

RECORD UPDATE

306th Bomb Group Association

(Please complete as much of this form as you wish, and give)
(to Russ Strong at the Las Vegas reunion, or mail to his ad-
(dress: 5323 cheval Pl., Charlotte, NC 28205)

Date completed

LAST NAME: Richardson, FIRST NAME: Allan Barbour Title: Major

Street address: 956 Westminster-Canterbury Drive Telephone: 703-665-5991

City, state, zip: Winchester, Virginia 22601

Date of birth: 07 July 1899 Wife's name: Mary Hyde Richardson

College(s) attended: Princeton Degree(s): AB Year(s): 1923

Last employment & job title: Free lance photographer.

Year joined 306th Association: (?)

Reunions attended: (by year or location) 1988 at Las Vegas

Serial #: 904364 Sqdn: 369 Speciality: Intelligence

Date joined 306th: June 1942 If combat, what crew? Charles Cramner

Special duties or assignments w/306th: Briefing and debriefing

If commissioned w/306th, date & specialty:

Date departed: Feb 1943 (?) Highest rank/grade w/306th: 1st Lt.

Other 8thAF units served with: Air Disarmament Command

Top service assignments after 306th: Indoctrination of new crews and conter-
intelligence in France and Germany.

USAF retirement date: Jan 1946 (?) Rank/grade: Captain

Most memorable experience w/306th: (use back of sheet, too) Following Cramner's
crew until his fatal mission on 03 January 1943 when his
plane was shot down over the Channel returning from a raid on
the St Nazaire sub pens when his top turret gunner, Arizona (over)

In the continuing search for 306th people, please inform the secretary as to any
persons you know from the 306th who are not listed in this book.

Todd Harris received the Distinguished Service Cross for continuing to fire at enemy aircraft as the plane sank. All crew members were lost.

Allan B. Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

10 July 1977

Russell A. Strong, Historian
306th Bomb Group
Rt 1 Scotch Meadow Drive
Laurinburg, N. C. 28362

Dear Russ:

Your recent card pricked my conscience into action. Forgive my procrastination. Enclosed are eleven pictures of Thurlough days which I trust may be of some value. Also enclosed are a few early orders from Wendover to Westover, etc. I am still searching my records for others and will send them on if and when I find them. If it is convenient for you to copy the pictures and return the originals, I would appreciate it. I have duplicates of the orders, so you may keep them. I would give a good deal to join the August reunion on England, but my wife is in poor health for such a trip. Maybe I can make St Louis in October. Im happy to receive 306th BG Echoes and letters. Sorry about the death of Jerry Sullivan. We visited him in Bronxville shortly after the war. Best wish to you and will write again soon.

Sincerely,

Allan

13 July 1977

Dear Allan:

I was happy to receive your materials yesterday. And they fitted into my schedule, so I got both orders and pictures copied today, and get them right back to you.

I had to copy the orders because they were too fragile to work with, thus I am returning the originals.

One or two of the pictures I already had, but the others were new to me. I had received the one with John Regan in it earlier, but it was a terrible copy, and thus I am happy to have a decent one to work with.

If you run across any other materials I hope you will send them to me. I had a 367th list of enlisted men, and was very happy to get the 369th list. Now if I can sometime find a 368th and 423rd it will help materially.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

29 March 1977

Russell A. Strong
Rt 1 Scotch Meadow Drive
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352

Dear Mr Strong:

I have your form letter desiring information on the 306th Bomb Group and will be happy to send you what I can shortly. A bout with Flu has put me behind considerably this past fortnight.

Among the pile of things in my 201 file are several pictures of the Group and some orders for transfer to various stages before going overseas. I have another batch to go through before I finish the nostalgic job. 35 years ago! It hardly seems possible. If I can come up with any more names for you I will send them along too. You have a staggering job and I wish you luck. Will be in touch shortly.

Sincerely yours,

Allan B. Richardson

Allan B. Richardson
Major, USAFret

Allan Richardson

228 Wolfe Street • Winchester, Virginia 22601 • (703) 662-3137

20 May 1981

Russell Strong
2041 Hillsdale,
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Dear Russ:

In reply to your question in the April Echoes, "Has anyone Seen Arizona Harris", I was the crew's 'mascot' and accompanied them from Wendover, Utah to Thurleigh, except for the transatlantic leg when I went on the Queen Elizabeth. Charlie Cramner was the pilot. I have poignant memories of my time with them but no pictures, I deeply regret to say. Also I have no list of the crew members names and my memory fails me to recall them. However, I wonder if you would be interested in a personal account of my days with Arizona's crew and the fateful day I intended to accompany them to St-Nazaire sub pens but was called off the plane just before take-off. If you have the crew's roster it would help. Chet Overacker was CO.

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan B. Richardson 369 Sq.
Major AFRet. S-2 S-2

25 May 1981

Dear Allan,

Thank you for your note of 20 May. I appreciate your thinking about the problem of a picture of Arizona Harris. I'll do some more searching and see what I can come up with.

I would very much like a story on Cranmer's fateful day. I think it would be greatly appreciated by many of the Echoes readers, and would certainly provide some insights into combat at that period.

I am enclosing the crew roster for the day, which ought to be helpful in recalling events. I am also including the roster of the crew from Wendover to Westover.

I look forward to hearing further from you.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

14 July 1981

Dear Russ:

Much to my surprise the enclosed came to me this morning from the Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center , Maxwell AF Base in Alabama. So Arizona Harris lived in Tempe, A suburb of Phoenix. I shall write the local library there and the Historical Society in Phoenix yo see what they might have. However, I think we have about enough to know his home town. I have copies of the enclosed so you may keep these.

I hope to get that draft of to you tomorrow, but not later than Thursday. Have had interruptions from the wife. Will also send you some background biography on myself.

In haste.

