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Dr Thurman Shuller 1312 E Miami Mc Alester, OK 74501-6746



RETURN TO DAYS OF YORE - The men are gone, "Buttercup" is no more, and the twin-fifties mounted through the plexiglas were soon to be replaced by the chin turrets. One wonders if the spreading oak still stands alongside what was once Joe Gabrish's "office." That's

Joe trying to train a goat to eat from his hand. We don't know the other men or the dog, but the plane was flown by Reginald Robinson and his crew. And, lastly, who was High Hips?

# 379 Added To Roster In 6 Months

with now slightly over 3,100 names on the mailing list. Since Christmas we have put 379 new names of men on the list, as well as adding a significant number of widows, children, and various other relatives of now-deceased personnel.

The addition has not been as fast as had been hoped for earlier, but it is largely a matter of time in finding men. This is using a computer-based listing from U. S. telephone directories.

First, our card file has been "run" twice against the two CDRom discs which we purchased. This has given us lists amounting to a couple of thousand names and with a considerable number of duplicates. These then must all be called to verify that it is indeed the person we are looking for. Often what seems like such an obvious match ends up in a voice saying "I never heard of such a person from here who served in England during the war."

But the tedium pays off at times. Starting with a page of 30 names, and in half an hour or 45 minutes identifying

Our 306th roster continues to grow, a half dozen men is a great triumph compared to going through a similar exercise with a list of the same length and finding no one.

> Working from the original lists will be completed by August, and then we will be back to mining the names that give you from 20 to 50 choices in the Eastern or Western U.S. This is the Robert A. Smiths, the John M. Jones, etc. showing the most popular names for children back in the post-WWI era.

> We will now examine these names in the light of their serial numbers. Did you know that enlisted serial numbers show the U.S. Army Corps the area from which you were drafted or enlisted? After the 1 for enlisted, 2 for National Guard or 3 for draftees, the second digit indicates the Corps area. We will probably limit many of our calls to this type of selectivity just because there are so many names through which to search.

> The secretary will continue this work probably at least for another year and we will hope that our list will continue to grow for some period of time.



Richard L. Lawson

The officers of the Association regret that through inadvertence this year's reunion is scheduled to begin on Yom Kippur, the highest of Holy days for our Jewish members. We extend our apologies and will avoid such conflicting dates in the future so that Jewish members may also attend the reunions.

# Gen. Lawson Speaker at Des Moines

If numbers mean anything, then Gen. Richard L. Lawson (USAF ret) may be the ideal speaker for the Des Moines reunion's main banquet Saturday, 17 September.

A native of Fairfield, IA, a graduate of Parsons College and as a second lieutenant entered pilot training in May 1952. His career began as a B-36 pilot, and moved through various SAC units until in 1967 he became chief of the future concepts branch of SAC. Meanwhile, he had completed Air Command and Staff College, and left SAC to attend the National War College.

From June 1969 to February 1970 he was deputy commander for operations of the 306th Bombardment Wing at MacDill AFB, FL. Moving on to Washington, he became military assistant to the president in August 1973, then was moved to director of plans at USAF headquarters. In June 1977 He became commander of the 8th Air Force at Barksdale AFB, LA, a post he held for a year, when he returned to Washington as director of plans and policy for the Joint Chiefs.

### A STINT IN EUROPE

In July 1980 he was assigned to NATO, and spent the remainder of his active duty time in Europe. He received his fourth star 1 July 1980 and retired in 1986 as deputy commander-in-chief of the U.S. European Command at Stuttgart, Germany.

A year later he was named president of the National Coal Association and also is on its board of directors and executive committee.

This will be the culmination of the 1994 reunion, which will get underway Thursday, 15 September, with a variety of area travel opportunities being presented by the Des Moines reunion committee. As some of them re limited as to numb handled on a given day, they may be repeated

The Amana Colonies, the Bridges of Madison County, Magnificent Mansions, a Des Moines city tour, and the day will wind up with a bus trip to an Iowa Farm Dinner, which the committee says will be a real winner, and with a highly regarded music show to wind up the evening.

The Friday schedule away from the Crystal Inn includes a tour of the Dutch town of Pella, IA, the Living History Farms tour, Magnificent mansions, the Bridges of Madison County, Discover Des Moines again, and at 3 p.m. everyone will leave for the unique display put on by the One-Fifth Air Force.

The One-Fifth organization operates out of an airfield near Des Moines with its extensive collection of large, radiocontrolled planes. They not only fly, but they put on a WWII style bombing raid with lots of action. It is an amazing show

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# New Men of the 306th

Bell, Charles G, 39 York Rd, Wheatfield, NY 14304 367 Brush, Bernie C, 203 Lanelle Cove, Senatobia, MS 38668 Ann 423 Clegg, Robert J, 49783 Buttermere Ct #199A, Utica, MI 48315 Gail 369 Coffey, Lyndell D, Rt 3 Box 185, Carterville, IL 62918 Mamie 369 Conway, Quentin T, 1032 Standard Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30319 368 Deeter, Edmund M, 5 Pheasant St, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 Suzanne 204 Deily, James R, 109 Trolley Ct, Pittsbugh, PA 15237 Ruth 4th Demetre, Roy L, 1146 Sheridan Ct, Fort Wayne, IN 46807 Lovina 423 Femino, Stephen J, 150 Beach Ave, Warwick, RI 02889 Beatrice 368 Graham, Orville J, 5219 La Roda Ave, Los Angeles CA 90041 Gloria 367 Hobson, Frederick H, 302 Songbird Ln, Southington, CT 06489 Claire 449 Hudson, Frederick H, 219 Main, Elkhart, IN 50073 Samantha 369 Kelly, Gene M, 1020 Etherton Dr, St. Louis MO 63126 Marilynn 368 Lockard, Edward J, 3930 Coleman St, Pittsburgh, PA 15207 Grace 368 Loew, Wilbur C, 579 Stratford Ln, Ridge, NY 11961 Louise 369 Long, LTC Robert D, Boulder Acres, 375 Wall St, Hebron, CT 368 Lord, Franklin T, PO Box 190, Marion, MA 02738 Barbara 423 Lowell, Charles W, 56 Washington St, Calais, ME 04619 Joyce 368 McGuire, Arthur C, 62 Hutington Dr, Southampton, NJ 08088 Dorothy 423 Minnucci, Julius L, 127 Laurel Ct, Quakertown, PA 18951 Frances 368

### Reunion

(from page 1)

and has drawn rave reviews from critical viewers from across the United States.

