

9/6/885-8129  
~~10/17~~

Ralph W. Jones

Suggs followed plane down

Check's nurse & bride to be  
was waiting at end of runway.

Cossedy knew this & landed  
down used to take the plane away  
from her.

Check had planned to marry the  
next day.

13 October 1982

Dear Ralph:

It sounds like you'd better pursue the matter of the check with The Battery Press in Nashville. That is a reprint of the 306th book put out in 1947.

My book, using the same title, is available at the same price and is an entirely different publication.

Hope you can work it out, and I am sure the Battery Press people will make your order good.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

6 Oct 82

Dear Russ:

I feel as if I am missing out on lots of fun and memories to be gained from your book, "First over Germany". The letters in 'ECHOES' and conversation with 306ers acclaim it highly. Congratulations on your success —

Now, I wonder when I will receive my copy? On 15 July 1980 I mailed, in my check for \$20<sup>00</sup>. My cancelled check number is 2511. I can furnish a photo-stat if necessary. — One problem may confuse my payment; the check was made out to The Battery Press, Inc. I had mailed that check at the same time I ordered "B17 Fortress at War". Perhaps my inquiry should be addressed to the Battery Press; how do you advise.

Sincerely,

Ralph Gunn

23 March 1988

Dear Kris:

Note copy of letter from Stephen Harlow and my response - The 423<sup>rd</sup> "alumnus" I referred to, is Daryl Phillips (Fresno, Calif) - I am not positively certain that we early birds in the 306<sup>th</sup> did not wear (or own) patches. From the very few photos that survived a 1952 fire I don't see a patch - I made copies of these photos I have and send to you for whatever? - You might get a smile or two from them - I also found a couple of orders and extracts and copied them; again for whatever?

Maybe you can help Stephen; but as I reflect on the number of Organization patch collectors during the past many years, I can't imagine many of the originals are still around -

Thanks - Hope to see you in Las Vegas next October -

Steph

FEB. 20, 1988

DEAR MR: JONES

THE REASON THAT I AM CONTACTING AT THIS TIME IS THAT I'M AN ARMY AIR CORP HISTORIAN COMPILING AIR CORP RELATED ITEMS, (SQUADRON INSIGNIA, WINGS, PHOTOS OF BOMBER NOSE ART, GROUP PHOTOS, ETC, EVENTUALLY TO BE DISPLAYED AS A TRIBUTE TO THE HEAVY BOMB GROUPS OF THE 8TH AIR FORCE, EUROPEAN THEATER.

I'VE BEEN DOING RESEARCH ON THE 306TH, BOMB GROUP, THURLEIGH-ENGLAND, AND UNDERSTAND YOU WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE 423RD. BOMB SQUADRON.

TO COMPLETE A DISPLAY OF THE 4 SQUADRONS OF THE 306, I'M DESPERATELY SEEKING AN ORIGINAL 423 RD "GRIM REAPER" PATCH ON OR OFF THE A-2 LEATHER FLIGHT JACKET, AND A CATERPILLAR CLUB PIN.

IF YOU HAVE ANY SUCH ITEMS YOU WOULDN'T MIND PARTING WITH, OR SELLING, YOUR HELP WOULD MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO ME.

I HAVE A GREAT ADMIRATION AND RESPECT FOR YOU GUYS, AND PLAN TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY TO PRESERVE IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

THANKS & SINCERELY

STEPHEN HARLOW

STEPHEN HARLOW  
P. O. BOX 1682  
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 24008

20 March 1988

Dear Stephen:

I believe you are the same person whom I talked with on the phone several weeks ago about the 423<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Squadron, "Grim Reapers" patch - As then, my answer is: I do not have a patch. Wish I did.

Over the years, memories seem to fade a bit - As I recall, the original members of the 423<sup>rd</sup> (those who joined the organization at Wendover, Utah in mid 1942 and flew to England in September 1942) did not have or wear the patch on the leather jacket. Apparently the patch was not worn until 1943, after I completed my combat tour as a pilot and had departed the organization. Most of my WWII memorabilia was destroyed in a fire in 1952; but, one photo of the flap I have of me in the leather jacket, taken at Thurlleigh, England, does not show the patch.