Sincerely,

Allan

SUBJECT: Request for Material
DSC Award to TSgt Harris

Date

8 Jul 81

TO: Mr. Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe St.
Winchester VA 22601

FROM: Hq Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center
Research Division (RI)
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

- X 1. Material requested will have to be compiled. is being forwarded under separate cover.
 is attached. will be distributed automatically. will be sent as soon as possible.
2. Material requested cannot be provided because it cannot be loaned. cannot be reproduced.
 is not available. is in single copy. is classified.
3. Material requested is available on 16 mm microfilm, roll number (s) _____
Although the Research Center maintains rigid microfilm processing quality controls, readability of offered microfilm cannot be guaranteed. While most is highly readable, some is not because of the poor quality of the original document and inherent limitations in all copying processes, as well as some reading equipment.
4. Material requested may be purchased for \$ _____ Make check or money order for exact amount stated and payable to AFO, Maxwell AFB, AL 36112, and send it to AFSHRC.
5. Because of backlog of work, a delay of _____ is anticipated in providing the material.
6. A large backlog of official requests makes it impossible to provide the material requested.
7. Forwarded to you for appropriate action and direct reply to the requestor, who (has) (has not) been notified of this referral.
- X 8. Suggest you write to the addresses checked on the attached list.
9. Suggest you submit your request to:
10. Information concerning unit emblems may be requested from AFMPC (MPCASA) Randolph AFB, TX 78148. See AFR 900-3 for emblem procedure and for flags, guidons, and streamers.
11. For availability of photography submit request to:
 1361 AVS, ATTN: Photo Depository Section, 1221 S. Fern St., Arlington, VA 22202.
 Audiovisual Archives Div., National Archives, Washington, DC 20408.
12. Your request requires more research time than we can give to unofficial requests.
13. Suggest you visit our Center at Maxwell AFB to do your research. See attached brochure.
14. Before coming to Maxwell AFB for research, contact AFOPA-MB, 1221 South Fern St., Arlington, Va. 22202 to obtain proper authorization for access to our documentation collection.
15. Please refer to:
 Maurer (ed), Air Force Combat Units of World War II (Washington: USGPO, 1961; New York: Arno Press, 1979).
 Maurer (ed), Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II (Washington: USGPO, 1969). Out of Print.
 Craven and Cate (eds), The Army Air Forces in World War II (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 7 vols., 1948-1958). Also available from Arno Press, 3 Park Ave., New York.
 Futrell, The United States Air Force in Korea (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1961). Out of Print.
 Miller, An Aerospace Bibliography (Washington: USGPO, 1978). Available from Superintendent of Documents, USGPO, Washington, DC, (Stock Number 008-070-00427-5).
 Berger (ed), The US Air Force in Southeast Asia, 1961-1973 (Washington: USGPO, 1977). Available from Superintendent of Documents, USGPO, Washington, DC, (Stock Number 008-070-00364-3).
 Mueller and Carter, The Army Air Forces in World War II: Combat Chronology, 1941-1945 (Washington: USGPO, 1975). Available from Superintendent of Documents, USGPO, Washington, DC (Stock Number 0870-00334).
 Item 16 for list of references on your subject.
 Your local library for these or other published materials.

16. Comments:

Reference your letters of 22 and 27 June 1981.

Attached are copies of readily available material on TSgt Arizona T. Harris which identifies his home town and describes the actions by which he earned the DSC. The histories prepared by the 369th Bomb Sq and the 306th Bomb Gp for this period do not mention him, but Sgt Harris is briefly mentioned on p. 23 of Rogert A. Freeman, The Mighty Eighth, Units, Men and Machines, (London: Macdonald, 1970). The agency referenced on the attached list of addresses might be able to provide you with additional biographical data.

Typed Name and Title
R. CARGILL HALL
Chief, Research Division

Signature



Allan Richardson

228 Wolfe Street ° Winchester, Virginia 22601 ° (703) 662-3137

19 June 1981

Dear Russ:

My article on Arizona Harris is progressing and I should have it to you in a week or so. It occurred to me that if we could locate some of Arizona's family, a photograph might be available. For the life of me I cannot find the name of Arizona's home town. If your records name it and you care to give it to me I'll contact the local paper or library to see what they can come up with. The local paper surely had an article about him, and his family could give us background on him. I searched our "First Over Germany" publication without success and just hope I did not overlook it.

My wife and I will be around until the first week in August when we take off for Cape Cod. Shortly after the war we spent a few weeks on Martha's Vineyard where we saw Carol Landis, the tragic actress who visited our base during the height of the casualties. She later committed suicide after marrying for the 3rd? time to Schmidlapp. She ended her life just a few weeks after I had a reminiscent chat with her on the beach. I guess I am telling you this because so many memories have come back to haunt me and telling them is like the Ancient Mariner.

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

27 June 1981

Dear Russ:

I tried to reach you by phone (616-344-6466)?, to suggest a lead on Arizona Harris for a picture and some family information by locating his home town. Texas information at Randolph Air Force Base mentioned the Albert F. Simpson, Historical Research Center (TR AAA HRC-HO) at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama 36312. Not being able to reach you I wrote them and hope something will come of it. Is there a dead line on when you want the article? Otherwise I'll hold it three or four more days to see if the Historical Center replies.

PS As a kid we lived in Chicago and visited Saugatuck and South Haven for summer vacations, also Ephraim, Wis. in Green Bay. Where do you vacation?

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

18 July 1981

Dear Russ:

At last, here is the article draft. So many interruptions. I'll be interested to know how you like it. It of course needs corrections for factual errors (I hope not many), maybe needs cuts or additions, etc. The incidents are as accurate as I could make them. The conversation is mostly true except to fill in with what likely was said. Incidentally, at your convenience, could you give me Col Overacker's address? I think I might like to write him.

Also enclosed is an article on my father and me: Father and Son Exhibit of his paintings and my photography. From it you can glean some of my background. And the two New Years pictures I made to take overseas did amuse the boys. I bet you don't dare to publish them in Echoes.

I'll try to dispatch a letter to the Tempe library before leaving for Cape Cod on the 5th. Have just been too busy with picture jobs and whatnot.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

26 August 1981

Dear Russ:

In one of the letters from Arizona's family his brother states that he has a head picture of Arizona which he will lend me 'if I will be sure to return it'. Since I am a professional photographer, I can copy it right away and return it to him, then send you a copy for the article and your files. At the moment I await possible further information from a close pal of Arizona's. You might tell me the deadline for publication so I wont hold it up too long.

The The July issue of Echoes just arrived with certainly a lot of information to digest. I remember being at the air field where Snuffy Smith landed. I think the S-2s were rushed down there to be the first to inspect and report it all. Capt Jack Wright and Capt John Bairnsfather were in our group.
Sincerely,

Allan



Father and Son Exhibit at Library

Friends of the Library will show a "Father and Son" exhibit of the paintings and illustrations of Frederick Richardson along with the photographs of his son Allan Richardson, a resident of Winchester. The exhibit will be in the Benham Room from June 9 through June 28.

Frederick Richardson (1862-1937), was born in Chicago. He studied art at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts and the Academie Julien in Paris. "Who's Who in America" lists Frederick Richardson as a painter and magazine illustrator.