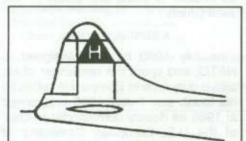
Friday evening is when you plan for dinner with old friends, either at the Crystal Inn or at a collection of Des Moines restaurants. Listings and directions will be available for you.

Saturday morning opens with a shopping tour at the Valley Junction Mall.

At 3 p.m. the annual business meeting of the Association will be held, while also at that time there will be a ladies' program.

The reunion banquet will begin at 7 p.m., preceded by a cash bar at 6. William F. Cavaness, president of the association during this past year, will preside both at the annual business meeting and at the banquet.

Registration forms and other information will be found on page 8 of this issue of *Echoes*.



The 306th Bombardment Group Historical Association: William F. Cavaness, president; C. Dale Briscoe, vice president; Russell A. Strong, Secretary; Robert N. Houser, treasurer. Directors: James S. Cheney, Joseph R. Hathaway, Victor L. Rose and Donald L. Snook; Forrest J. Stewart, past president; Robert N. Houser, 1994 reunion chairman. Ralph Franklin, Keysoe, Bedfordshire, British representative.

306th Echoes is published four times annually: January, April, July and October, and is mailed free of charge to all known addresses of 306th personnel, 1942-45. Contributions in support of this effort may be remitted to the treasurer.

### SECRETARY/EDITOR:

Handles all changes of address, editorial comments and records.

Russell A. Strong, 5323 Cheval Pl., Charlotte, NC 28205. Phone 704/568-3803.

TREASURER: Send contributions to:

Robert N. Houser, P.O. Box 13362, Des Moines, IA 50310, 515/279-4498.

The 306th Bomb Group Historical Association is a Federally tax-exempt organization and as a veteran's group is classified as 501 (c)(19).

# Mission Data, Sqdn Diaries Still on Hand

Mission Reports still await your orders, although at some times when we receive a number of full tour of duty requests at one time, we get bogged down a bit in returning the data to you as soon as we would like.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to augment our files of late to try to plug the gaps that many of you know exist. Don't give up hope and we will keep trying to get that task done.

Squadron Diaries remain available, and will be on sale at the Des Moines reunion. We have plenty of them, except for the 369th, but may reorder a small quantity of them during August so that we will have them on sale at the reunion.

# 'Air-Space' Issue A Hit

Check in at your local library for an hour or two of enjoyable reading in the June/July issue of *Air & Space*, a magazine of the Smithsonian Institution.

Some issues leave you with a ho-hum response, but the current edition, which can also be found on newsstands, has a quantity of excellent articles and stories for aviation buffs.

Its salute to D-Day is a tale of the B-26 and its low level missions; fighter buffs will like the F-16 stationed in South Korea; "Birds of a Feather" treats the man who taught Canada geese to fly formation with his ultra light plane; and if you are "in" to aircraft restoration and really historic aircraft, you'll find the story, "What Makes It Wright?" a most interesting piece.

There is also an interesting quote for those who haven't flown from the left seat since WWII: "Earlier I had asked Offurtt how long it would take to do a pre-flight briefing that was intelligible to a civilian groundling. "Hours," he replied. "No, weeks...no, years..." And finally, "It takes about six years to speak F-16 fluently."

### Where to Write for 'Wrong Place, Wrong Time'

A couple of issues ago we carried a review of a new book, Wrong Place, Wrong Time concerning the 305th Bomb Group and the problems it created in its leadership of the Second Schweinfurt mission of 14 Oct 43. We failed to tell you how to obtain a copy: write George C. Kuhl, 2329 Redwood Dr, Augusta, GA 30904, and enclose a check for \$23.80.