I telephoned a friend, also an "Hummer" of the 423<sup>rd</sup> subsequent to my tour of duty. He had a patch, sewn on his leather jacket, but gave it to his son sometime ago (his son cherishes that keepsake, and will not relinquish it).

I am sending a copy of your letter to Russell Strong, 2041 Hillside, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. He is the Secretary of the 306<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group Association, and may be able to help you. His telephone no. (616) 344-6466.

Sorry, and good luck,

P.S. I never sailed out of an airplane, so I am not a member of the Caterpillar Club!

Tapscott

FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO \_\_\_\_\_

R E S T R I C T E D

(G-25)

GENERAL ORDERS )  
:  
No. 54 )

Hq VIII Bomber Command,  
APO 634,  
28 May 1943.

SECTION

AWARDS OF AIR MEDAL	- - - - -	I
AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL	- - - - -	II
AMMENDMENT TO G.O. #48, HQ VIII BC, 22 MAY 1943	- - - - -	III

I. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq ETOUSA, 5 April 1943, and ltr Hq Eighth Air Force, 16 April 1943, Subject "Awards and Decorations", the AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following-named Officers and Enlisted Men.

Citation: For meritorious achievement of the destruction of one enemy airplane, while serving as crewman on a bombardment mission over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by this Officer and these Enlisted Men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

CARL E. JOHNSON, O-730268, 2nd Lieutenant, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 1620 Sherbourne Drive, Los Angeles, California.

RICHARD J. TRONZO, 33245803, Staff Sergeant, 368th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Spangler, Pennsylvania.

DAVID G. BERNSTEIN, 39234569, Staff Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 185 Prospect Street, Winsted, Connecticut.

Citation: For exceptionally meritorious achievement, while participating in five separate bomber combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these Officers and Enlisted Men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

GERALD F. THOMAS, JR., O-778937, 2nd Lieutenant, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Box #532, Fresno, California.

JOSEPH F. PALMER, O-791142, 1st Lieutenant, 303rd Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 1515 Beachview Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

THOMAS S. VAUGHAN, O-393165, 1st Lieutenant, 303rd Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 1510 Rosemary Lane, Columbia, Mississippi.

FRANK E. KULESA, O-729765, 2nd Lieutenant, 303rd Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 8225 Almot Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

R E S T R I C T E D

GO #54, Hq VIII BC,  
28 May '43, Cont'd:

JOHN J. STICKLER, 6943516, Staff Sergeant, 360th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: R.F.D. #2, Jonestown, Pennsylvania.

FRED J. DICQUARDO, 7071292, Sergeant, 360th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Sylvan Avenue, Bayport, Long Island, New York.

GEORGE Z. HOWARD, 34307919, Staff Sergeant, 359th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 115 Gum Street, Charlotte, North Carolina.

BYRON J. BURNS, 37351749, Sergeant, 410th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Tyndall, South Dakota.

II. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq ETOUSA, 5 April 1943, and 1tr Hq Eighth Air Force, 16 April 1943, Subject "Awards and Decorations", an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following-named Officers and Enlisted Men, in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded.

Citation: For meritorious achievement of the destruction of one enemy airplane, while serving as crewman on a bombardment mission over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these Enlisted Men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

RICHARD J. TRONZO, 33245803, Staff Sergeant, 368th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Spangler, Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH C. STONER, 13107728, Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Seventh and Marne Avenue, Monongahala, Pennsylvania.

LOUIS T. HLAVAC, 32335198, Staff Sergeant, 368th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: East Islip, New York.

DONALD T. MC CANN, 39608345, Staff Sergeant, 368th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Fishtail, Montana.

PAUL (NMI) MARDIS, 6833610, Staff Sergeant, 368th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 3625 Page Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri.

EDWARD F. BOWDEN, 14002158, Staff Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Box 204, Glenmora, Louisiana.

GEORGE W. GUILFORD, 14035289, Staff Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Route #2, Newton, Alabama.

JAMES M. GARRARD, 14070592, Staff Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 611 Bell Avenue, Greenwood, Mississippi.

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

GO #54, Hq VIII BC,  
28 May '43, cont'd:

Citation: For exceptionally meritorious achievement, while participating in five separate bomber combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these Officers and Enlisted Men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

ARTHUR C. WAY, O-662227, 1st Lieutenant, 303rd Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Route #4, Madison, Wisconsin.

