

R. CRAGIN LEWIS '41
Director of Alumni Relations

July 24, 1975

Dear Mr. Strong:

We appreciate your interest in the whereabouts of Douglas R. Coleman. I'm sorry to say that Mr. Coleman died November 7, 1969. In case it will be of some help, I enclose the brief obituary notice that appeared in our Alumni Review soon afterwards.

With all good wishes, I remain

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Cragin Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

RCL:c

Russell A. Strong, Director
News and Information Services
Wright State University
Dayton, Ohio 45431

1968. Survivors: wife, the former Marguerite Zohland; two sons. Two brothers, **Ardo M. Mitchell** and **Leon M. Mitchell '07** (both deceased). World War I: 1st Lieut., Ordnance Dept., Rock Island Arsenal; separated Oct. 1920. For many years with the H. H. Cleveland Agency (insurance). Director, First National Bank. Member: Board of Education, American Legion, Knight Templars, Boy Scout Council, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce (president). Former member: Outing Club of Davenport, Iowa, Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.

1911

Stephen Girard Kent, 79, Summit, N.J. B.A., Williams, 1911. founder of Delta Delta Chapter of Psi Upsilon, Phi Beta Kappa; LL.B., Columbia Law School, 1914. Died Nov. 29, 1969, Summit. Survivors: wife, the former Phileas Marshall; three sons: **Stephen G. Kent, Jr.**, '41, Dr. **George M. Kent '48** and **Thomas D. Kent '51**; sister; eight grandchildren. World War I: 2nd Lieut., Sept. 1918, with 1st Division in Vosges Mountains, Verdun Sector, Argonne Offensive; cited for "distinguished service in action"; separated June 1919. With the Irving Trust Co., New York, as general counsel and secretary until retirement in 1955. Former governor, Williams Club. Member: board of managers, Executive & Finance Committees of Broadcasting and Film Commission; National Council of Churches; American and New York County Bar Associations; American Society of Corporate Secretaries, Inc.; Canoe Brook Country Club; Summit Tennis Club; Academy of Political Science and The Pilgrims.

1914

David Gale Jones, 77, La Jolla, Calif. B.A., Williams, 1914; Chi Psi. Died Sept. 6, 1969, La Jolla. Survivors: wife, the former Winifred Hoyt Sewall; son, **E. Sewall Jones '12**; daughter. World War I: Ensign, USNRP; separated, Jan. 1919. With the Minneapolis, Minn., real estate firm of David P. Jones & Co. Former secretary, Family Welfare Assn., (21 years); commissioner, Minneapolis Area Council (Boy Scouts); trustee, Social Settlements Assn. (36 years); chairman, School Planning Committee; Foreign Policy Assn. (21 years); trustee, Plymouth Congregational Church. Member: University Club of Minneapolis; Six O'Clock Club.

1916

Douglas Rufison Coleman, 75, Portland, Me. B.A., Williams, 1916; Kappa Alpha; Class Agent. Died Nov. 7, 1969, Portland, Me. Survivors: wife, the former Elinor Payson; two sons, **Charles Payson Coleman '47** and **Douglas R. Coleman, Jr.** '50; daughter; brother, **Leighton H. Coleman '18**; 12 grandchildren, of whom two are Christopher Brown '71 and Charles Payson Coleman, Jr. '72. World War I: Captain, Third Field Artillery, A.E.F., stationed in France. World War II: executive officer of the 306th Bombardment Group in charge of ground operations as the first base in England to be turned over to

American control. Separated as Colonel, 1945. Awarded Legion of Merit. A retired investment banker, he was a partner of Bull & Edeledge and of Mitchell, Hutchins & Co., Wall Street brokerage houses. Past president, Englewood Mens Club and Alderess Golf Club. Former member, Downtown Assn., New York. Member: Rockaway Hunt Club, Long Island; Portland Country Club, Portland Yacht Club, Gulf Stream Golf Club, Delray Beach, Fla.

George Faunce, Jr., 75, Kingston, Mass. B.A., Williams, 1916; Chi Psi; Phi Beta Kappa; LL.B., University of Pittsburgh, 1924; Phi Delta Phi. Died Nov. 24, 1969, Naples, Fla. Survivors: wife, the former Helen P. Colwell; son; three daughters; three sisters; four grandchildren. World War I: 2nd Lieut., Field Artillery; officiated in Inter-Allied Games, Paris; separated Aug. 1919 as 1st Lieut. From 1920 to retirement in 1966, he was general counsel and vice president of Continental Baking Co. He was later counsel with Battle, Fowler, Stokes & Kheel, New York, and at the time of death he was president and director of The Economics of Distribution Foundation, Inc., of Plymouth, Mass. Member, University Club, New York; Apawamis Club, Rye, N.Y.