He was an artist for the Chicago Daily News from 1897 to 1899 and later published a selection of his drawings and cartoons from the News. He then became an art instructor at the Art Institute of Chicago. According to one biographer, Frederick Richardson was strongly influenced by the Art Nouveau movement which flourished in the 1890s in England, Europe and America and which has had a recent revival in the United States, in the current interest in Aubrey Beardsley, Tiffany Glass and psychedelic poster art. Also a watercolorist of note, Richardson's paintings have been exhibited in Paris as well as in the United States.

A number of his works hang in the home of Allan Richardson. One of the more elaborate of his publications is an edition of "Mother Goose" published in 1915 and still in print. It contains more than 100 full color plates.

Other Frederick Richardson children's books in print are "Great Children's Stories", and a fairy tale, "Queen Zixi of Ix", written by Frank Baum, the author of The Wizard of Oz. Mr. Richardson had many friends

among the Chicago literati and artists of the turn of the century.

Moving east, he spent summers in the Vermont-New Hampshire colony at Plainfield and Cornish in the company of Maxfield Parish, St. Gaudens, Kenyon Cox and the American Winston Churchill, an author of note. These were memorable summers for sons Allan and David.

Allan Barbour Richardson was born in Park Ridge, a Chicago suburb. The family moved east when he and his brother went to Princeton University. After college, he worked with Fox Film commercial movies, radio with Zenith and Atwater Kent, a stint back in Chicago with J. Walter Thompson as copy writer and eventually a decision to become a photographer.

He studied photography under Rabinovitch, a noted camera portraitist in New York City. He then joined commercial studios to learn the Madison Avenue use of the camera art. Then as a free-lancer during the thirties, he did photographic illustrations for National magazines including Vogue, Harpers Bazaar, Mademoiselle, Cosmopolitan and LIFE. After a three year stint during World War II as an Air Force Combat Intelligence Officer, he settled down in New York as a professional photographer again, and a portrait specialist.

In 1968, he and his wife, the former Mary Hyde, retired here. Richardson continues to follow his profession here and has exhibited and lectured in the community. He is on the board of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and an honorary Board member of Preservation of Historic Winchester.

Some Memories of Arizona Harris by Allan B. Richardson Major USAF Ret.

Historian Arthur Bove wrote in his account of the 306th Bombardment Group, ~~entitled~~, FIRST OVER GERMANY: "The Group's first Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to this boy from Arizona whose name was never forgotten at the base". Not much is known about Arizona Todd Harris from available records except that he lived in Tempe, a Phoenix suburb, at the time of enlistment. No pictures of him have turned up to date. Yet, he figured in my life for seven months.

In the early days of the 306th Bomb Group's organization at Wendover, Utah, I was assigned to the 369th Squadron. One of the pilots was Charles W. B. Cranmer whose engineer and ~~later~~ top turret gunner was Sgt. Arizona Harris. I was billeted with Cranmer and stayed with his crew more or less from Wendover to Thurleigh until the ~~3rd of~~ January 1943 when Cranmer's plane was shot down over the English Channel while returning from a bombing mission to the German submarine pens at St. Nazaire off the French coast. T/Sgt Arizona T. Harris ~~dis~~ distinguished himself for posterity that morning by staying with his top turret gun and firing at the attacking enemy FWs as his plane sank beneath the waves. None of the crew survived. After 38 years it all seems long ago and far away, but I'll try to share what memories I can leading up to that fateful day.

Among our little quota of officers from the Harrisburg Intelligence School to arrive at Wendover on ~~the first of~~ July 1942 were Captains John B. Wright and John A. Bairnsfather, who became the Group's S-2s. Lt. Col. Charles "Chips" Overacker was Commanding Officer. For a brief stay before he was shipped out, Lt. Col. ~~*S-2 Combat Intelligence.~~

Curtis E. LeMay acted as executive officer. Captain D. R. Coleman became Overacker's first adjutant.

Our S-2 contingent bussed into the base on a typical hot, dry afternoon. The day bombers were returning from practice missions and new crews stood by to take over their planes for the evening run and later the night instrument ~~practice~~ runs. A month of intensive training and maintenance had kept the precious few 17s flying night and day. Crews were tired and tension ~~was~~ high. Living quarters and space were critical. However, we were assigned to reasonably comfortable barracks. After a shower and supper I looked over the desolate but fascinating salt flats that extended to the horizon where the Humboldt range to the west rimmed this desiccated lake of a distant era. When darkness covered the scene and the take-off roar of the 'nightowls' subsided, I turned in.

One crew was retiring. They explained that the boys at my end of the barracks were on the night run and probably would not get in until about 2AM. My cot was next to the entrance. The opened flap revealed some blinking beacons, a few stars and summer lighting over the distant peaks. I thought about my wife and the dolce vita I left back home. Sleep came quickly.

When shots rang out just a few feet away I literally jumped out of bed. In the entrance stood a youth in somewhat disheveled gear about to holster his spent revolver. "Sorry, lieutenant", he grinned, "~~Just~~ blowing off steam". I muttered something best forgotten and stumbled back into bed. His team filed in and made for their beds. In the morning introductions were in order.

"I'm pilot Charlie Cranmer", said the one who had fired the shots. Pointing to the others; "Al Brunsting, is my ~~co-pilot~~, Paul Dwyer here is my navigator and Johnny Reed over there is our bombardier.

I'll let the rest of the boys in the room introduce themselves. You must be our S-2. Sorry about the noisy welcome last night. So I shook hands with a lot of nice kids.

In a few days Cranmer took me on a night run to the Pacific coast. The flight gave me a chance to meet the rest of the crew and to observe their functions; ~~Lt~~ Byer, ~~the navigator,~~ Lt Reed, bombardier, Arizona Harris, ^{the} engineer and ~~later,~~ top turret gunner. The gunners were Cpl. Charles Taylor, Sgt. Charles Wall and Pvt. Harry Meyers. Sgt. Kermit Constantine operated the radio and Sgts. Joseph Maire and ^{Glen} Wyly took care of air craft mechanics. Concentrated training during July gave us some time to work into our assignments. New planes and crews arrived. Few, if any distractions diverted us from our appointed tasks except, perhaps, the Stateline Hotel at the edge of the base. This unique building straddled the Utah/Nevada state line right down the middle. The Nevada room on the right permitted liquor and gambling while Utah's parlor on the left offered refuge for the innocents. Weekend passes meant occasional trips to Salt Lake City to admire the Mormon culture and the city's beauty, both architecturally and ⁱⁿ feminine. Finally, orders came through at the ^e end of the month when we were declared mission ready. On ~~the~~ ¹ first of August the ground crews entrained for Richmond, Virginia, and the air echelons flew, with one stop in Illinois, to Westover Field in Massachusetts. ^{etts,} ~~ts.~~ I was assigned to Cranmer's plane. Breezing over the Rockies at an intimate peak to plane altitude, we watched the wildlife scatter among the pines. Charlie Cranmer could not resist playing tag with regulations, sometimes. His crew were ever loyal to their personable, easy going pilot who privately had a

reputation for leaving a pretty face where ere he roamed. But Lt. Cranmer could fly.