Mis, Alfred F, 415 25th St, Niagara Falls, NY 14303 Pauline 367 Montagino, Jack, 6244 Garland Ct, New Port Richey, FL 34652 Anna 367 Moody, Ben S, 133 Hill and Dale, Somerset, KY 42501 369 Neill, Edmund A, 63 Hildreth Ave #B, South Hadley, MA 01075 Unmarried 423 Niblett, William A, 700 E Chestnut St, Delmar, MD 21875 Divorced 4th Pearson, Wayne C, 1526 Cty Rd 424, Crystal Falls, MI 49920 368 Pewitt, Henry E, 5360 Parker Branch Rd, Franklin, TN 37064 Widower 876 Pinney, Warren E, PO Box 253, Winner, SD 56580 Phyllis 369 Pipano, Max, 5500 Fieldston Rd, The Bronx, NY 10471 Widower 449 Plante, Andre, 1759 W Schwartz Blvd, Lady Lake, FL 32159 Laura 1628 Reynolds, Wilbert L, 2049 E Briar St, Springfield, MO 65804 Nellie 1208 Richardson, Cecil A, 214 Hemphill Ave, Haysville, KS 67060 Widower 369 Riedel, Walter G, Rt 1, Box 4, Ecleto, TX 78111 Jody 4th Roehl, Joseph E, 1719 Gartland Ave, Janesville, WI 53545 Dorothy 423 Ross, John T, 4501 Running Brook Rd, Darlington, SC 29540 369 Rosser, 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Hollywood Ave, Lynbrook, NY 11563 Bea GP Simpson, Bruce J, 1117 Dunstan Rd, Geneva, IL 60134 Caroline 367 Sinn, Herbert E, 35 Costa del Lago Ln, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909 Caroline 352 Smith, Cecil B, Rt 3, Box 41, Pittsfield, IL 62363 Irene 369 Sosnowski, Chester S, 68 Division St, Elizabrth, NJ 07201 Shirley 367 Spera, John T, 4807 Glenaire Ct, Tampa, FL 33624 Esther 876 Sperling, Jack R, 545 Valley St, San Francisco, CA 94131 Unmarried 367 Sperry, Prof Theodore M, 1413 S College St, Pittsburg, KS 66782 4th Stancik, Steven, 17814 131st Ave, Sun City West, AZ 85375 June 449 Stangl, Frederick B, 4738 Gay, Wichita Falls, TX 76306 Dorothy GP Sterns, William S, 11845 Connor St, Houston, TX 77039 Lois 369 Stoughton, Walter S, 85 Fairhill Dr, Churchville, PA 18966 Audrey 368 Strasburger, Richard C, 935 Hemlock St, Scranton, PA 18505 Marie 4th Sturgis, Charles E, 311 Maple St, Millersville, PA 17551 Widower 368 Stuchell, Clarence B, 7125 Fruitville Rd #93, Sarasota, FL 34240 368 Suhaysik, 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Donald W, 804 Cozy Ct, Fallbrook, CA 92028 Georgia 368 Ursel, Robert, PO Box 640095, Beverly Hills, FL 34464 Hope 369 Van Sickle, Albert L, 308 Centennial St, Coffeyville, KS 67337 Lois 369 Vera, Romeo C, 174 Poppy St, Golden, CO 80401 Elise 4th Villaneuva, Liberto L, 4431 W Whitman St, Tucson, AZ 85711 Helen 449 Wait, Kenneth A, 1322 Westgreen Blvd, Katy, TX 77450 Anna Jean 368 Watt, John F, 839 Bartelmy Ln, St Paul, MN 55119 Lucille 367 Weber, Gerald A, 33565 Washington Dr, Yucaipa, CA 92399 Doris 369 Wehrman, Bernard K, 1830 Texas Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55426 Jean 423 Weichman, Donald P, 523 Union Blvd, Bethlehem, PA 18018 Widower 449 Wentworth, Selden M, 9828 Elaine Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32216 Widower 423 Wenzel, George C, 1850 Commonwealth Ave, Merrick, NY 11566 Evelyn 369 Werts, Orville W, Rt 2 Box 47, Virginia, IL 62691 Darlene 369 Westfall, Charles G, 26 Grand St, Glens Falls, NY 12801 367 Williams, Lester G, 767 N Skyline Dr, Idaho Falls, ID 83402 1628 Wilson, Horace S, 850 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Pennington, Mrs. Alfred B, 545 Forrest Ave, Hohenwald, TN 38462 Maude 423W
Pivk, Mrs. William R, 520 E Carter Rd, Lakeland, FL 33813 Alma 367W
Seaman III, Meade C, 5151 Briarstone Trace, Carmel, IN 46033 368S
Secker, Mrs. Roy, 2140 Stoddard Ave, Wheaton, IL 60187 Diane 423W
Snead, Jr, Parker, River St, Forestport, NY 13338 368S
Swoope, Jr, Charles W, 662 Cannon Dr, Rock Hill, SC 29730 4th S
Wade, Mrs. Robert T, 540 Mohave St, Hoffman Estates, IL 60194 Carmela 423W
Weinel, Mrs. George A, 1400 Nash Rd #Al, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 Margaret 368W
Werner, Mrs. Donald C, 84 Dierdre Dr, Rochester, NY 14617 Joan 423W
Winsett, Mrs. Dana W, 1823 Gebhart St, Salina, KS 67401 Alla Rose 367W

# 306th Major Contributor To GI Show

A relatively little known bit of 306th history is that several members of the 306th were involved in a GI show called the "E-T-O-PIAN REVUE" which toured bases in Europe and North Africa. The following is a composite of the memories of seven members of that group who have recently located each other. They have tried to reconstruct how the show came about, how many times they were on tour, where they went, and who all was involved. The intervening years have dimmed recollections somewhat, but each remembers certain things and they have tried to present a more or less complete picture of the operation.

Following the end of the war in 1945, most crew members had very little to do except wait for rotation home. Many were involved in the Casey Jones Project, but there was still plenty of free time. In London a trio of "show biz" professionals (U.K. Headquarters Special Services) decided to hold a contest among all air bases that wanted to compete and publicized that fact. The E-T-O-PIAN REVUE originated when Carol "Doc" Miller approached the Special Services Officer at Thurleigh, a Lt. Conkling, about trying to put on a soldier show in response to the notice he had seen about the contest in London.

Notices were put on bulletin boards; others saw them and applied. The act that finally was put on for the competition was a pantomime called "The K.P. Blues." The act included a 6-8 piece band, Sgt. Jack Thompson wrote and arranged the music for the act. Rehearsals were held in the theater at Thurleigh for several weeks. The result of the competition was that "The K.P. Blues" won every major category except for costuming and original music, which means they won five out of seven categories.

The professionals who judged the contest were so impressed with "The K.P. Blues" that they offered to help with material, support and advice if the group was interested in putting on a road tour. They were interested. The group returned to Thurleigh and began rehearsal for a road show. Colonel Upham was supportive of the idea and provided the group with the required clearance to proceed with the show. Those who were still on flight status were assured of continuing flight pay for as long as the show existed. The group was taken to a movie studio in London where they were outfitted with costumes, props, lighting, etc. They were initially provided with two trucks, one a weapons carrier. Eventually a C-47 was provided when the group went to France, Gibraltar and North Africa.

The show ran for approximately two hours with no intermission and consisted of pantomimes, blackouts, skits, music, and magic acts. After the format of the show was established, a tryout was done on the base at Thurleigh. Following the tryout, the show left on the first of three tours.

The first tour in September of 1945 was to bases at Southampton, Tidworth, Barton Stacey, Bournemouth, Burtonwood, Grove, Warrington, etc., returning to Thurleigh two weeks later. The group stayed at a hotel in Bournemouth and traveled each morning to one of the bases on the coast. The audiences were starved for entertainment and were extremely appreciative of the group's



CAST AND CREW OF 'THE E.T.O.pian Revue' — Front row: Gailard T. Ketcham, Carol (Doc) Miller, Ned Cerami, Jean \_\_\_\_\_\_, Robert Diebold, Lt. Robinson, and Harold D. (Bud) Vandiver. Back row: John

Schmidt, Thomas Schuster, Alfred Mis, Benjamin Scribner, Harry Blendowski, Clayton Gilliam, Jack Thompson, Charles Boardman, John Moody and Austin Richards.

efforts. The Red Cross at each base usually supplied a woman who appeared in some of the blackouts.

The music for the show was written by Bob Diebold. The background music included cameo bits from Irving Berlin's World War I stuff.

After returning from the first tour, most of the band was lost due to rotation home. The music from that point on was provided by Bob Diebold on a folding, foot-pumped Lowry organ. It was amplified through the PA system with a pair of headphones stuck to the back as pickup mikes. The number he played to open the show was Gershwin's "Fine and Dandy." Ned Cerami from Chicago was the main singer, doing some of the ballads made popular by Frank Sinatra. Although the group no longer had a regular band, it still performed the same basic show, with minor modifications.

