

SPOKANE, WA  
6 MAY 76

Dear Sir,

I refer to Leonard Kellum,  
I have never heard of him, or knew of  
him in the 306 Bomb Gp. I was  
in the 367th Bomb sqdn of that  
Gp, assigned to Capt John Ryan's  
crew, called the "Sweet Pea." Our  
sqdn Nick name Clay Pigeon sqdn.

I was 17 years old at the time.  
Bailed out of Capt Ely's B-17 after  
the wings came off on a funeral fly  
mission on 2 Oct 1942, Me and the  
tail gunner Raymond McGaskill the  
only survivors. I have a wealth of  
info and pictures.

(Stationed) Thonleigh, England) Respectfully  
James E. Kellum

10 May 1970

Mr. William E. Kellum  
W 1601 11th  
Spokane, Washington 99204

Dear Bill:

Forgive me for getting the name wrong on the previous letter. It had been passed along to me, and I erred in not checking it further before writing you.

I am working on a history of the 306th, as you will note on the accompanying sheets. And I would like to include your story in it. I would appreciate it if you would fill out the enclosed form and return it to me.

I would also like to borrow any other information or pictures you would be willing to loan me. I would copy both pictures and documents, and return them to you as soon as possible.

I know a little about the Ely misfortune, but I would like to know more about how you escaped the plane and landed, and then what happened to you.

Last Saturday night I attended a Chicago reunion of about 18 former members of the 306th, and last October I went to Miami Beach for the first national reunion. Another reunion is set for Oct. 15-17 this year in Dayton and we hope to have 150 people present.

I note that you did fly combat after this incident, as I find you earned an air medal. Were you with Ryan on his ill-fated day? At some points the crews are noted in the records I have when planes went down, and at other times they were omitted, making it very frustrating in trying to trace through the history of the unit.

I will send your name and address along to the 306 member who is building the mailing list and you'll be hearing from us.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

4900 Appleridge Court  
Dayton, Ohio 45424

513-233-8735

A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
 Russell A. Strong, 4900 Appleridge Ct., Dayton, Ohio 45424

I am endeavoring to put together a good history of the 306th Bombardment group, an idea which has been in my mind for some years. I am working diligently on the matter, collecting all kinds of data and working through the official history and records of the group. I served as a navigator with the 367th squadron from June through November, 1944,

I am interested in any special materials which you may have, such as good photographs of personnel, battle damage, plane insignia, etc. I am also interested in commendations (other than the usual Air Medal and DFC) you may have received, special stories which you may have in your possession, letters that are highly descriptive of combat action, or any other documents. I would appreciate receiving xeroxed copies. But, if you do not have such facilities readily available, I would appreciate the loan of materials which I might copy and return to you immediately. I am also interested in manuscripts of memoirs which you may have prepared, particularly if they were done within a couple of years of the events. Again, I would appreciate copies or the opportunity to copy them.

Name William E. Kellum

Address W 1601 11th

Telephone TE 8-1151 Date 23 MAY 76

Occupation Ex Mech Employer Columbia Leasing

Ret USAF  
M/Sgt 29  
years  
Nov, 1967

(Disabled) Address 527 E 2nd Telephone TE-8-2721  
(Ex Employer)

Service Record: Shepard AFB, Tex.  
 Before joining the 306th: Formed original Wendover Field Utah.

After leaving the 306th: Combat crew training wing  
Bovington England.  
GA1 50 Machine gun Instr.

306th Record:

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron or other unit 367th

MOS 612 Combat Status Ball turret gunner

Missions Completed 7

Promotions (1st) Buck Sgt, (2nd) S/Sgt, 3rd T/Sgt.

Decorations AM olcs DFC olcs SS DSM DSC MH SM

PH Battle Stars \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

Other personal data:

SNUFFY SMITH, WAS ONE OF MY CAMBUT, REFRESHED  
STUDENTS AT BOUNDARY PRIOR TO HIS LATEL TRANSFER  
TO 306, AND A LATEL RECEPTANT OF THE C.M.O.

Description of Air Missions:

(What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your  
role? What heroics did you witness? What events were there of  
which you have special knowledge?)

I HAVE ORDERS ON FIRST MISSIONS  
FLOWN BY 306 & MYSELF DATED 7-8-9  
NO 0 DEC 20 1942, ORDERS ARE DATED  
JAN OR FEB 1943.

I AM SORRY THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN VERY HELPFUL AT  
THIS TIME SINCE YOUR LETTER. I HAVE HAD TWO HEART  
ATTACKS & HAVE JUST COMPLETED SUCCESSFUL OPEN  
HEART SURGERY. 13 JAN 77 AND AM DOING FINE,  
BUT CAN'T DRIVE THE CAR YET. PLENTY OF  
WALKING THO. I AM BEHIND IN MY BA DED  
ABOUT 3 WEEKS PRESENTLY BUT WILL GET YOU  
A GOOD STORY SOON & SOME GOOD INFO.

Add additional pages, if necessary

Sincerely  
Bill Kellum  
Just Bill.

Russ: address change: Wm E Kellum  
3910 W 40th Ave  
Spokane, WA 99204

Spokane, WA.  
Mar 9, 80

Dear Bill,

I havent received Any 306  
Echoes in a long time now And  
miss them more than ever. I have  
only received 3 since JAN 1978.  
I think the post office is Throwing  
them AWAY AS they do destroy quite  
A bit of mail.

I really miss the past days of  
Flying, Danger And Always going some  
New place And seeing New Faces & people.  
I Finished up 25 years in Nov 1967  
With 2000 Hrs in B-52's. WAS in the  
509th, 6th, 7th, 92nd which consisted  
of B-29's, B-50's, B-36's & LAST B-52's.

(over)

I located my pilot John RYAN  
in Albu, N. Mex. I wish I had known  
earlier AS I spent 13 years in Roswell  
N. Mex & would have been there  
to close the base in 1967 if they  
hadn't shipped me to OKINAWA in  
1960.

Bill I want to thank you many  
times over for the splendid unselfish  
work you are doing and am sure all  
the fellows really appreciate it even  
tho they seldom write, and I must  
be the world's worst.

Respectfully

Wm E. Kellum

**Dear Russ,**

**Bud and I received your card in regards to William Kellum. Bud called a phone number in our directory listed as B.M.Kellum and she said that she was the wife of William and that he had died about 5 years ago.**

**She now lives in the Spokane Valley and her address is.2601 N. Barker Rd. #53 Otis Orchard, Washington 99027 in case you want to contact her about more details. Her phone is 509-892 1453. I hope this helps you out. Happy New Year to you and June.**

**Peg and Bud**

**We made some notes on your yellow card so decided to drop you a note on the computer.**

*8 Dec 94*

*3c*

*3sc 39c*