1917

Alyn Richmond Wight, 75, Upper Montclair, N.J. B.A., Williams, 1917; Delta Kappa Epsilon. Died Sept. 15, 1969, Montclair, N.J. Survivors: wife, the former Manita Yulee Miles; son; grandson. World War I: 2nd Lieut., infantry. World War II: Military Police, European Theatre; separated as 1st Lieut., 1944. Investment counselor associated with Wall Street firms throughout his career; in later years account executive with Standard & Poors, New York.

1918

Alfred Stuart Pratt, Jr., 73, Laguna Beach, Calif. Attended Williams, 1914-1917, and 1918-1919; Theta Delta Chi. Died Oct. 4, 1969, Laguna Beach. Survivors: wife, the former Helen Welty; son; step-son; brother; two sisters; eight grandchildren. World War I: U.S. Navy; separated Mar. 1921 as Lieut. (j.g.). World War II: stationed in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; separated as Major Ordnance Dept., Feb. 1945. Retired real estate broker in Laguna Beach, after having been associated with General Motors overseas operations in New York and in newspaper advertising. He wrote articles and poems for magazines and had several articles published posthumously in two London magazines. Edited and wrote monthly magazine for the local board of realtors. Former executive secretary, Pasadena Realty Board; ex officio member of the Rose Bowl Assn. and numerous civic committees. President, The Diamond Foundation (charitable trust). Member: Rotary Club and Pasadena Chamber of Commerce.

Clarence Thorp White, 73, Buffalo, N.Y. B.A., Williams, 1918; Phi Beta Kappa. Died July 31, 1969, Buffalo.

Survivors: wife, the former Nancy Woehner; two daughters. After graduation, he became an officer of White & Ruppert Company, Inc., Buffalo. Later he was associated with Bell Aircraft Corp. Member: Kiwanis Club and University Club (Buffalo).

1919

Robert Marty Gillham, 73, Wainscott, N.Y. B.A., Williams, 1919 (as of 1920); Delta Kappa Epsilon. Died Sept. 12, 1969, New York, N.Y. Married the former Elizabeth Enright (deceased). Survivors: three sons. World War I: entered Williams Unit of the U.S. Ambulance Service; separated Dec. 1918 as 2nd Lieut. In film publicity with Paramount Pictures from 1925; then with MGM and in recent years vice president of W. H. Schneider, Inc., New York. Member, New York Athletic Club; Georgia Association.

1920

Isaac Munro Blanchard, 71, Green Village, N.J. B.A., Williams, 1920 (as of 1921); Delta Kappa Epsilon. Died Sept. 27, 1969, Morristown, N.J. Survivors: wife, the former Frances Snow; son, **Robert M. Blanchard '48**; nephew, **Charles F. Blanchard '34**. World War I: cadet, U.S. Naval Aviation. Associated as investment banker with Mahon, Nugent & Co., Wall Street brokers. Member: Morristown Club.

1921

Handford Lindsley Cummings, 70, Stuart, Fla. Attended Williams, 1917-1919; Zeta Psi. Died Oct. 3, 1969, Stuart. Married the former Jean Maclay (deceased). Survivors: two sons; daughter, grandson, William L. Cummings '70. With the American Red Cross for 10 years before association with the American Tel. & Tel. in personnel and industrial relations work. Former president and chairman of the board of managers, Montclair Community Hospital.

Philip Stokes Patton, 69, East Hampton, L.I., N.Y. B.A., Williams, 1921; Delta Psi. Died Oct. 26, 1969, Montauk, N.Y. Survivors: wife, the former Kathryn Marjorie Phillips; son; cousin, **James P. Humphreys '19**. World War I: Williams SATC, acting lieutenant. Wall Street investment banker throughout career; also associated with the First Boston Corp.

1922

Theodore Colescott Brandeis, Jr., 68, New York, N.Y. B.A., Williams, 1922. Died Oct. 2, 1969, New York. Married the former Elsie Bird Carter (deceased). Survivors: wife, the former Alice Kelley; two brothers; stepdaughter. World War I: Williams SATC. With the Wall Street Journal for six years from 1922 and stock broker on Wall Street until 1941, when he became vice president of Douglas-Guardian Warehouse Corp.

COLEMAN, Douglas R.