Crossing the continent, we beguiled the time with reminiscing about family, friends, hopes and dreams. Arizona, like a true chamber of commerce ~~PR~~^{man}, pictured his town in warm colors. He spoke of his mother and dad, reminisced about his high school sweetheart, and described the rugged beauty of Arizona and the desert where he and his pals ranged for fun and game. In turn each boy told his story. They were typical American youths prompted by old fashion^{ed} patriotism, a desire for adventure, and, perhaps subconsciously, ~~and~~ a chance to know and prove themselves. A few were married, some with expecting wives, and, the Air ~~Force~~^{Corps} did mean a sure income.

The following evening we landed at Westover for a few weeks' stay before proceeding overseas. Families that could, joined us for farewells. On August 14 we moved to Fort Dix for staging and on the 30th skeleton crews took off for Gander, Newfoundland, and Prestwick, Scotland. The rest of us boarded the Queen Elizabeth along with about 16,000 military personnel and the ship's crew. Life meant two meals a day and a bit ^{of a} ~~crowded~~. We landed at Greenock, Scotland, with⁽out event, although the Germans broadcast that the 306th had gone down to its grave at the bottom of the Atlantic. From Greenock we proceed^{ed} by train to ~~Bedford~~^d and Thurleigh. Crews and personnel were eventually united.

Preparation for the first mission to the Fives-Lille locomotive in France works⁽got underway with the valued help of RAF liason.

This first mission took a heavy toll. Enemy intelligence was good as evidenced by the swarm of FW190s waiting to greet us. Our popular CO, "Chips" Overacker lead the group with Captain ^{James W. J} Johnson of the 369th as co-pilot. Following the mission, bad weather set in. Operations worked on the answers, and briefed the crews on the German subpens off the French coast which were given priority at this stage. The enemy also considered these pens a priority for protection which resulted in more costly raids. The 306th Group's first Distinguished ^{Flying} Service Crosses were awarded to Capt. ^{Emmett} Robert C. Willie Williams and Lt. ^A Ford for these missions.

^{November} In ~~mid winter~~, members of the USO visited Thurleigh. Among them ^{performers} were Martha Ray^e, Carol^e Landis and a dedicated troupe whose names I wish I could remember. ^(Ed: Mitzi Mayfair and Kay Francis.) Heavy casualties had put morale at a low ^{point}. The boys surrounded the girls and cried on their shoulders as they mourned their missing pals. This USO tour was too much for the lovely and sensitive Carol^e Landis who had a nervous breakdown after returning to the States. I met Carol^e after the war on a Martha's Vineyard ~~Island~~ beach. We talked about her tour and the many fine boys who would not come home. Carol's dreams were murky and disturbed and she could not find peace of mind. Not long after our meeting, she took her own life.

~~The second phase of the bomber activities began in late September of 42 with the increased range of fighter escort. Bremen and Kiel and the French coast south to Brest could be reached. However, the subpens still retained priorities for almost half of the targets until the summer of 1943.~~ ^{asked for} Twice I had offered and received per-

mission to accompany the crews but had been ordered off the planes just before take-off. Both planes were shot down. On the 2~~nd~~¹⁹ of January 43 another subpen mission was scheduled for St. Nazaire. I talked with Cranmer's crew that afternoon to ask if they minded if I went with them. They tried to discourage me, but finally agreed, reluctantly. Arizona Harris had received the Air Medal for ~~a~~ Nov ~~8th~~^{the 8th enter} ~~similar~~ raid during which he shot down an enemy plane, so he knew only too well what awaited ~~them~~. From time to time the rosters of the crews changed. Meyers, Haire, Wyly, ~~Danna~~^{Well} and ~~Hanson~~^{Taylor} were distributed among ~~the~~ new crews to give them the advantage of their experience. New arrivals replacing them were William Musick, Robert Ransom and Edgar Whitaker. This now was the roster of ~~the~~ "Fitin' Bitin'" as Cranmer's plane was dubbed.

That night before the mission, Charlie Cranmer and I were discussing it all. "Why do you want to stick your neck out, Rich"?, he asked me. "You dont have to go and for Pete's sake, enough planes have been lost to turn off any guy in his right mind."

"You go", I reminded him.

"Well, maybe we are crazy, maybe. Believe it or not, I'm thinking of our country and the folks back home who depend on us".

Early the next morning I suited up and climbed aboard his plane. Arizona cast me a strange look. Engines were revved and ~~chucks~~^o removed. Then over the ~~intercom~~^{radio}, Operations ordered me off. Each time the reason had been that intelligence officers were needed to meet the returning planes to debrief them. I jumped off and watched the 17s disappear in the dawn.

Thurleigh is a modest little village in the heart of the John Bunyan country of Bedfordshire. On our bicycles we would explore the country lanes, the green fields and gardens of the little cottages whose hospitality often offered tea and biscuits. Eight miles from Thurleigh was the town of Bedford, then a center of agriculture exchange. Its community is noted for fine schools. Among the town's historical attractions is the Bunyan Museum. All during the war, Bedford USO clubs entertained the military, and a Key Club held night life for the more sophisticated. Bedfordshire is on about the same latitude as Greenland, consequently in summer, daylight lingers quite late, much to the chagrin of the GIs. On night passes when they took their dates to the park, or sat on the banks of the river Ouse, any intimate affection was so obvious. Soon however, practicality overcame modesty.

On Sunday morning following that fateful 3rd of January mission, I visited the Bunyan Museum to ponder the bard's philosophy in his Pilgrim's Progress, wherein he speaks of birth, death, Divine justice and the wages of sin. In all of John Bunyan's morality, I found no answer to the ubiquitous question from our boys: "Who ties the tickets on the bombs and bullets?" Perhaps no one can truly answer. In World War I, a young poet named Alan Seeger from New York who had joined the French Foreign Legion, was killed in Flanders Fields. In the trenches before he died he penned a verse which concludes, "I have a rendezvous with Death...And I shall not fail that rendezvous". Arizona and his fine companions merit such an epitaph.

