

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 SEPT. 10, 1990

LAST NAME: KATE, JR. FIRST NAME: HENDRIK TITLE:  
Street address: 25 HALE AVE Telephone: (603) 623-6015  
City, state, zip: HOOKSETT, N.H. 03106

Date of Birth: JULY 29, 1916 Wife's name: IRENE  
College(s) attended: Degree(s): Year(s):

Last employment and job title:  
MILK COMPANY - FOREMAN - PLANT

Reunions attended: (by year or location)  
DAYTON, OHIO. - LAS VEGAS - SAN ANTONIO

Serial #: 3110 ~~7217~~ 7217 Squadron: 423<sup>RD</sup> Specialty: RADIO - GUNNER

Date joined 306th: ~~APR~~ APRIL 3, 1943 If combat, what crew: ROBERT SMITH

Special duties or assignments w/306th: RADIO OPERATOR AND GUNNER

Number of missions flown: 5 Date of last mission: MAY 21, 1943

Date left 306th: SEPT, 1943 Highest rank/grade with 306th: T/SGT

Other 8th AF units served with:

Top service assignments after 306th: 2<sup>nd</sup> R.F.T. SQD - CLUNTOE - IRELAND

USAF retirement date: NOV, 1, 1945 Rank/grade: T/SGT

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.

Feb. 15, 1990

To

Russell A. Strong:

In response to your request to add to your article I am sending you this.

We ran into heavy flak and we were hit. The radio room seemed to explode and felt my left foot go numb. The Boot was cut across the top of foot and I saw blood. I took my A-2 jacket and wrapped my foot with it for fear of frost bite.

When we settled in the rafts I told the Crew I was hit. Took off my boot and saw a gash on the top of my foot. It was bandaged and I gave it no more thought.

(2)

That night a R.A.F Bomber flew over us and I sent a S.O.S. with a blinker light. The Bomber circled and then went on his way to Germany. We had high hopes they would send a message, or when they returned to England they would tell of our plight. Heard afterwards no word was said.

We took turns with the Gibson Girl and for the last few hours before our rescue, I cranked the Gibson Girl steadily. The mine sweeper that rescued us told us a heavy storm was due that evening and we may not have survived the storm if had not got our signal.

at the rest and recuperation home my foot swelled after two days and was sent to the hospital.

It had to be operated on to stop

the Gangerone from spreading.  
It was successful and my stay  
at hospital lasted three months.

I was grounded from flying  
at high altitude and was transferred  
to Clontarf, No Ireland to a Radio  
School to teach radio procedure,  
and how to ditch in water.

After the invasion of Europe  
I was assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> Air  
force to a Air Disarmament Group.

Yours  
Derek Kate Jr.

P.S. Sorry I couldn't answer sooner  
I am in Florida for the winter  
and received your mail Feb 15<sup>th</sup>  
my mail being forwarded from  
home.