JAMES F. KELLEY, O-794018, 2nd Lieutenant, 303rd Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 7907 Woodbury Drive, Silver Springs, Maryland.

WILLIAM G. LE FEVRE, O-364410, 1st Lieutenant, 303rd Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 210 Konyon Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana.

RALPH W. JONES, O-661843, 1st Lieutenant, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 1748 Stearns Drive, Los Angeles, California.

ROBERT H. SMITH, O-725541, 1st Lieutenant, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 1008 North First Street, Lamesa, Texas.

CLYDE J. TRAVIS, O-726092, 1st Lieutenant, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 637 Hendricks Street, Los Angeles, California.

ROY A. VINNEDGE, O-725555, 1st Lieutenant, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 1305 West Chester Street, Denison, Texas.

MICHAEL M. ZINKOVICH, O-659619, 1st Lieutenant, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 24 Vine Street, Claremont, New Hampshire.

COY B. ELLISON, O-789240, 1st Lieutenant, 93rd Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Mclean, Texas.

HOWARD W. MOORE, O-402027, Major, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Farmersburg, Indiana.

JAMES F. DE VINNEY, O-727322, 1st Lieutenant, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 3511 Winchester Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

LEON W. JOHNSON, O-16429, Colonel, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: General Oglethorpe Hotel, Savannah, Georgia.

JOHN H. DIEHL, JR., O-427313, Captain, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico.

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

GO #54, Hq VIII BC,  
28 May '43, cont'd:

WALTER T. HOLMES, JR., O-437615, Captain, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 707 West Hickory, Denton, Texas.

ROBERT J. STINE, O-662388, 1st Lieutenant, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Post Office Box #74, Edna, Kansas.

GEORGE R. JANSEN, O-727998, 1st Lieutenant, 44th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 3100 Marshall Way, Sacramento, California.

HARVIE L. COLLINS, 37101208, Staff Sergeant, 360th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Route #1, Hoxie, Arkansas.

ANTHONY (NMI) COMPO, 12092067, Staff Sergeant, 360th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 1128 East Ninety-Eighth Street, New York, New York.

HENRY G. SCHNEIDERMAN, 16036237, Staff Sergeant, 360th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 9853 Beverly Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

GEORGE W. VOGEL, 10600863, Sergeant, 359th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 8527 Pershing Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

HARRY M. BROWN, 13038647, Technical Sergeant, 367th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 628 Front Street, Brownsville, Pennsylvania.

CARL E. FRYMOYER, 13080116, Staff Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: R.F.D. #1, Reading, Pennsylvania.

PETER W. PAPPAS, 11021462, Staff Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 408 Main Street, Haverholt, Massachusetts.

STANLEY S. KRUGEL, 20142120, Technical Sergeant, 329th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 127 Cedar Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts.

JAMES M. GARRARD, 14070592, Staff Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Greenwood, Mississippi.

CORWIN C. HUFF, 15018435, Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 825 Rosewell Avenue, Steubenville, Ohio.

FRANK E. CROSS, 14059223, Technical Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Route #2, Red Devil, Alabama.

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

GO #54, Hq VIII BC,  
28 May '43, cont'd:

GERALD D. LAWSON, 18063789, Staff Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: R.F.D. #4, Abilene, Texas.

ORAN J. TAYLOR, 18062096, Staff Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: Raymondville, Texas.

DAVID G. BERNSTEIN, 39234569, Staff Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 185 Prospect Street, Winsted, Connecticut.

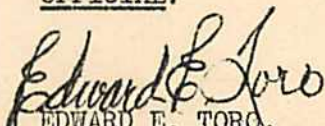
SAMUEL H. DeBERRY, 35376177, Staff Sergeant, 68th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home address: 319 Brandonville Street, Terra Alta, West Virginia.

III. So much of Section I, General Orders #48, Headquarters VIII Bomber Command, 22 May 1943, as reads: "JOSEPH (NMI) KERR, 64266721, Sergeant, 359th Bombardment Squadron (H)," is amended to read: "JOSEPH (NMI) KERR, 6426721, Sergeant, 359th Bombardment Squadron (H)".

By command of Brigadier General LONGFELLOW:

CHAS. B. B. BUBB,  
Colonel, GSC,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

  
EDWARD E. TORO,  
Lt. Col., AGD,  
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION: Special Awards.

