

Nelond, ~~Holm~~ Hardin

9/19/80

512/653-0063

Caught fire, rock down on plane on wing  
back of pilot's compartment,  
shorted out.

Bomb bay doors opened & jammed  
flame, cockpit filled w/ smoke.

Jammed bomb bay doors open  
fighters jingled, hitting body.

2 engines shut up fighters  
#2 + #3

oil leaks in #1 & #4

#4 seized over Holland,

Below 5000'

Turned around, bailed out

Pilot & cockpit crash landed

between Amsterdam 325 or 30 miles.

Picked up next day.

3 Nov 88

Dale -

In addition to sending my contribution I am also sending along a correction to the list of Navigators listed in the October issue of the 306th Echoes. In the list of Navigators for the 423rd - Richard T. Knowles was listed & however he was a pilot and was on our crew the day we were shot down.

Our navigator for that particular mission was John F. Huistra - he was a former bombardier on another 423rd crew - who was pressed into service as a navigator when our original navigator went AWOL.

I have some additional information on the crash that killed Koskavitch - but that is a long involved set of circumstances.

Sincerely  
Nelson W (Bud) Hardin

at

16 March 1989

Dear Nelson:

In your note last November to Dale Briscoe, you mentioned that you had additional information on the crash that killed Mike Roskovitch.

I am curious. Is it something that ought to go into the historical file?

If so, I would be happy to receive something from you, and let you make a decision as to whether it might be published, or whether it would be just for the file.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

July 24, 1993

Dear Russell:

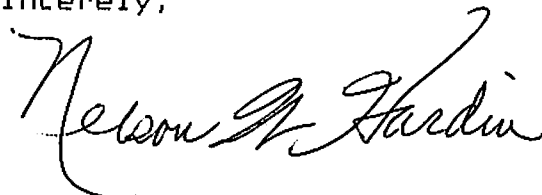
I have a couple of reasons for writing to you at this time. First I saw in the July issue of the Echoes that Abraham Perline had become a member of the Association and it revived some rather bitter memories. Abraham Perline, 2nd Lt, 0685716, and Sgt. Kenneth J. Russell, 15300293 were members of my crew. Both of the had deserted by the time we were shot down on March 29, 1944. Russell had last flown with the crew on March 16 and Perline failed to show on March 29. I would appreciate it if you could check the 306th records for a period after March 29 to see if they were ever returned to custody, and if so, did they receive any sort of punishment for their actions. I am sending you a check for the 423rd Diary and will be very much interested to see if there was any mention of either of them in it.

I also read with interest the new procedure used to search formembers of the 306th. I have a request I would like to see what you can do with. Our co-pilot 2nd Lt Richard T. Knowles, 0683720 came back to the United States I know because he was in the same camp as I was and came back to Camp Lucky Strike on the same airplane that the rest of the crew came on. He is the only member of our crew that can not be accounted for, all of us have tried everything we could think of to find him with no luck. His home address was in Rochester, New York when we went overseas and none of us have been able to locate him since our return. We have tried through military channels with no luck as well as through the VA. Would you see what you can turn up through your new procedure.

I have gone through all my old papers trying to find out if any of my classmates of Class 43-E went to the 306th at the same time as I did with no luck. I do not have any of my orders from the time I picked up my Crew at Moses Lake, Washing ton until after I was assigned to the 423rd, so I have no idea how many of the 20 or so pilots who went through B-17 transition and picked up their crews at the same time as I did went to the 306th. Things were a little hectic at that time anyway. Based on the number of us who went to England at that time I am sure that there must have been at least some of them who went to the 306th when I did.

Hope you people have a fine time in Seattle and wish I could be there with you. I served two years at McChord in Tacoma and really did like that part of the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nelson A. Hardin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Nelson A. Hardin".

Col. Nelson Hardin

22 Dec 43

24 Dec 43

5 Jan 44

7 Jan 44

14 Jan 44

21 Jan 44

29 Jan 44

30 Jan 44

8 Feb 44

21 Feb 44

24 Feb 44

28 Feb 44

2 Mar 44

6 Mar 44

8 Mar 44

9 Mar 44

16 Mar 44

18 Mar 44

23 Mar 44

24 Mar 44

26 Mar 44

27 Mar 44

28 Mar 44

29 Mar 44

11/4/54