No record remains of where the second and third tours went although most of the existing members agree that they did perform in Gibraltar and North Africa and it seems that these tours were in October and November of 1945. The last known performance of the show was in January of 1946 after the base was moved to Giebelstadt, Germany. Because they were by then so few in number and because they lacked most of the props and scenery, the show was terrible and they all vowed never to perform the show again.

As a bit of historical trivia—some trouble erupted in Gibraltar due to a misunderstanding. The name of the show was the "E-T-O-PIAN REVUE" but the title was interpreted as "Ethiopian" They weren't going to be allowed to perform as the base commander thought it was a black troupe. The problems were ironed out and the show went on as planned.

Listed below are seven members of that group with a short bio on each.

Harold (Bud) Vandiver- 369th, chin turret and toggelier. Worked for the Illinois Central Railroad and the Institute of Aviation at the University of Illinois, retiring from there in 1987. Now living in Champaign, IL.

Gailard T. (Red) Ketcham - 369th, ball turret gunner. Worked for the Frigidaire division of General Motors and White Consolidated Industries and retired from there in 1986. Now living in Dayton, OH.

Clayton (Blackie) Gilliam - 369th, waist

gunner. Worked for Douglas Aircraft; is retired and living in Jefferson, IA.

Robert Diebold - 369th, radio operator. Worked in journalism in the Midwest, worked for the Los Angeles Times and spent 17 years on the Dublin Evening Press, retiring from there in 1989. Now living in Dublin, Ireland.

Carol (Doc) Miller - 369th. Became a pharmacist but liked photography more. Owned and operated camera shops in the Dallas area. Retired, more or less, but still works part time in the store his daughter now runs. Living in Dallas.

Ben Scribner - 423rd, ball turret gunner. Worked for Bethlehem Steel Corp., retiring in 1985. Still active, working with churches in conflict and crisis as an Organizational Development Consultant. Now living in Danvers, MA where his wife, Susan, is the pastor of the First Church of Danvers, Congregational, United Church of Christ.

Al Mis - 423rd, radio operator. Is a retired school teacher of art, drafting and chorus. Continues to play the flute with an orchestra, combos, etc. Living in Niagara Falls, NY.

# A 'Duck' on a B-17 Intercom?

Vincent J. Kiely, 367th navigator, wrote the editor after reading of the death of Col. Robert C. Williams in the last issue of *Echoes*:

"A funny story about him:

"We were selected to fly 'weather ship' and he was aboard as pilot. When we were out over the North Sea he said that he wanted to try out a new microphone. After a while this strange voice, sounding like a poor imitation of Donald Duck, came over the intercom. After it spoke for a few minutes, I called the crew and told the 'clown' to knock off the Donald Duck talking, and reminded them that we had big brass on board.

"There was no more Donald Duck. When we landed and I had dropped down out of the nose hatch, Williams jumped on my back and shoulders, pounding me on the head, shouting "You big Irish bastard. I'll give you Donald Duck!"

"It was he who had been talking. I reminded him of this incident when I saw him at the Fort Worth reunion and he remembered it. He was a nice gent."

Betty Williams was sent a copy of Vince's note, and she wrote back that she got a real laugh out of it because it sounded so much like her late husband.

# Berlin In Ruins By 3 Feb 45

When the Russian propaganda films show/tell you how the Red Army laid waste to Berlin, Dr. R. Pierce Foster says to take it for what it is, a story that doesn't hold up under close observation.

He became an authority on the great German city on 3 Feb 45 when he became one of two survivors out of George Luckett's 367th crew, parachuting into the center of the city. Foster, a retired vascular and thoracic surgeon, was the navigator on the aircraft.

His observation is "The city was on fire, there were no windows or roofs in buildings, and most streets were blocked with rubble."

Retired from practice in Alexandria, LA, Foster now lives in DeVille, LA.

### MERCHANDISE UPDATE

All shirts are now being stocked in M, L, XL and XXL, reports Jack C. Frost, who is in charge of all sales, both at reunions and in the months in between. He reports that he can special order Small sizes for anyone who may want them.

### Changing Crew Chiefs

In the January issue, the Shelby Hodges crew had the wrong individual as crew chief. It should have been the late John L. Halzel.

### Correction

Charles E. Munger, 423rd pilot, graduated in 42-K at Victorville, CA, correcting the mention in the April issue of *Echoes*.

# **Combat Crews**



367th - Wilford Bergener P, Roy Connally N, George Murr CP. Back row: John Val wg, Joe Crane tg, Peter Boylan eng, James Edwards ro and Herman Hey bt.



423rd - Front: Harold Brown P, Daryl W. Phillips CP, William Guilfoyle N, Leslie Berry B. Back: Tony Thomas, Charles Fatica, Marvin Barker, Robert Beck, Gene Kimsey and John Ferrari.



369th - Front: G. M. Carrazzone P, Leo Reinhart CP, Alan Kester N and John Bodnaruk B. Back: George Keith eng, Paul Gallagher ro, William F Evans bt, Lawrence Jagnow wg, Robert Holthaus wg, and John Cullinan tg



369th - Walter Liles tg, Sam Keren ro, Jack Keheley bt, Charles Greeninger B, William Goetz CP, Mrs. Irving Dudley, Irving Dudley P, Harold Pasvoll N, Robert Ederer wg, George Coker eng and Jacob Galyath wg



368th - Roy Nupen ro, Burton Gustafson B, Bennie Jefferies g, Sid Salupsky wg, Karl Madsen g, Raymond Kristoff g, Clarence Crowl CP, Philip J. Field P, Charles W. Leake N, and James Brownell eng



369th - Front: William J. Haase P, Henry W. Pearce CP, Leo Oldenburg B, James Barkwill N. Back: William Miller eng, Leonard Gibson ro, Norman Sulser g, Melvin Wood bt, Roy R. Moore g, and Robert C. Zimmerman g



368th - Front: Joseph Gay P, Ira L. Gordon CP, Jack R. Samway N and Myron Dmochowski B. Back: Paul F. Hughes eng, Steven Kriski wg, Eric Danielson ro, Louis Brofford bt and Bernard Nittl tg



423rd - Front: Edwin O. Jarvie N, Norman G. Niersbach B, Berkeley B. Peterson CP and Earl W. Kesling P. Back: Unknown, Charles H. Obye wg, Robert Prestidge wg, William C. Lacy tg, John P. Zamora ro and Charles E. Schwoch eng.