R E S T R I C T E D

1st Lt. Ralph W. Jones pg. 3

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General

7 July 1943.

GENERAL ORDER )  
:  
NO.....97 )

SECTION

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS \* \* \* \* I  
AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* II  
AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* III

I. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45; 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq., ETOUSA, 5 April 1943, an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named officer for wear with the Distinguished Flying Cross previously awarded. This individual has previously earned the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters for wear therewith.

FORT W. LIPE, O-661508, 1st Lieutenant, 303rd 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 Lipe 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 Lipe on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Irving, Illinois.

II. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45; 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq., ETOUSA, 5 April 1943, an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named officer, in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded.

BERTRAM H. KAPLAN, O-791445, 1st Lieutenant, 305th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement, while serving as Pilot of a B-17 airplane on five separate bombardment missions over enemy occupied Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Lieutenant Kaplan on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 620 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck, New York.

III. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq., ETOUSA, 5 April 1943, the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following named Officers and Enlisted Men for extraordinary achievement, as set forth in citation in each instance. These individuals have previously earned the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters for wear therewith.

RICHARD K. O'HARA, O-428414, Captain, 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, Captain O'Hara 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 Captain O'Hara on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 47 Charles St., Cortland, New York.

EARL F. RILEY, O-435994, Captain, 91st 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, Captain Riley 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 Captain Riley on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 730 E. North Street, Greensbury, Indiana.

ALBERT E. SCHULSTAD, O-794060, 1st Lieutenant, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Navigator of a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Lieutenant Schulstad has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions, and fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Lieutenant Schulstad on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 4341-29th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

MILTON S. FONOROW, O-660982, 1st Lieutenant, 303rd Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Bombardier on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Lieutenant Fonorow has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions, and fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Lieutenant Fonorow on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 2354 East 70th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

JAMES E. HOPKINS, O-726240, 1st Lieutenant, 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 Hopkins 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 Hopkins on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: General Delivery, Cayuga, Texas.

RALPH W. JONES, O-661843, 1st Lieutenant, 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 Jones 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 Jones on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 1748 Stearns Drive, Los Angeles, California.

BERTRAM H. KAPLAN, O-791445, 1st Lieutenant, 305th 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 Kaplan 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 Kaplan on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 620 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck, New York.

FRED R. GILBERT, O-661476, 1st Lieutenant, 305th 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 Gilbert 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 Gilbert on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 716 Olive St., Bellflower, California.

RAY J. SCHWENDIMAN, O-727051, 1st Lieutenant, 91st Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Navigator of a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Lieutenant Schwendiman has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions, and fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Lieutenant Schwendiman on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Sugar City, Idaho.

BERNARD F. PRIEBE, O-661865, 1st Lieutenant, 91st Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Co-Pilot of a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Lieutenant Priebe 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 Priebe on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 1716 Francis St., St. Joseph, Missouri.

CHARLES M. DAVIS, 34164790, Technical Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Ball Turret Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Davis, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Davis on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 660 Augusta St., Mobile, Alabama.

BENJAMIN GORDON, 13029251, Technical Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Top Turret Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Gordon, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Gordon on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 1009 Rockland St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

DAN L. HINEBAUGH, JR., 13046375, Technical Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while serving as Top Turret Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Hinebaugh, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Hinebaugh on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 131 North 4th St., Newport, Pennsylvania.

WILBUR F. HOFFMAN, 39169997, Technical Sergeant, 368th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Radio Operator and Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Hoffman, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Hoffman on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 133 San Jose Avenue, Burbank, California.

RAY D. MAY, JR., 20934363, Technical Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Waist Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant May, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant May on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 4788 North Lombard, Portland, Oregon.

DELBERT W. SPARKS, 18064470, Technical Sergeant, 369th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Radio Operator and Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Sparks, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Sparks on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 409 Sycamore St., Abilene, Texas.

DOUGLAS C. GLOVER, 18060606, Technical Sergeant, 364th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Radio Operator and Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Glover, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Glover on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 1015 East 7th St., Houston, Texas.

FRANK J. BRINSKI, 13038301, Technical Sergeant, 366th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Radio Operator and Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Brinski, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Brinski on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Etna, Pennsylvania.

CHARLES E. CHEZEM, 38018716, Technical Sergeant, 366th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Aerial Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Chezem, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Chezem on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Tulsa, Oklahoma.