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Capt. Adjutant 5/1/42

Major 6/20/42

Group Executive & Sta. Admin Officer 9/16/42

Rel. as adjutant, Appt. Ground Exec. 1/11/43

Lt. Col. 2/23/43

D. S. to Sta. 128 to set up ground exhe@on 9/5/43

Legion of Merit 5/23/44

Transferred home 7/25/44

DIED 1969

LIEUT. COL. DOUGLAS R. COLEMAN

A Flying Fortress was about to go into its bomb run over the sub pens and shipyards of Emden, Germany. The bombardier had completed his calculations and was about to prepare his sight for the release. At his side, with his hand on the arm that would release the bombs, stood Lt. Col. Douglas R. Coleman, who, more than a year before, had crossed the ocean with this heavy bombardment group and to whom the highest credit must be given for organizing the unit into a functional bombing machine during the first winter of American high altitude precision bombing.

When his organization arrived in England, early in September 1942, Col. Coleman was its adjutant. The unit had had a rather short operational training period with insufficient equipment, and had been given no clear, detailed idea of the conditions under which it would operate once overseas. The Royal Air Force turned over to the Americans one of its bases, not yet completed, and by no means adequate to the needs of the group newly arrived in a strange country. A number of RAF personnel remained in a liaison capacity, and were able to give very helpful advice, but much needed equipment simply was not available.

The British provided rations at first, because no American supply system was set up, and the diet seemed strange to the American taste. There were no personnel assigned to maintenance of the base, all the men of the group being intended for maintenance of the planes, or for the air crews. While being officially the adjutant, Col. Coleman undertook to supervise and coordinate all the functions of the ground personnel.

Under his direction the base was able to organize sufficiently to be able to take part in its first mission a month after landing on British soil. But as winter came on the runways of the airfield began to crack up under the strain of the F orts' weight. The situation was so critical at one time that it seemed impossible for the unit to operate any longer. But Col. Coleman persuaded them to continue for a while using the two short runways that were still serviceable, and eventually a company of the U. S. Corps of Engineers arrived and built up the runways.

When the unit first arrived, it was not known to what extent we would come under enemy attack, no how best to defend against it. The British had control of the skies over England, but the Germans might have reacted so strongly to the presence of Americans as to make airdrome defense an absolute necessity. Col. Coleman organized a guard system over the planes, and instituted other measures to fend off any enemy attacks that might be made. Eventually a detachment of Military Police were assigned to the base to take over this function, along with other policing functions.

After the group had been in England about a month, a Service Group was assigned to it, for the purpose of operating the base as such. They, unfortunately, were not supplied with the tools for their jobs, but they did take over operation of the messes and took charge of the utilities of the base.

Gradually an almost complete reorganization of the group was worked out, in which auxiliary units played an increasingly important role. Units of the Chemical Warfare, Ordnance, and Finance Departments were assigned to the base and took up their duties, easing the

the strain on personnel who had other duties to perform. The entire staff of mechanics and specialists who kept the planes in flying condition was reorganized under a plan devised by Col. Coleman. Many of the duties originally assigned to the members of a single airplane's crew were delegated to specialists ~~xxxx~~ who performed their particular jobs on all planes of the base. Thus, some mechanics specialized in changing worn out engines, others specialized in changing faulty superchargers, tires, wheels, brakes, and others in battle damage repair, propellers, etc. In the absence of adequate heavy repair depots, there was no other way to keep them flying.

Col. Coleman takes great pride in the fact this base was the first to be turned over entirely to American control. As a further recognition of his achievements, he has had the system of operation for which he was largely responsible adopted by the Eighth Air Force as the standard procedure for taking over a base in this country. Under the system that was evolved here, the duties that were assumed by Col. Coleman as adjutant have been assigned to an official called the Ground Executive. It is largely due to the efforts of Col. Coleman that his organization has been able to establish and maintain its record of general excellence of ground crew work unequalled by any other group in the ETO.

Col. Coleman and his wife, Mrs. Eleanor Payson Coleman, make their home in Englewood, New Jersey. They have three children, Margaret (Smith College); Charles, and Douglas Jr. (St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H.) As a civilian, Col. Coleman was associated with the Mitchell Hutchins Co., brokers, as a member of the brokerage.

Col. Coleman's present term of service began Feb. 16, 1942, when he was commissioned a captain, United States Army. He was first assigned to Bolling Field, Md., as an intelligence officer. Later he was transferred to Spokane, Wash., in the same capacity, and finally he joined his present unit while it was being formed at Wendover, Utah, as adjutant. He was appointed ground executive in January 1943.

Col. Coleman is a graduate of Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., in the class of 1916. He spent a year overseas in WW I, as a captain in the Third Field Artillery, stationed in France.

"It seemed like the hand of providence," says Col. Coleman, "to find clear skies over Emden, instead of the overcast we had en route." The colonel was able to see the target clearly and the bombs hit it, making clouds of smoke closely concentrated around the aiming point. "I found the escort very reassuring, but the flak was a bit disconcerting. I was also very impressed by the skill of our pilots in flying the tight formations that are so essential."