# **Combat Crews**



369th - Front: Boyd Bennett wg, George J. King ro, William Yager bt, Andrew Tolmachoff tg, Vernon Michaletz eng, and Robert N. Irwin wg. Back: Herbert Jenack B, Paul C. Jorgensen P, William D. Wills CP and Frank Sovis N.



367th - Back: Unknown, George V. Luckett P, Larry Casey CP and R. Pierce Foster N. Front: Anthony L. Spera wg, Victor J. Cunningham togg, Unknown, Wayne Martin eng, and Unknown.



368th - Front: Richard Atwood tg, Roland Bocian wg, Ray Yoder ro, Woodrow Decoteau bt and Pat Hannum wg. Back: Simpson McGilberry eng, Joseph Long B, Joe Marsh P, Donald



367th - Front: Floyd Clites eng, Louis Fryer g, Carl Chase ro, Vern Blucher g, Harold Schrecongost bt and Albert Christensen g. Back: Robert J. McCourt N, Clifford Stanton B, Joseph Couris P and Charles Barchard CP.



423rd - Front: Joe Atchley ro, James B. Early bt, Ira E Walker g, Martin A. Knapp tg and William A. Sanford g. Back: Charles D. Oliver P, Dale Ebert CP, Anthony P. Baltunas N, Julius Tobias B and Kenneth Feltner eng.

# Seelos and Walls Meet 51 Years After Both Escaped Their A/C

By R. W. (Bill) Seelos

By the time I was shot down on my 19th mission, I had lost five of my original crew. On that fateful final day of combat, 5 April 43, I lost three more. The other seven of us managed to escape the

Five of those seven spent two years in prison camp. Roland Magee, lost an eye, was captured, but later repatriated through Sweden.

The radio operator, Sgt. William H. Keskey, and a waist gunner, Sgt. Raymond E. Walls, landed fairly close to each other and managed to get into the hands of the Underground.

They were moved from place to place with British airmen and several civil ians, and were advised that on a certain date and at a certain time they would be taken at night to the French coast where a small boat would transport them across the English Channel to safety.

When the date and time arrived it was determined that there was one person too many in the party, so Keskey and Walls drew straws. Keskey "won." On their way to the coast the large party was captured by the Germans and Keskey belatedly became a

Walls remained with the underground and was moved from place to place, and eventually crossed the French border into Spain. From there he went to Gibraltar and on to England. Once back in the States, Walls remained in the

training command until the end of the

I last saw Walls when he reported to our B-17 on the morning of 5 Apr 43.

### Meeting in Baltimore

This past April I accompanied my wife to an international education conference in Baltimore, MD. I found in my 306th materials a Baltimore address and telephone number for Raymond E. Walls. Not finding his name, or a matching phone number or address in the Baltimore directory, I almost gave up. But my wife urged me to try the number I had.

I dialed the number, and when a man answered I asked: "Is this Raymond Walls?

'Yes, it is," came the answer, and I asked, "Were you in the 8th Air Force, 306th Bomb Group?"

"Yes I was," replied, so I continued the questions.

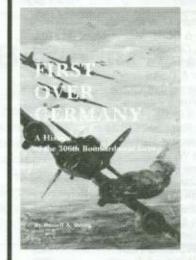
"Were you shot down April 5, 1943, and was your pilot Robert Seelos?"

Yes...Who is this?"

"Raymond, this is Robert Seelos calling." A short silence followed.

I told him I was in Baltimore and that wanted to see him.

The following day his daughter brought him to the hotel, and we had a very traumatic reunion and took pictures. After fifty-one years, this was truly "quite an occasion.



You've read your Squadron Diary. Now, complete the story with the only full history of our Group.

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# Casey Jones Mapping Project Continues to Draw Interest

There is a continuing interest in the Casey Jones aerial mapping project in which the 306th was one of two major participants, following the end of hostilities in 1945. Many of the crews which joined the 306th in February or later continued their USAAF service as a part of this effort.

Because of that interest, and in what is hoped a prelude to more about the entire project, we have used the foreward and introduction from a study of "Casey Jones" published several years ago by Strategic Air Command and authored by Robert J. Boyd, chief historian at SAC until his retirement.

Boyd even attended two of our reunions to be able to interview 306th men, and his 60-page book quotes heavily from these individuals.

#### Foreward

Post-World War II Army Air Forces organization was chaotic because dismantling the United States military forces occurred with undue haste. National policy wanted to return the soldiers and sailors to civilian life as rapidly as possible, regardless of the impact on the military forces. The Chief of Army Air Forces Personnel Services Division Brigadier General Leon W. Johnson, stated in late 1945:

"We didn't demobilize; we merely fell apart ... we lost many records of all the groups and units that operated during the war because there was no one to take care of them. So, it was not an orderly demobilization at all. It was just a riot, really."

As a consequence of this "riot," source materials for this monograph were limited. The Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, possessed microfilm copies of many unit histories, but several volumes are missing. The USAF Historical Research Center contributed some documentation. The National Archives provided additional source materials. Furthermore, the 306th Bomb Group Association provided contacts with participants who were generous with assistance, photographs, and documents for the history of Project Casey Jones.

Documentation is scarce. For example, the top secret initiating directive is missing. The Defense Mapping Agency, successor to the Army Map Service, searched for materials with little success. Toward the end of this project in late 1946, documentation almost disappeared with no reference for termination. Yet personal copies of orders indicate continuation of the project into 1947.

Most obvious is the lack of identification of several mapping areas. Locations of these areas remain unknown.

A curious anomaly existed around Project Casey Jones. This was a classified effort, initially Top Secret. By March 1946, overall classification had dropped to Confidential. The difficulty was that only in certain areas was the classified nature of the operation observed. It was observed in Europe, particularly on those stations where the Casey Jones crews and aircraft operated. In the United States, the lid was off. One of the participants had written home in July 1945 that his next chore in the Army Air Forces was to engage in mapping from the air all of Europe. In the 3 July 1945 issue of Stars and Stripes, there was an extensive article on the project in the section called "Grab Bag."