ROBERT G. LEE, 14069425, Technical Sergeant, 401st Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Radio Operator and Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Lee, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Lee on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Route 5, Elba, Georgia.

HARVIE L. COLLINS, 37101208, Staff Sergeant, 360th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Right Waist Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Collins, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Collins on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Route #1, Hoxie, Arkansas.

FRANK M. CORSER, 12031358, Staff Sergeant, 364th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Waist Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Corser, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Corser on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: 69 Eldridge Street, Binghamton, New York.

PAUL P. KANABROCKI, 6838087, Staff Sergeant, 366th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Ball Turret Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Kanabrocki, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Kanabrocki on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Nanticoke, Pennsylvania.

HENRY Q. STUART, 37101250, Staff Sergeant, 366th Bombardment Squadron (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Ball Turret Gunner on a B-17 airplane on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Stuart, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks, and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Stuart on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: Wheeling, Arkansas.

By command of Major General EAKER:

C. C. CHAUNCEY,  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

*H. G. Culton*  
H. G. CULTON,  
Colonel, A.G.D.,  
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION: Special Awards.

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

(A-8)

APO 634,  
5 July, 1943.

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Reassignment of RALPH W. JONES, 1st Lt.,  
O-661843.


TO : Whom it May Concern.

1. Subject Officer has completed 153;45 hours of Combat Flying as a Pilot. He has completed a total of twenty-five(25) Combat Missions during the course of which he destroyed 0 Enemy Aircraft and has been decorated or is eligible for the following decorations;

Air Medal	Five(5) Missions
Oak Leaf Cluster	Ten(10) Missions
Oak Leaf Cluster	Fifteen(15) Missions
Oak Leaf Cluster	Twenty(20) Missions
Distinguished Flying Cross	Twenty-five(25) Missions

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

3. Officer is a Superior Pilot and recommended as a tactical advisor to new pilots training for duty in this theater. Recommended to be returned to the Zone of Interior.

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

201

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General

SPECIAL ORDERS)  
NUMBER.....188)

7 July 1943.

E X T R A C T

8. Under Public Law 455, 77th Congress, 16 February 1942, DP the following O now on AD with AAF are temp promoted in AUS (AC) to gr indicated. Date of rank is date of this order.

NAME & UNIT	FROM	TO
RALPH W. JONES, O-661843 AC	1st Lt	Capt

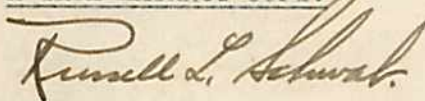
By command of Major General EAKER:

C.C. CHAUNCEY,  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

H.G. Culton, /s/  
H.G. CULTON,  
Colonel, AGD.,  
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:



RUSSELL L. SCHWAB  
1st Lt., Air Corps

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General

AG-O

201 Jones Ralph W.

7 July 1943.

SUBJECT: Promotion.

A. 7 July 1943.

THRU : CG, VIII Bomber Command.

B. Captain AUS (AC)

TO : 1st Lt. Ralph W. Jones  
0661843, AC

C. 7 July 1943.

E X T R A C T

1. By direction of the President and under authority of Pub. 455, 77th Congress, you are temporarily promoted, effective on the date shown after A above, to the grade in the Army of the United States (Air Corps) shown after B above. You will rank from date shown after C above. This promotion unless sooner terminated will continue in force until six months after termination of any war in which the U.S.A. was engaged on 16 February, 1942, or until relieved from assignment to Army Air Forces, whichever is earlier.

2. Execution of Oath of Office not required.

3. This letter should be retained by you as evidence of your promotion as no commissions will be issued during the period of the war.

By Command of Major General EAKER:

/s/ H. G. Gulton,  
/t/ H. G. CULTON,  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General,

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

*Frederic M. Rothermel*

FREDERIC M. ROTHERMEL,  
1st Lieut., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General

AG-O  
201

Jones Ralph W.

7 July 1943.

SUBJECT: Promotion.

A. 7 July 1943.

THRU : CG, VIII Bomber Command.

