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Montreal, Quebec
CANADA
H3G 1A8
January 23, 1980

Mr. Russel A. Strong
Route 1
Turnpike Road
Laurinburg, North Carolina
28352
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Strong:

The American Aviation Historical Society forwarded to me your December 14, 1979, letter concerning the article "Seventeen Bits and Pieces." While in no position to comment upon the editorial board's criteria for article selection, there is some need to defend the article against some of your observations.

The introduction pointed out that the article was an "effort to compile in a uniform and comprehensive manner that information which has been printed about the B-17 and its role in the 8th United States Army Air Force." Furthermore, it was admitted that the presentation was of an "incomplete and fragmentary nature" and that it served to "act as a guide; it is not and should not be taken as the final word." How could, as you contend, the article be an "incredible amount of trivia" and represent a "collection of irrelevant data that might suffice as a personal hobby, but surely should not be foisted on the unsuspecting reader." The article was not then and is not now fraudulent; albeit it is incomplete, it does contain errors of judgement on my behalf, and does, as you so rightly contend, perpetuate other authors' errors. Yet, how have these errors come into being and how can they be corrected?

Initially, only readily identifiable photographs were to have been included in the compilation; however under the scrutiny of those interested in the project, the written account, despite its brevity, had to be included. There existed then and there does now a need to connect a story here with a photograph there and another photograph over there. To what degree could these authors be trusted for the soundness of their research methods? Are not errors inevitable?

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It was decided that each author would be treated equally; by this then it was hoped that any errors printed would be corrected by those in a position to know.

When the AAHS received the article in the Summer of 1978, it represented the conclusion, save for the addition of new material and the seeking out of out-of-print material, the first phase of the project. With most of the secondary sources accounted for, the emphasis shifted to the examination of primary sources. A trip last summer to the Simpson Historical Center in Maxwell proved most rewarding as well as the many visits to the National Archives and the 1361st Audiovisual Squadron.

I hope the enclosed information will be of value to you. As you will discover there are discrepancies between this list and the list which appeared in 306th Echoes (Vol. 3, No.1). Most of the serial numbers came from the aircraft inventory files contained at the Simpson Center (GP 306-SU-RE). The information about the fate of the aircraft came from the Simpson Center (I do not have the file number handy, but it appears on microfilm reel number [^] A5686).

Finally, it is possible that may receive the 306th Echoes? If so, what is a fair contribution?

Sincerely,



Paul M. Andrews
A.A.H.S.
9148

124417	369	WW	SALBD 26.7.43
460	423	RD F	482
461			SALNB 27.2.43
✓ 465			MIA 5.4.43
466			MIA 9.11.42
✓ 467			MIA 17.4.43
469			MIA 5.1.43
✓ 470			MIA 13.1.43
471			
472			MIA 8.11.43
475			SALNB 5.12.43
✓ 476	423	RD D Adorable	SALNB 3.3.43
✓ 477	369	WW H Joan of Arc	
478			MIA 23.11.42
486			
✓ 487	368	BO Q	
✓ 488			MIA 17.4.43
489			MIA 20.12.42
492	367	GY	
494			SALNB 12.11.42
✓ 495			MIA 20.12.42
496			SALNB 17.11.42
498			MIA 13.1.43
501			MIA 3.1.43
502	368	BO E	SALBD 28.7.43
	368	BO B	
507	368	BO G	
✓ 509			384 MIA 9.11.42
510			MIA 9.10.42
514			MIA 8.3.43
557	423	RD T	
560	368	BO D	384 USA 1.5.44
567			303
629	369	WW O	303
22975			MIA 30.12.42
978	369	WW M	USA 1.5.44
23034			MIA 17.4.43
040	369	WW R	91
041	369	WW U	384
061			

23074	367	GY Y	USA 27.6.44
	367	GY J	
076	367	GY H	
084	368	BO A	MIA 29.7.43
087	367	GY W	364
127			MIA 21.5.43
142	368	BO I	ACC OPS 13.12.43
167	423	RD Z	379
169	369	WW S	RAF 3.2.44
172	423	RD R	USA 13.6.44
198			
209	367	GY Q	MIA 22.6.43
214			EN OPS 21.5.43
274	367	GY L	91
301	367	GY	SALNB 29.5.45
363	367	GY G	MIA 22.12.43
365	367	GY G	
382			SALNB 10.5.44
✓ 406	367	GY V	MIA 12.8.43
449	369	WW X	
515	423	RD O	482
520	368	BO Y	
521			USA 12.6.44
527			USA 10.6.44
533			MIA 3.11.43
25052	368	BO E	303
054			USA 26.4.44
055			MIA 15.5.43
063			MIA 17.5.43
071			MIA 20.12.43
072			MIA 4.5.43
086			
129			MIA 4.3.43
✓ 130			MIA 6.3.43
171			EN OPS 17.4.43
175			MIA 16.2.43
180	423	RD B	EN OPS 25.6.43
218	423	RD J	MIA 13.6.43
✓ 251			MIA 17.4.43
306	367	GY P	303