### Introduction

The United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) 306 Bombardment Group, Heavy, flew its last combat sortie against Germany on 19 April 1945. The 305th Bombardment Group, Heavy, flew its last combat sortie six days later. Both were component unit groups of the Eighth Air Force and both were among the heavy bomb units to arrive in England in 1942.

Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945; the war in Europe was over. The war in the Pacific was still active and Headquarters USAAF directed the Eighth Air Force to relocate to the Pacific Ocean areas to assist in the reduction and subjugation of Japan. Some of the Eight's subordinate units remained in Europe in a dual role: (1) Air Army of Occupation, and (2) photographic mapping of the continent.

Lack of adequate maps and charts had caused serious difficulties for the American ground forces during the European campaign. A requirement thus existed for accurate maps for fire control, fire direction, and terrain feature profiles. The scope of the mapping projectmore than two million square mileswas probably the largest single aerial mapping project to that time. It demanded a large number of aircraft, but the critical wartime mission assigned to the heavy bomber force precluded their use in mapping operations until hostilities ended. Bombers could not be spared from the primary mission while the war was still active.

Immediately after V-E Day, a new mission was assigned to the 305th and 306th Bombardment Groups, Heavy, to take high-altitude photographs of designated areas in such a manner that detailed maps of a scale of 1:25,000 could be drawn from the overlaid mosaics of the picture prints. Photomapping was a novel mission for these bomber units, but the objective was to produce accurate maps ideally suited to the needs of the g round forces. Initial estimates predicted that it would take years of preparation to complete the mapping project. The flying portion was virtually completed in less than 18 months. Records are incomplete, but the two groups flew thousands of sorties using up tens of thousands of flying hours on this effort.

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Loes, Mel & Georgeanne
Lyles, Joe & Anne
Lynch, William & Jean Marie
MacGillivray, Robert & Any
Madsen, Karl & Edith
Madsen, Waldemar F
Malsom, Ralph
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Wood, W Raymond & Carolee
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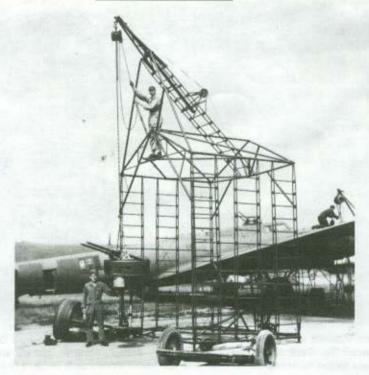
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A NEW TURRET FOR THE LADY — It is our guess that a new turret is being installed in the aircraft shown. We do know that the pictures were taken 20 July 44, but we can't discern what plane was receiving the replacement, or why, or who any of the several mechanics are that were involved in this kind of thing. Note that in the upper photo there is another turret lying on the ground.

Richard R. Arlidge, 367th gunner (William Wear crew), died 21 Apr 94 in Aptos, CA. He arrived with the Group 13 Jan 45 and flew through the end of the war.

George W. Beck, 367th tail gunner and internee, died 27 Jan 94 in Seaford, DE, after suffering with cancer. He joined the Group 28 Nov 44, and went to Sweden 3 Feb 45 on a Berlin mission, with Roland Lissner. This was Beck's 13th mission. He returned to Allied control 24 May 45. Beck was a graduate of Beacom College, owned a Chevrolet dealership in Denton, MD, and later worked for Delmara Power & Light.

Vernon B. Bodenheimer, 367th navigator (William Allen crew), died 6 Apr 94 in Hattiesburg, MS, of lung cancer. He arrived with the Group 29 Apr 44, and completed his 33-mission tour 10 Aug 44. A graduate of NC State University, he was a consultant to the pulp and paper industry following retirement as vice president of Leaf River Forest Products Co. He leaves his wife, five children and 12 grandchildren.

Erwin A. Froemel, a bombsight technician with the original group assigned to the 367th Squadron, died in Apr 93 in Columbus, NE.

Paul K. Marshall, 369th bombardier, died 24 Nov 70 in Piqua, OH. His home , was in Centerville, MA. He arrived for combat 25 Aug 44 and completed his tour 24 Dec 44.

Harry A. McIntyre, 423rd gunner (Elmer Heap crew), died 22 Jul 93 in Enterprise, AL. He joined the group 16 Oct 43 and finished up in Apr 44.

Ralph N. Mitchell, 369th radio operator, died 23 Aug 82 in Worcester, MA. He was on a combat crew from Apr to Aug 44. He leaves his wife, Evelyn.

Hayward M. Noel, 367th gunner (William Wood crew), died 22 May 91 in Port St. Lucie, FL. He flew during 1944. John J. O'Linski, 368th sheet metal

worker, died 25 Apr 85 in Highland, IN. He had joined the Group 3 Apr 42.

Alfred B. Pennington, 423rd cook, died 27 Mar 80 in Hohenwald, TN. He was with the original Group.

LTC William F. Perry, 423rd intelligence technician, died 13 Oct 91 in 9 May 94 in Belen, NM, where he had lived since USAF retirement 31 Jul 75 as an intelligence staff officer. He graduated from Florida Southern University and earned his MA degree at New York University. He leaves his wife, Dottie.

Melvin A. Rhodes, 369th gunner (George Walter crew), died 4 Aug 85 in Virginia Beach, VA. He came to combat 12 Sep 44.

Clemens R. Schmitt, 423rd gunner (Raymond Dann crew), died 9 Dec 78 in Dubuque, IA. He arrived with the Group 9 Apr 45.

Ellis L. Schoonover, 369th navigator (James Edeler crew), died 9 Jun 94 in Clarence, MO, where he had lived most of his life. He had a long association as an officer of the Clarence State Bank. Schoonover arrived at Thurleigh 11 Jun 44 and completed his 35 missions 10 Oct 44.

Roy Secker, 423rd mechanic, died 22 May 85 in Wheaton, IL. His wife, Diane, was a war bride from London.

Meade C. Seaman, Jr., 368th radio operator and POW (Carl Hathaway crew), died 9 Feb 73 in Tampa, FL. On the mission of 10 Jan 45 to Gymnich, Germany, Seaman was blown out of the plane and became a POW.

Jerry J. Serillo, 368th ordnance, died 26 May 92 in Bayville, NJ.

Arthur J. Sherry, Jr., died in 1988 in West Patchoque, NY.