The ~~End~~

ALLAN RICHARDSON

Photographer

228 WOLFE STREET
Winchester, Virginia 22601

703 - 662-3137

19 October 1981

Dear Russ:

Here en fin is the article. Im sorry to have taken so long with it but so many things interrupted. And here also are two each pictures of Arizona and Carole Landis. ~~wbIf you need~~ more just let me know since I have the negatives.

Also enclosed is a clipping from our local paper which reviewed an exhibit I had a year and a half ago. I thought you might like to know a little more about me in the brief bio. My father was a well known artist so the Father and Son presentation seemd like a nice idea.

Back to the article. Will you check to see if I am correct in assigning Whright and Bairnsfather to the 367 and 368 squadrons respectively? I believe Captain Wiley was S-2 of the 369th. I omitted Carole Landis' suicide, and I skipped over the fact that I knew Captain Coleman in New York and Long Island, and that we both were WWI retreads, and that I was a pilot in the Royal Air Force in WWI (Canadian). I doubt that any of that is necessary or relevant, but you use your judgement. And I shall be anxious to know what you think of the article.

One more item. A close friend of the family, a Chaplain Colonel, suggested that I submit the article to The Retired Officer magazine - with suitable adaptation. If you approve of the idea Ill send you the copy pitched to a general reader to have you check it.

Otherwise, our Shenandoah Valley is just past the peak of color, we are winterizing the house and shifting to frozen vegetables. Mary is making me change all the summer draperies and clean things. I feel like a kid being made to stay after school or being punished for some prank. C'est la vie.

All the best.

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

04 August 1981

Dear Russ:

I discovered some factual errors in the article on Arizona Harris I sent you. Will you kindly not do anything with it until I can revise and send you a corrected copy which I am working on now. For instance, Arizona Harris is credited with the First Distinguished Service Cross and then, on the first bombing mission to the Fives-Lille locomotive works in France, Capt Williams and Lt Ford are credited with the Group's first DSCs.

At you convenience will you give me Chip Overacker's address. Thanksa. Mary and I had hoped to fly to Cape Cod tomorrow, but the Controllers' strike spoiled it. We will try again next week for the 12th to the 19th.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Allan

10/ August 1981

Dear Allen:

In regard to your latest note, Williams and Ford received the first Distinguished Flying Crosses awarded in the group.

Arizona Harris received the first Distinguished Service Cross.

There is a difference, and I've always thought Williams was cheated a bit, and at least ought to have received a Silver Star for his efforts.

Williams and Ford received their medals for the raid of 19 Nov 1942 and the mission was to St. Nazaire. The plane was badly shot up, one man was killed, and the plane was a total loss when they finally dropped it on a runway in southern England.

As to decorations, there was a great unevenness in the way they were awarded, but I don't know how one could have overcome this. Of course, the higher the rank the easier they were to come by, as witness Frank Armstrong's DSC for the mission of 5 April 43. He was given credit for all kinds of things that he didn't do, but he was a brigadier general at the time.

But enough of that. I didn't find any great errors in the. Late in the story there is a bit of confusion about fighter escort, so I wiped out a sentence or two. Here the time element became mixed up, and was not germane to the story any way.

Hope you have won the vacation battle. I went to Europe just as the air controllers were threatening to strike the first time, but escaped any problems.

Sincerely yours,

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

Card
8/9/82

28 July 1982

Dear Russ:

I enjoyed reading your excellent book, FIRST OVER GERMANY. My, what a lot of research you have done. You deserve a gold star or a medal for the accomplishment.

Manny Klette invited Mary and me to an afternoon and dinner in Lovettsville. A lot of nice things were said about you. Manny's reminiscences fascinated us and added to your accounts.

I also have heard from the cousin of Arizona Harris' bombardier, Johnny Reed. He sent me a whole binder of records and information relating to the account. Some of it could have used, but nothing vital. The interesting item was what actually happened to the plane which caused it to ditch. You may know this, if not I can Zerox it for you.

Mary and I spent a delightful week on Martha's Vineyard Island and celebrated

our 45th wedding anniversary and my 83rd birthday. I dont really feel that old! Hope you had some rest from your peripatetic job and perhap stole away to the land of the sky blue waters. We expect to attend the wedding of Mary's nephew in Grosse Pointe on the 8th. Will be staying at the Dearborn complex. I wish I might have time to dash up to Kalamazoo to say Hi. We return on Monday, two days later.

All the best Russ, and I extend the welcome to you here any time.

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

06 March 1982

William M. Collins
2973 Heatherbrae Drive
Poland, Ohio 44514

Dear Bill:

Almost three months have lapsed since ECHOES was supposed to come out. And you said in your Feb 8 letter that it was due out 'next week'. I hope nothing has happened to the publication. Or is it on lowest priority with the printers? Arizona Harris' family keep asking me about it.

Otherwise I received the notice of the October Thurleigh junket. I just cannot commit myself now, healthwise and financially, but sure will see what I can do about it.

All the best. Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson

228 Wolfe Street • Winchester, Virginia 22601 • (703) 662-3137

28 May 1981

Dear Russ:

Thank you for your nice note and the very helpful rosters of Charlie Cranmer's crews with Arizona Harris. In reading the names and the official account of the loss I confess I had to choke back some emotion. Comes July I'll be eighty-two years old, but the feeling of personal loss seems to be there still.

If time permits, I'll try to get the story and account leading to the fateful day to you in two or three weeks. In the meantime, I do hope you have some luck in finding a picture of Arizona Harris.

Very sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

24 October 1981

Dear Russ:

Thank you for your card. I am glad you can edit the article the way it needs to be. And I shall be anxious to know the result. Sometimes we get our nose so close to the tree that we cant see the forest. Have a good homecoming week.

Sincerely,

Allan

25 October 1981

Dear Russ: A few friends familiar with Arizona have stated that Tempe is not a suburb of Phoenix, so, on page 3, about the middle, you had better cross out that qualification. The Tempe-ans might be upset.

