1 April 1945 establishing flying status - (don't understand why on this date.)

Special orders # 242 dated Aug. 30 1944 transferring a large group of Airman from Sioux City Iowa to 306 BB APO 557

I could send any of these to you for your inspection if they sound like something you would like to see.

Martin L. Braun Staff Sergeant
38603917



ON THE SHORES OF BEAUTIFUL BULL SHOALS LAKE

Crew members I have corresponded with:

Lloyd H. Jefferson (Bombardier)
1500 Monmouth Drive
Richmond, Virginia, 23233
804 - ~~289-2664~~
740-3664

Ned Chestnut (Radio operator)
104 E State Highway
Copperton, Utah
84006

L.E. Smith (Pilot)
Rt. 1 Box 244
Punxsutawney, Pa.
15767

WWII HOMETOWNS ON THESE MEN

No address for:

Bill Lord (Co-pilot)
New London, Conn. 203/

~~Col~~ Harold D. Welffe (Navigator)
Austin, Tex. 10902 Yucca DR.
78759

Robert S. Rafferty (Waiter) 18909 Forestwood Dr
Cleveland, Ohio 216/235-6606
44135

Jeff may know
address of all crew members

I am interested in and
I appreciate your work,
let me know if I have helped
or can be of help.

I would like to buy a copy
of "Skyways to Berlin"
I saw a copy of it in a shop
in England.

Richard Segan (Tail gunner)
Pekin, Ill. 309/

Harold E. Anderson (Engineer)
Sudburn, Indiana
812/

(over)

Waseca County News • Waseca Area Shopper

Phone 507/835-3380
FAX 507/835-3435

Dec. 14, 2004

Mr. Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Mr. Strong:

I have enclosed a CD with four photos of Merle Brown during his sky diving event in Waseca. You are welcome to use any or all of the photos; we would like photo credit given to the *Waseca County News*.

We no longer make copies of photos since we are all digital now. You can take the CD to almost any discount, drug or grocery store to have copies made.

I had a really good time covering Merle's jump; he is a nice guy.

Sincerely,



Ruth Ann Hager
Managing Editor
Waseca County News

6 May 1979

Dear Marvin:

Many thanks for your response. I had a chat with Lloyd Jefferson tonight, and he had addresses for Wolfe and Rater, but says that Lord, Seeger and Anderson have disappeared. I checked for phones in hometowns, and found none. We may be able to track them later through another means.

Wolfe had been on our list, and then off, when mail was returned. He is now back in Austin from work in Iran. Smith has been on the list for quite a while. We now have 1184 former 306th men on our mailing list, and will have an Echoes out late this month.

As to "Skyways to Berlin," it has been out of print for years, and is a pretty scarce item. I have a copy which I got when I got back from England, and is one of my treasures.

I would like to see copies of any special orders you have, if you will send them along, I'll copy them and put them back in the mail on date of receipt. It sounds as though they might be helpful in tracking some names. There is no roster of 306th personnel extant. That was not the Army's way of doing things, so I have built my own roster, now about 9,000 3x5 cards which I have worked on for four years.

If a few others had been as much help as you have been the job would be much easier.

Sincerely yours,