Anthony J. Slawinski, 4th Station Complement Squadron, died in Mar 93 in Buffalo, NY. Gordon M. Slocum, 369th gunner and togglier, died 28 Sep 84 in New Baltimore, Ml. He was on Nathaniel Bliss' crew, joining the Group 3 Apr 44. Later, Slocum became a POW on the 16 Aug 44 mission to Bohlen, Germany (w. Young B. C. Newsom).

Carl P. Smythe, 423rd pilot died 24 Mar 94 in Oklahoma City, OK, where he was chairman and CEO of Fox-Smythe Transportation Co. He had started with the company in 1945. His wife, Jane, has become CEO in his stead. Smythe brought his crew to Thurleigh 8 Aug 44 and finished his tour 7 Jan 45.

Parker Snead, 368th bombardier, died 15 Apr 76 in the crash of his own plane during a takeoff at Richmond, VA. He joined the Group 15 Jun 44 and finished his tour in Oct 44 (Walter Summer crew).

Maloy Rushing, a 367th gunner and also tow target operator, died 18 Mar 81 in Harlingen, TX.

Warren A. Sosbe, 449th Subdepot, died 14 Jan 90 in Lafayette, IN.

Norman C. Sulser, 369th waist gunner (William Haase crew), died in 1982 in Earth, TX. He was wounded 10 Jan 45 on the Gymnich raid, having joined the Group 21 Aug 44.

Leo M. Sweeney, 423rd armament worker, died 18 Nov 91 in Kittery, ME. He leaves his wife, Dorothy.

Paul L. Sweeny, 368th, died in Dec 93 in McLean, VA. at one time he was a bartender in one of the officers' clubs at Thurleigh.

Charles W. Swoope, 4th Station Complement Squadron, died in 1980 in Pinehurst, NC.

Ernest C. Thixtun, 367th radio operator (Lester Kearney crew), died 3 Dec 83 in Sarasota, FL. He flew his combat between Jan and Apr 45.

Orbin H. Thompson, 368th gunner (William Heiser crew), died 4 Feb 91 in East Grand Rapids, MN.

Claude E. Threet, 368th carpenter, died 30 Apr 75 in Florence, AL.

James M. Ulin, 4th Station Complement Squadron, died 13 Oct 91 in Kalona, IA.

Habert E. Underwood, 423rd pilot, is deceased. He arrived 29 Aug 44 with his crew and was there at the end of

George A. Weinel, 368th copilot (Raymond Trigg crew), died 23 Aug 75 in Toronto, Ont, after suffering a heart attack. He came to combat 13 Apr 44 and completed his tour in August. His wife, Margaret, lives in Tonawanda, NY.

William N. Wilmarth, Group operations Form 5 clerk, died 8 Dec 86 in Dunedin, FL.

# Find Strange Bit of Data

When doing research in a large depository one is apt to come across strange bits of data.

Some time ago at National Archives the editor found an envelope in among Mission Reports which shows decorations listed for officers of the 306th. It includes the award, date made, General Orders containing the award information, and how many missions had been completed at that time.

The catch is that the listing runs from Henderson Knight through Martin J. McCarthy.

If you fall within that select listing and would like a copy of this information, send along a note to the Secretary.

# **Address Updates**

Kermit W Alexander 368 200 Peters Rd, Apt 17 Milford, MI 48381

LTC John R Barnett 423 112999 Essex Dr

Richard L Bohland 368 3815 Martha Ave

Herman B Blumenthal II 4th 8000 High School Rd, #1A Elkins Park, MD 19117

James H Boring 368 1503 Baltimore PI Derby, KS 67037

John F Bruce 1628 23 Flagg St Springfield, MA 01109

Winston W Burroughs 367 4315 Dr Samuel Mudd Rd

William E Butler 1628 4917 NW 32nd St Oklahoma City, OK 73122

MSgt Richard A Craig 423 50 Irving St NW, #2ES Washington, DC 20422

Charles E Dapra 367 5900 Eastman Lake Dr San Jose, CA 95123

1st Lt Leland A Dowden 369 3400 Wagner Heights Rd, #259 Stockton, CA 95209

Col Roy W Griffith 367 127 Sarah Ln Waveland, MS 39576

William E Butler 1628 4917 NW 32nd St Oklahoma City, OK 73122

Roland Harper CJ 435 Catskill Dr Colfax, CA 95713

Fred C Hocker 369 4 Fisher Dr Bloomington, IL 61701

Howard M. Hodges 4th 1109 Robinson St Roscommon, MI 48653

L P Johnson, Jr 423 8865 Lely Island Cir Naples, FL 33962

Robert G Jones 423 5172 S Afton Pkwy Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Carl Kalbach 369 General Delivery Rehrersburg, PA 19550

Jerry Misterman 209 Beymon Dr Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Frederick W Mitchell 367 154 Cognac Ct

MSgt Charles L Mullins 369 2425 S Memorial Dr, #18 Tulsa, OK 74129

Col Norman G Niersbach 369 555 S Rockrimmon Blvd, #204 Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Raymond B Overstreet 367 1612-A Shady Knoll Ave Bedford, VA 24523 Matthew E Palenica 423 6960 W Peoria Ave Peoria, AZ 85345

Dr George W Pederson 367 411 S Lagrande Ave, #6

Anthony C Paskiewicz 876 1519 60th St Kenosha, WI 53140

Roy C Ranck 368 619 W 101st Terr Kansas City, MO 64114

John Reagan 449 3930 Holly Hill Rd, #234 Corpus Christi, TX 78415

Dr William M Rich 423 822 Lincoln Bellevue, KY 41073

Edward J Seifried 368 147 Spring Lane Paramus, NJ 07652

Col Gordon A Spencer 367 313 Tamworth Dr San Antonio, TX 78213

Charley R Whitt 369 24190 Hwy 251

LTC William B Winslow 367 4750 Winchester Dr

Winston W Wood 423 12 Wedgewood Dr Holiday Island, AR 72632

### 306th Family

Mrs Ingvald Fredlund 1024W 3511 Cedar Grove St Bremerton, WA 98310

Mrs Guy Golden 423W 5114 Turkey Creek Rd Ruston, LA 71270

Mrs. Alvin E. Naumann 368W 104 Daniel Comfort, TX 78013

Howard White 423S 211 E Main St Frankfort, NY 13440

The following names have been deleted from our mailing list because of returned mail, and our inability to locate a new address. If you can be of assistance, please write the Secretary. The address shown is the last good address we had:

William Berman 367 6013 Colfax N Hollywood, CA 91601

Charles E Fehr 368 611 N Villa Ave Oklahoma City, OK 73112

# **Contributions Sought**

Keep 'Em Flying, a new book in progress by Jeffrey L. Ethell, is seeking stories and/or Kodachrome slides from 306th personnel who were in WWII or the Korean War. If you want your efforts considered for publication, write Ethell at Rt. 1, Box 3154, Front Royal, VA

# **Big Aig Show**

The big National Warplane Museum mid-summer air show will be held August 19 through 21 at the Batavia, NY, airport. If you stop in for a visit, look up Maynard Poray of the 306th at the Veterans' tent.