Allan



ALLAN RICHARDSON
228 WOLFE ST
WINCHESTER VA 22601

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF UNDERSTANDING



Domestic Rate

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillside
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

04 February 1982

Wm M. Collins, Jr.
2973 Heatherbrae Drive
Poland, Ohio 44514

Dear Mr Collins:

I have not received the issue of ECHOES which Russ Strong told me would be out in January. I contributed an article on Arizona Harris which I confess I am anxious to see. I also promised Arizona's family I would send them zeroes of the article. Will you be kind enough to let me know what the situation is.

Sincerely yours,

Allan B. Richardson

Allan B. Richardson
Major USAF (Ret)

PS Enclosed is a contribution to the publishing expenses of Echoes.

Allan Richardson

228 Wolfe Street ° Winchester, Virginia 22601 ° (703) 662-3137

08 September 1981

Dear Russ:

Sorry I missed you on the phone the other night. Just about enough information has come in from Arizona's family to flesh out the story. Since one of his brothers told me he would send a head picture of Todd (as they call him), I await its arrival before sending you the revised article. If the photo fails to appear soon, Ill forward the article anyway and let the picture follow - if he sends it.

I dont know how I could have overlooked the difference in awards to Arizona and Willie Williams. My face is red. The Distinguished Service and Distinguished Flying Crosses are indeed in different categories. Plus Willie Williams was a good friend. I remember little of Ford. It was an optical slip-up, or a sign of 'old age'.

If you drive to Washington, Winchester is on an almost direct line. My wife and I would be glad to have you spend a night. And I still would be interested in what you do besides being the 306th distinguished historian.

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

21 August 1981

Dear Russ:

Mary and I returned last night from that Cape Cod vacation which awaited the Controllers' strike settling down. No problems. And you just returned from Europe apparently with no problems. I do not recall if you told me the occasion for your trip(s).

I stirred up plenty of action in Tempe. The daily paper advertised my search and so far three letters have come in from relatives and friends or Arizona Harris. The University library in Tempe was kind enough to instigate the sleuthing. In a few days when I get my desk cleared and copies made of it all, I'll send them to you. The information will require my rewriting some of the paragraphs in the article. So hold everything. And thanks for clearing the award business. I agree with you about the inequity. Will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Allan

PS. According to his brother, Arizona was a farm boy, a would-be poet and writer, with no feminine interest until a girl in England.

12 February 1982

Dear Bill: Thank you for your note about ECHOES and Russ. I shall await ECHOES for delivery in a week or so, and I shall drop a card to Russ to say I was unaware of his trip to the British Isles for a bit of nostalgia. My wife is in poor health so I may have problems in attending any reunion, but I will do my best with the hope of meeting all of you to talk 'shop' with old pals.

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, VA.
22601



USA
OF DEMOCRACY

THE ABILITY TO WRITE IS A ROOT OF DEMOCRACY



US

Domestic Rate

William M. Collins, Jr.
2973 Heatherbrae Drive
Poland, Ohio 44514

Season's Greetings



A remembrance to a nice guy who has done so much for the 306th Bombardment Group. My wife and I do hope you can make it this way some time. In the meantime, all best wishes for the holidays and the New Year.

Allan

TO Russell A. Strong

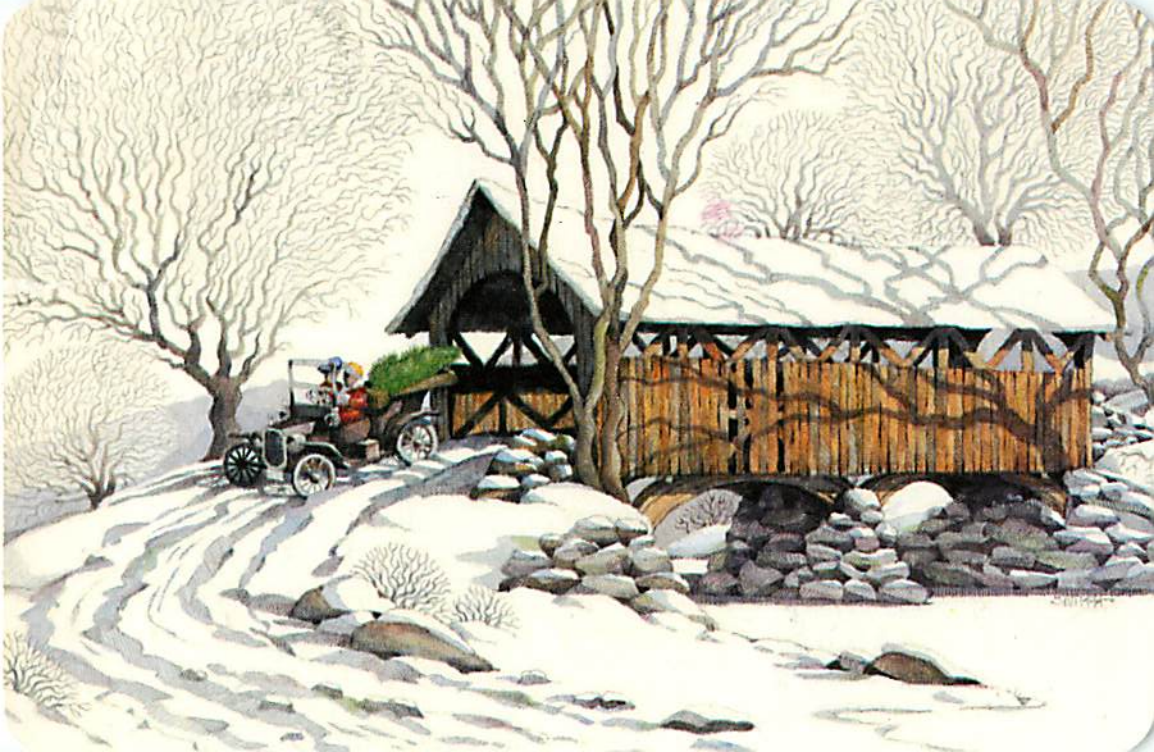
2041 Hillsdale

Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

ALLAN RICHARDSON
228 WOLFE STREET
WINCHESTER, VA.
22601




PX 121-2
© HALLMARK CARDS, INC.
MADE IN U.S.A.



Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

03 October 1981

Dear Russ:

Your phone did not answer this morning consequently this note. I expect to have the revised article to you by the end of next week. Included will be a good picture of Arizona; a copy I made from the only one owned by his brother Charles. I realize that too much time has elapsed since first this project started, but gathering bits and pieces of information from here and there required more time than I planned. In the original article I sent you are some factual errors now corrected. For instance, I located Carole Landis' post-war husband who gave me a right bio of her which I sorely needed. Mine was way off. I am also enclosing the picture of her with the boys when they celebrated a victory rather than mourned losses. This picture is in "First Over Germany" but not very conspicuous. I took it. ~~an~~ The facts about Arizona's life in the revised article are ^{now} accurate as told to me by his family members.

