

Herbert A Hynch

317/846-7910

Hynch + Martin last out of wait

delayed jump

worked from noon until 11 that night

Klocherbruck

Home guards

July 14, 1986

Dear sir:

I wish to advise you that
I have changed my address:

FROM: CARMEL, INDIANA

TO: NORBERT A. LYNCH
6033-34th St. West #123
Bradenton, FLORIDA 33507

17772

Yours truly,
Norbert Lynch

Check enclosed - \$5.00

Norbert (Norb) Lynch
6033 34th Street, West
Apt. 123
Bradenton, Florida 33507

Mr. Russell Strong
2041 Hillisdale
Kalamazoo, Mi 49007

Dear Russell;

I own a copy of your book, 'First Over Germany'. In fact, my name appears in your book on page 290; I was the radio operator on Ed Schoenbachler's crew. This led to my becoming a German POW from November to April of 1945. While you were doing your research on your book, you had occasion to call me, and I had the privilege of speaking with you at that time.

I have submitted an outline synopsis and content of chapters, and three sample chapters to a publisher for my book.

My book is tentatively titled, 'To Live Together and To Fly Together'. It is a story of some of the people who comprised the crew that I flew with. There is also a romantic background of the co-pilot and an English girl who works at the base as a driver to the Base CO. Naturally I have not used actual names of any of the characters, and much of the book is fictional.

I did however, use some of the information from your book for particular raids, number of 306th airplanes involved in certain raids, etc. If my book is ever published, would you give me permission to use the mention of you and your book as a source of reference?

I am certainly a neophyte as an author, and also in my attempts to get my book published. I would certainly appreciate any

comments or assistance that you might consider a crutch to help me in that effort. Attracting the attention of a publisher is certainly not the easiest thing in the world.

In any event, I would welcome any communication with you.

Kindest regards,

Norb
Norb Lynch

5 January 1987

Dear Norb:

Received your letter today, and hasten to answer it.

I am sure that you have a story to tell, but it is a perilous and painful task trying to get it put together and then to interest a publisher.

I talked with one major publisher, because a 306th POW was a vice president. But I knew what the outcome was likely to begin before I began talking, and quickly moved to publish the book myself, because: I had experience in publishing, and I had a ready market for the book. Thus, I was willing to gamble a bit, and the publisher was willing to carry my account for a year. I had him paid in less than that. I knew that any commercial publisher would want to change the book drastically, and would emasculate it by removing the crew lists. That would be the first problem that I would have to face, and as I wrote the book for the men of the 306th I did not want those names taken out.

A major factor in producing a saleable book was in finding an editor who would "work over" my copy. When the first chapter came back from the editor, filled with red ink, my wife was aghast. She wanted to know how I could stand it. It went that way for the whole book, but it was what pulled the manuscript together, and it forced me to straighten up my grammar, to check my facts again, and to defend my manuscript. I was lucky. Col. John Ryan, a pilot, evadee, an 8th AF staff officer, a 30-year man, then a college professor who earned his doctorate in languages after retiring, and was used to putting new doctoral candidates through their paces, did the job. He knew the 306th from the early days, but not past March 43. He learned a lot. But he was tough and demanding and his work was absolutely invaluable.

Most people, I believe, who finally get things published by a commercial publisher go at it through an agent who is in the business to "sell" publishers on a book, who help an author get the manuscript tidied up, and who know the ropes. This is not always true, but it is in a great majority of cases. Otherwise, you are putting yourself through great agonies without much prospect of success.

I have looked at manuscripts by a couple of other 306th men, and immediately noted that what they needed was severe editing. But, pride of authorship made them refuse to let anyone tamper with their writing. If you get into that bind you will never make it to publication. While a publisher, and perhaps an agent, will- both provide

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editorial services, I think it helps immensely to have a capable critic help before it gets out of your hands. A wife, or a child, is probably not able to handle this function because of the longtime familial relationship. It takes an outsider, such as an English professor, or an editor of some kind, to help work out the kinks. If this is done a manuscript probably has a better chance of attracting attention.

I'm glad to hear you are working on such a project, but you have chosen a very rough road to travel for the next year or two.

Best of luck and good fortune,