P.O. Box 13362 Des Moines, IA 50310

# There may be no dues, BUT

It does take money to keep the 306th Association flying. Those who are able are asked to make an annual contribution to keep everything running smoothly. No one is dropped from the mailing list for non-payment! Your gift is tax deductible.

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### **Des Moines Reunion Reservations** September 15-17, 1994

Complete this form and send with check to:

306th Bomb Group Reunion, P.O. Box 13362, De	es Moines, IA 50310	
Reunion registration fee, per person	at \$25	\$
Thursday, September 15		
Amana Colonies tour (8:00 a.m4:00 p.m.)	at \$25	s
"Bridges of Madison County" tour (9:00 a.m1:30 p		
at \$23		\$
Magnificent Mansions tour (1:00 p.m5:00 p.m.)	at \$22	s
Discover Des Moines tour (2:00 p.m5:00 p.m.)	at \$13	\$
lowa Farm Dinner at 7:00 p.m. (Last bus 6:30 p.m.)	at	-
\$22		
		*
Friday, September 16		
Tour of Dutch Town of Pella (8:00 a.m1:30 p.m.)*	at	
\$30		\$
Living History Farms tour (8:30 a.m1:00 p.m.)*	at \$26	\$
Magnificent Mansions tour (8:30 a.m12:30 p.m.)	at \$22	\$
"Bridges of Madison County" tour (9:00 a.m1:30 p	.m.)*	
at \$23		\$
Discover Des Moines tour (9:00 a.m12:00 noon)	at \$13	\$
Aviation Expo at 3:00 p.m. (Last bus 2:30 p.m.)	at \$17	\$
Evening free		
Saturday, September 17		
Valley Junction shopping tour (10:00 a.m2:00 p.m.	)at	
\$7		\$
Business meeting at 3:00 p.m.; Ladies program at 3:	:00 p.m.	
Reunion banquet at 7:00 p.m.		
(Cash bar opens at 6:00 p.m.	at \$28	s
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to the center of activities as possible.

# 306th Publications

Published materials now available from the Group will help you follow the 306th through the combat period, 1942-45:

### Combat Diaries of the 306th Squadrons

Day-by-day diaries, kept by intelligence officers, of the squadrons' combat activities. More than 150 pages, also including plane and personnel rosters. Plastic bound.

#### 306th Echoes, on microfiche

Now available from 1976 through 1991, with a 41-page index covering those years. Can be viewed at any library.

### Men of the 306th, on microfilm

**Mailing Address** 

A role of 16mm film duplicates the 306th card file of nearly 9,000 men, including data extracted from various 306th records, and personal data on some of the men. 1993 edition.

#### **ORDER FORM**

367th Combat Diary	\$17.00
368th Combat Diary	\$17.00
369th Combat Diary	\$17.00
423rd Combat Diary	\$17.00
306th Echoes, microfiche	\$10.00
Men of the 306th, microfilm	\$12.00
	Total \$

Make check payable to 306th Bomb Group Association (prices quoted include postage and packaging charges)

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Mail to: Secretary, 306th BGA, 5323 Cheval Pl., Charlotte, NC 28205

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### Order Form

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Jack Frost, P.O. Box 13362, Des Moines, IA 50310

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306th Patch 3 inches, without First Over Germany in Full Color	\$ 5.00		
367th Patch 5 inches, in Full Color	\$ 5.00		
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423rd Patch 5 inches, in Full Color	\$ 5.00		Ti-make
367th T-Shirt (L) with Logo in Pull Color SOLD OUT	\$10.00		
367th T-Shirt (XL) with Logo in Full Color	\$10.00		SALUAUR.
368th T-Shirt (M) with Logo in Full Color, w/ FOG on Back	\$10.00		Blir (B)
368th T-Shirt (L) with Logo in Full Color	\$10.00	1000	
368th T-Shirt (XL) with Logo in Full Color	\$10.00		The Later
369th T-Shirt (XL) with Logo in Full Color	\$10,00	2000	
423rd T-Shirt (M) with Logo in Pull Color, w/ FOG on Back	\$10.00		10.75
423rd T-Shirt (L) with Logo in Full Color, w/ FOG on Back	\$10.00	1	
423rd T-Shirt (XL) with Logo in Pull Color	\$10.00		most ser
306th Tie Navy with B-17 Logo and 306th Bomb Group, Thurleigh, England, 1942-45 In Gold	\$10.00		EMIC :
306th Logo Quartz Man's Wristwatch with Goldplated Case with Time Marks and Black Leather Strap	\$25.00	a hada a	33
306th "Black Thursday" Photo in Full Color	\$ 2.00	Unit de	Various V
306th Golf Caps, White, with 306th Logo in Full Color	\$10.00		
306th "50th Anniversary" Poster	\$ 3.00	Samuno	Decres
306th Sport Shirts (M), with 306th First Over Germany Logo and in Full Color	\$15.00	- Yer	
306th Sport Shirts (L), with 306th First Over Germany Logo and in Full Color	\$15.00	34 0 F 30	Wald-
306th Sport Shirts (XL), with 306th First Over Germany Logo and in Full Color	\$15.00		40 9
306th Sport Shirts (XXL), with 306th First Over Germany Logo and in Full Color	\$15.00	1	
306th License Plate Frames, with First Over Germany	\$10.00		- IV-II-
306th Reunion Glasses, with B-17, 306th and 4 Squadrons Logos	\$ 5.00	1	
306th Reunion Coffee Mugs, with 306th Logo	\$ 5.00		