Having had no word from you for some time I am a bit concerned. Perhaps you might phone me or drop a note to tell me the status quo.

Sincerely,

Allan

703/662-3137

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

25 January 1982

Dear Russ:

ECHOES has not yet arrived and I wonder whether or not I have missed my copy. Would you be kind enough to drop me a line to let me know.

I thought of you during the SuperBowl yesterday. Is Kalamazoo too far from Detroit for you to attend, or did you make it?

All's well here except for the depressing cold weather with slush, rain, snow and sleet. You name it, we've had it. Well, my wife reminded me that it's an ideal time to clean out my darkroom and office mess. I've run out of excuses for not doing it.

Trust all is well with you. All the best.

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson

228 Wolfe Street • Winchester, Virginia 22601 • (703) 662-3137

10 February 1982

Dear Russ:

A few weeks ago I sent you a card saying that ECHOES had not arrived. I am still waiting for the issue with Arizona Harris' article. I trust nothing has happened to its publication. I wrote Wm M. Collins in Poland, Ohio to ask if he had any answers about the delay. I also contributed a very modest check for maintainance of ECHOES' mailing, etc.

If you are not too busy raising money for your university, maybe you could drop me just a line to tell me what's what. Or phone me. All the best and do try to stop by here for a visit if you drive through.

Sincerely,

Allan

12 February 1982

Dear Russ: A reassuring card from Bill Collins stated that ECHOES will be out in a week or so. Forgive my importuning you about it. Bill mentioned that you had been in England presumably on 306th business, etc. Wish I could have accompanied you. Maybe some day. Because of my wife's poor health I will find it difficult to attend reunions but will do my best. And best to you. Maybe you will give me a brief run-down of your British junket.

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, VA.
22601



Robert Morris

Patriot



US Domestic Rate

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

18 March 1982

Dear Russ:

Thank you for the four copies of ECHOES. You did a nice job. I thought you would have edited some of the article but seems to have been published in toto. I'll be curious to know what any 'letters to the editors' might have to say about it. Incidentally, I assume I have Col Overacker's Denver address and I intend to write him. according to the phone book it is listed as C. B. Overacker, 421 Dexter, Denver, Col.80220. Is that what you have?

Your new FIRST OVER GERMANY, how does it differ from Arthur Bove,s account?, since they both have the same title.

My wife's physical problems are curtailing so many trips I would like to do, consequently, I cannot plan to attend any reunion just now. Hopefully, her condition will improve in the near future. It would be great to meet all of you again. All the best.

Sincerely,

Allan

Russ
3/22

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

25 March 1982

Dear Russ:

Thanks for your card. I would like four more copies if you can spare them. And I would be most interested in any comments about the article. I noted that you did not edit any of it so I could assume it was more or less okay. It sure takes up the most space in the paper.

If I had read your explanation of your new First Over Germany, it would have answered my question. I just did not happen to see it when I wrote you, but I did right after. Sounds very, very good, and I'll subscribe to it to it.

Last year we invited Manny (Col) Klette and his wife for lunch and had a good old shp talk. We had hoped to hear from them again but so far no word. I dropped him a card last week congratulating him on his award. Sorry you cant make it here now, but Mary and I will look forward to a visit when you can come thisaway. Coming up is our annual Appleblossom Festival the end of April. Quite a show.

All the best.

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

01 May 1982

Dear Russ:

Your book came yesterday. I thank you for the very, very nice inscription. I shall curl up with it during the next several evenings to relive those poignant and often happy memories. Will write you again after I have finished.

This is our big weekend, the Apple Blossom Festival. The weather behaved this year so the blossoms are gorgeous. Our queen this year is Elyse Knight, daughter of Ted Knight of TV fame. She is lovely as expected and so are the princesses. Mary's niece is one of the princesses. This afternoon the 3½ hour long parade begins with every imaginable presentation.

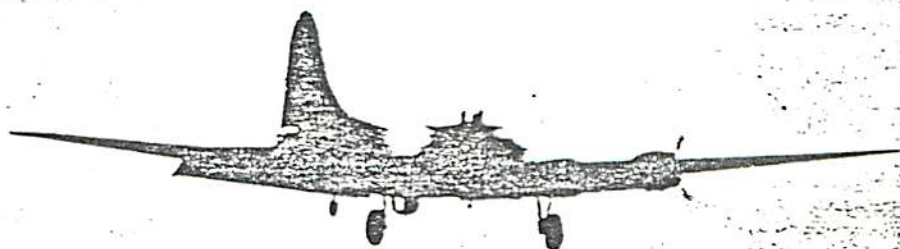
Thank you again for the book. All the best and don't work so hard.

Sincerely,

Allan

Russ: This is the most
detailed description of
the story, the one I fig-
ured would interest you
the most.

Allan



FLYING FORTRESS

The illustrated Biography of the B-17s and the
Men Who Flew Them • by EDWARD JABLONSKI

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 Sep 58

By: Dir, RSI - Init: NY

JUL 28 1958

SECURITY TO: 460 33 X	306-HI (BOMBS) N-DEC 1943
--------------------------------	------------------------------

HISTORY 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

PERIOD COVERING

January, 1943 to December, 1943.

PRC

Abbeville Kids of Göring's special squadron. The attack impressed both the Germans and Frenchmen with the accuracy of the bombardment, but little major damage was actually done. Two subs, not in pens, were damaged and a workshop or two was demolished. But the heavy bombs did not penetrate through the roofs of any of the shelters—when they were hit at all.

Of the five submarine sites in the Bay of Biscay—Brest, Lorient, La Pallice, Bordeaux, and Saint-Nazaire—the latter was nicknamed "Flak City" by the bomber crews. When it was initially attacked on November 9 it was from a low level in the hope that greater accuracy might bring greater results. The B-17s approached at altitudes ranging from 7500 feet to 10,000; the B-24s remained up around 20,000. The result was that the B-17s became targets for intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. Three B-17s went down and over twenty were damaged of the thirty-one attacking. It was the last attempt to attack any sub-shelter from so low an altitude, but Saint-Nazaire's reputation as "Flak City" did not diminish.