B. Captain AUS (AG)

TO : 1st Lt. Ralph W. Jones  
0661843, AG

C. 7 July 1943.

E X T R A C T

1. By direction of the President and under authority of Pub. 455, 77th Congress, you are temporarily promoted, effective on the date shown after A above, to the grade in the Army of the United States (Air Corps) shown after B above. You will rank from date shown after C above. This promotion unless sooner terminated will continue in force until six months after termination of any war in which the U.S.A. was engaged on 16 February, 1942, or until relieved from assignment to Army Air Forces, whichever is earlier.

2. Execution of Oath of Office not required.

3. This letter should be retained by you as evidence of your promotion as no commissions will be issued during the period of the war.

By Command of Major General EAKER:

/s/ H. G. Culton,  
/t/ H. G. CULTON,  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General,

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

*Frederic M. Rothermel*  
FREDERIC M. ROTHERMEL,  
1st Lieut., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

RALPH W. JONES  
1931 GROUSE RIDGE TRAIL  
COOL, CA 95614

4 March 1991

RUSSELL A. STRONG  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Russ:

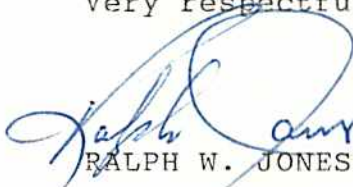
I think it is great of you to assemble and forward the mission summaries to members of the 306th. Certainly a time consuming task. I salute you for your dedication to keeping the old memories alive and making the 306th BG Association a worthy organization. Thank you for your sacrifices to make others happy to belong.

I have enclosed a check for \$25.00 and trust that in your "spare time" you can assemble and forward to me the mission reports for the following 306 BG missions:

1. 27 Jan 43 Wilhelmshaven
2. 2 Feb 43 Hamm
3. 4 Feb 43 Emden
4. 14 Feb 43 Bremen
5. 22 Mar 43 Wilhelmshaven
6. 5 Apr 43 Antwerp
7. 17 Apr 43 Bremen
8. 1 May 43 St. Nazaire
9. 14 May 43 Kiel
10. 15 May 43 Helgoland
11. 19 May 43 Kiel
12. 21 May 43 Wilhelmshaven
13. 11 Jun 43 Wilhelmshaven
14. 13 Jun 43 Bremen
15. 4 Jul 43 Nantes

Thanks again.

Very respectfully,

  
RALPH W. JONES

21 December 1991

Dear Ralph:

I have been trying to clear up a lot of "back ordered" mission reports, yours among them.

I do not yet have any records on 14 Feb 43. I don't quite know why not, but there is nothing in the file. It is one I will be working on during 1992.

As to 17 April 43, that was the memorable raid to Bremen when we lost ten crews. I have the mission loading lists, and some of the crew interrogation sheets. On neither do I have your name.

Should this be a slightly different date, or were you on the mission?

All the best,

Dear Russ:

4 Aug 92

THE DIRECTOR

Thanks for selecting and printing  
the picture of the B17 Dave Steele and I  
flew in the 1st part of 1943. A full  
page picture of the nose section displaying  
the emblem "HEAT HOWARD" was published  
by a London Magazine in 1943. Can't  
remember name of publication -  
Pages 5 & 6 July ECHOES Caption for Ray, Chuck's  
"Chennault's Pappy" says "JAMES JONES";  
SHOULD SAY "RALPH JUNIOR JONES". See  
you in England - Ralph Jones



**Ralph Jones**

1931 Grouse Ridge Tr  
Cool CA 95614-2301



USA 19

RUSSELL STRONG  
5523 CHEVAL PL.  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28205

RALPH W. JONES  
1931 Grouse Ridge Trail  
Cool, CA 95614

Dear Russ:

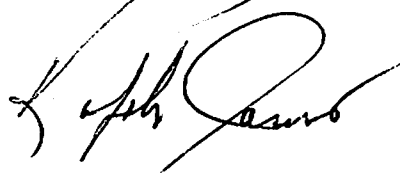
7 February 1992

Better late than never in responding to your 21 December letter. Procrastination coupled with too many extra curricula activities.

First, I recently received a letter from Mrs. Marie Ford that her husband Emmette Ford died on 8 December 1991. He had been living in Siloam Springs, Arkansas where he had been diagnosed as having a brain tumor and lung cancer. He survived the surgery to remove the tumor, but his constitution was insufficient to carry him through the operation and radiation treatments for the lung cancer. Emmette, Milton Prue Blanchette and I were the original officer crew members on Raymond Check's crew and until last summer we had not seen or heard from one another since 1943. During my trip to the east coast I made contact with both of them and had a marvelous time reminiscing about the "old days". I am so glad to have had the chance to visit with Emmette before he passed on. Hopefully Blanchette is OK; haven't heard from him for several weeks.