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404 369 WW D

407 367 GY L

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426 369 WW X

428 368 BO Z

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714 423 RD S

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720 367 GY Y

729 369 WW G

766 367 GY G

779 369 WW Piccadilly Commando

804 423 RD Z

810

822

826 369 WW W

841 423 RD I

855 423 RD T

889 369 WW W

970

? 229477 369 WW H

? v 498 368 BO L

524 423 RD D Meat Hound

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17-4-43

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5-4-43

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21-5-43

MIA
15-5-43

USA
16-4-44

229741	368	BO	V	
744				
777	423	RD	H	MIA 28.7.43
779	423	RD	A	MIA 28.7.43
786				96
793	368	BO	P	
794	367	GY	K	91
795				
806				
809	368	BO	T	MIA 21.5.43
	423	RD	B	USA 8.6.44
815	367	GY	N	
823	368	BO	Y	USA 16.4.44
824	369	WW	B	
830				
832				379 USA 29.5.44
869				
894	367	GY	O	
	367	GY	D	303
900	423	RD	J	MIA 26.7.43
	423	RD	U	
930	423	RD	J	
935	369	WW	A	96, 384
937	368	BO	N	
939	369	WW	A	96
959	367	GY	M	MIA 8.10.43
	423	RD		
971	423	RD	F	MIA 14.10.43
974	367	GY	V	SAL NB 29.7.43
985	367	GY		MIA 8.10.43
986				100
993	369	WW	K	MIA 11.1.44
230001				379
065	369	WW	U	
145	368	BO	G	
156	423	RD	Z	
163	368	BO	D	MIA 6.8.43
	368	BO	J	
175	367	GY	B	MIA 14.10.43
199	369	WW	R	MIA 14.10.43

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586 368 BO A

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603 Los Vegas Avenger

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728 367 GY S

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730 369 WW B

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767 367 GY Y

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779 369 WW

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794 369 WW V

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078	369	WW	R		91
136	369	WW	D		MIA 11.12.43
139	423	RD	L		MIA 24.2.44
143	369	WW	R	Satan's Lady	
144					447
145					447
158					
172					MIA 24.4.44
196					SALBD 20.1.45
✓ 236					MIA 11.1.44
245					MIA 25.2.44
363					MIA 27.3.44
385					
388					MIA 11.2.44
406					MIA 22.4.44
418	423	RD			
428					MIA 22.2.44
440					
444					SALNB 15.3.45
445					MIA 24.4.44
451					MIA 11.1.44
454					
469					SALBD 26.4.44
474					
499					MIA 8.2.44
500					MIA 22.2.44
524					
538					MIA 11.1.44
539			0		MIA 24.4.44
554					303,385
556					MIA 29.4.44
558					MIA 24.4.44
670					MIA 22.2.44
✓ 690					MIA 12.9.44
695					MIA 22.2.44
700					SALBD 27.3.44
715					MIA 6.2.44
✓ 726					MIA 13.9.44
737					SALBDEN 18.7.44

231758		F		MIA 24.4.44
768				MIA 24.4.44
894		Z		MIA 27.3.44
897				MIA 28.7.44
901				MIA 24.4.44
969				MIA 8.5.44
979				MIA 25.2.44
232099				MIA 5.12.44
113				MIA 24.5.44
237718	369	WW		MIA 8.10.43
720	367	GY		MIA 14.10.43
724	369	WW Z		USA 13.6.44
741				MIA 4.10.43
759	367	GY		
765				USA 18.6.44
836				MIA 11.9.44
840				
942				MIA 8.5.44
943				SAL 80 17.9.44
953				MIA 29.3.44
238008				
019				MIA 12.4.44
042				MIA 12.9.44
074				MIA
093				SAL 80 13.9.44
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163				MIA 17.6.44
198				
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239768	367	GY A		MIA 13.12.43
776				MIA 24.4.44
827				388
835	369	WW G		388
850	423	RD B		
935				MIA 22.2.44
943				401
945		S		MIA 22.2.44
950				MIA 29.3.44

239963					MIA 5-12-44	
965					MIA 27-3-44	
240006						
053						
297129	367	GY		Skipper		96
133	367	GY		Pretty Baby		
146					SALNB 2-5-44	
180					MIA 12-9-44	
181	369	WW		Steady Heady		
185					MIA 14-2-45	
239					MIA 8-5-44	
250					MIA 20-6-44	
259					MIA 8-5-44	
278					MIA 12-9-44	
297	369	WW		How Soon ?		91, 447
301						398
303					MIA 11-5-44	
312					MIA 17-6-44	
✓ 323	368	BO		Begin the Beguine She Dood It		
327						
365					MIA 16-8-44	
368					MIA 12-9-44	
396						
397	423	RD		Unavailable Mabel		
463					MIA 20-2-44	
✓ 505	423	RD		The Dingleberry Kids		
562						
✓ 574					MIA 21-11-44	
588						303
630						91/57
658					MIA 3-2-45	
608						
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754						91
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778						92
796					SALNB 19-9-44	
896						
946					MIA 26-8-44	

297959			Rhapsody in Red	91
975				398
990				381
2102462				
✓ 503				MIA 12.9.44
512	368	BO	She Has To	
547	367	GY	Rose of York	MIA 3.2.45
557				SALBD 10.1.45
558				SALBD 15.8.44
578	367	GY	We Promised	398
619				SALBD 9.8.44
669				MIA 8.8.44
683				MIA 20.7.44
896				
946				388
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975				MIA 27.2.45
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063				SALNB 3.12.44
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183				MIA
212				MIA 13.6.44
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616	423	RD	Solid Sender	
619	369	WW	Flak Shack	
633				MIA AIR COL- 15.12.44
693				MIA 16.8.44
711				
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✓ 976				MIA 23.10.44
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ACC OPS
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SAL BO
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12.6.44
SAL MA
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