You asked me if I flew on the 17 April 43 mission. Honestly I can't remember for sure. I flew several times to Bremen, Wilhelmshaven and Kiel but I couldn't lock in on the dates. The material (mission reports) that you sent have helped refresh my memory. But, there was one trip over that northern route that I haven't been able to fit into your coverages of the 306th missions in your book. I thought my hazardous ordeal occurred on the mission to Bremen when Maxwell Judas was shot down, but your story of that raid doesn't clear it up. Here is a short description of what occurred: During the bomb run we experienced head on fighter attacks by the largest group of fighters gathered for a shoot-out. It was the first time that fighter attacks had broken up one of our B-17 formations. We successfully dropped our bombs on the target, but shortly thereafter the formation broke up into small groups of 3 or 6 in a formation. I started as one of three on our outbound heading toward the North Sea. We were under steady head on attacks by Fw's and ME109's and they were successful in inflicting serious damage to our three airplanes. Each aircraft went through evasive action and then rejoined into a three ship formation. Unfortunately the Germans were successful in downing two of us and knocking out two of my engines, radios, and the flight instruments and other fuselage and wing damage. I flew a mag course heading over the North Sea toward England over an overcast. On the Navigators best timing prediction for reaching the English coast I initiated a "by-the-seat-of-your-pants let down through the clouds. Visibility was very poor, but we did cross the coast line in line with Norwich (we found out later). I was looking for any kind of a runway I could land on, ASAP. The radios were inop and we could not hear the barrage balloon squeaks and eventually snagged one of the balloon cables shearing off about a foot of a wing tip. We located an aerodrome somewhere near Norwich. To my knowledge that B-17 never flew again. Our crew was transported eventually to Thurleigh aboard a B-24. (The B-24 was equipped with a G-box which I was told was very Top-Secret and I wouldn't be allowed to enter the Navigator's position.)---That is the story I'm searching for. Maybe it was 17 April 43?

Thanks for your efforts. See you in England in August.



*Love*

Sincerely yours,

Thanking you in advance, I am

stamp.

The card is preaddressed, and bears a postage

and return the card.

card attached, fill out as much as you can  
Would you be so kind as to look at the reply

306th.

The secretary's office continues its search for  
Information on individuals who served with the

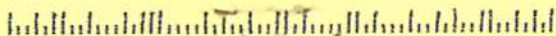


Col. Ralph W. Jones  
1931 Grouse Ridge Tr.  
Cool, CA 95614

SACRAMENTO CA 957  
03 MAR 2007 PM 7 L



Russell A. Strong, Secretary  
306th Bomb Group Association  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205



GRANDS TEMPLATE CA 92313  
23008 WILKINSON CT.  
SUSAN JANE KRIDER (DAUGHTER)

Name and address of someone who is likely to have up to date information about you:

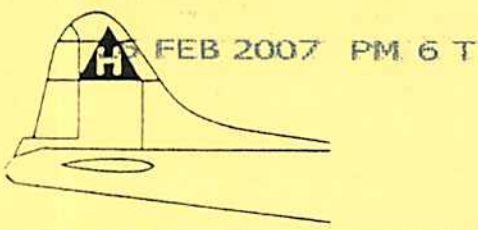
Principal employment after service: AUGUST 74  
Retirement date: LOCAL LUMBER & HARDWARE

How many children: 2 GRANDCHILDREN: 2  
Grandchildren: 4 GRANDSON: 4 GIRLS: 4

Wife's name: DONNIE HOLME JONES  
Other data:

If you have seasonal addresses please list them and tell us the approximate dates when you will be changing.  
NA

Russell A. Strong  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205



Col Ralph W. Jones  
1931 Grouse Ridge Trail  
Cool, CA 95614

306th Bombardment Group Association **HERE IT'S READABLE  
HAVE BEEN LEGALLY BLIND**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPERB THINGS  
YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE 306TH**

**END SEVERAL YEARS**  
*Ralph Jones*