The cumulative effect of repeated attacks was found more effective than low-level attacks and such major bases as those at Lorient and Saint-Nazaire were visited by the heavies with as much regularity as weather and logistics permitted. If the sub sites were neglected for even a short while, however, activity quickly picked up and they were back in operation as if they had never been bombed.

One of the heaviest strikes upon Saint-Nazaire was made on January 3, 1943—it was the first since November 23. A new bombing technique was introduced on this mission which was to have an important effect upon future operations. Instead of each plane dropping bombs individually, all bombardiers released when they saw the bombs leave the bomb bay of the lead plane. This technique resulted in greater accuracy (for the most skilled bombardier and pilot were in the lead aircraft) and a massive concentration of strikes in the target area.

However, on this particular mission, the bomb run was made into a high gale which practically cut the flying speed of the B-17 in half. As they faced into the wind, the planes seemed to hover in place over the target. They were almost stationary targets for the anti-aircraft gunners below. Also, instead of attempting to follow the formations as was the usual practice, the flak gunners introduced their own innovation. They predicted the area through which the B-17s would have to pass on the bomb run and filled that area with flak bursts. Three Fortresses were shot down over Saint-Nazaire on that mission and dozens returned in various stages of damage.

Fighters, too, were murderously fearless in their attacks. Ever since the November 23 mission to Saint-Nazaire it was noted that the German fighters had developed a new attack approach. They no longer attacked from the stern, but from the "twelve o'clock high" spot directly head-on. This innovation has been credited to Oberleutnant Egon Mayer, who had noted that the fire power from both B-17s and B-24s was weak in the nose area. There were blind spots that neither the nose guns nor even the top-turret gunner could cover from the front.

Diving head-on into a formation of B-17s was not a tactic for an inexperienced pilot. The formations could bring tremendous fire power to bear despite the blind spots, but a head-on attack was a fleeting thing because of the tremendous

closing speed of the two aircraft. An error of judgment could mean a wasted pass by the fighter or a mid-air collision.

Among the seven B-17s that did not return from "Flak City" on January 3, one carried Arizona Harris into the Bay of Biscay. He was not the only American airman to die that day, but he was the only one to choose, with a show of stubborn valor, the time and place.

Harris was top-turret gunner and crew chief of the B-17 piloted by Charles Cramner. Another pilot, William Casey and his crew aboard the *Banshee*, witnessed the exploit of Arizona Harris.

"His name was really Arizona," Casey later told newspapermen, "and he was one of the best top-turret gunners you ever did see. He usually fired in short, quick bursts, to keep his guns from overheating and he didn't miss—not often. He already had two FW-190s to his credit, and he had an Air Medal, too, that he was going to show to his father and his two brothers and his married sister when he got home [Tempe, Arizona]."

Over Saint-Nazaire a direct hit by flak blew off the underside of the B-17's nose "so that the bombardier and navigator simply disappeared and nobody knew what became of them," and two engines went dead, with No. 3 smoking badly. Because of this Cramner was forced to leave the comparative safety of the rest of the formation, though Casey, disobeying standing orders, tried to remain close-by to give the crippled Fortress some support. The formation had dropped down to about ten feet above the water to discourage fighter attacks from below; with his two bad engines, Cramner needed all the altitude he could hang onto to get his B-17 home. He managed to stay up at 1500 feet.

Casey watched with horror when "all of a sudden, about forty miles northwest of Brest, six Focke-Wulf 190s and a Messerschmitt 109 came hurtling out of nowhere. They spotted the limping Fortress, and one after another they made a pass at it from behind."

After the first sweep by the fighters, two parachutes were seen to billow out behind the B-17; these were probably waist gunners. The chutes barely opened before they hit and the men sank into the icy Bay. Another two flared out and remained in the air long enough for some of the fighters to circle them a few times. "Whether or not they machine-gunned the fliers is something that can't be proved, so why think about it?" Casey said.

"But when the Fortress settled into the sea—and Charlie Cramner, who stayed with his ship as a captain should, set her down as gracefully and gently as if he had four engines and a six thousand foot runway under him—then the Germans did strafe her, and you could see the steel-gray sea boiling under the rain of bullets.

"But there was something else you could see, and that was the guns in the upper turret still blazing even as she settled. She settled fast; she lasted only about half a minute. But the top turret was still spitting as the waves closed over it . . ."

By this time there was no way for Harris to escape from the ditched B-17. He had not even gone into the radio compartment, according to regular ditching procedure which was done to protect the surviving crew members from too much bouncing around and injury from loose parts. Instead Arizona Harris had chosen to stay at his post all through the battle—no one actually will ever know why—

14 April 1982

Russ:

You asked me if I could use more copies of ECHOES and I said I would appreciate your sending me four more. Could you do it soon? Thanks. Am looking forward to your 306th history. PS Too bad you cant join us for our famous Appleblossom Festival the end of the month. Quiet a show.

All the best.

Alan



ALLAN RICHARDSON
228 WOLFE ST
WINCHESTER VA 22601

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF UNDERSTANDING



Robert Morris

Patriot

US Domestic Rate

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Allan Richardson

228 Wolfe Street • Winchester, Virginia 22601 • (703) 662-3137

01 January 1983

Dear Russ:

Happy New Year! I thought you might like these two cards I made back in New York. Actually, they are two different girls. The one diving is one of the lovely little chorus girls in the last Ziegfeld Follies. I had quite a crush on her. (Mary didn't mind, she said that as long as I have at least three in my mental harem she doesn't mind- safety in numbers).

Hope you have had a very nice Christmas. We enjoyed a good family get-together and now plan a quiet evening after a neighborhood wassail this afternoon.

All the best.

Allan

PS Would you like to publish these in Echoes???

14 April 1982

Russ:

You asked me if I could use more copies of ECHOES and I said I would appreciate your sending me four more. Could you do it soon? Thanks. Am looking forward to your 306th history. PS Too bad you cant join us for our famous Appleblossom Festival the end of the month. Quiet a show.

All the best.

Alan



ALLAN RICHARDSON
228 WOLFE ST
WINCHESTER VA 22601

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF UNDERSTANDING



Robert Morris

Patriot

U.S. Domestic Rate

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillside
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

20 June 83

Dear Russ: Thank you so much for your prompt relpy. The man was with the 24s near Northrich and the Wash.....Wish I could join your junket to England. My wife's health still limits me in so many ways. Maybe one of these days... The trip sounds m̄rvelous to include all those star places. I wish you a good tour..... Mary and I returned a few weeks ago from my Princeton Class reunion, the 60th! Now our 'boys' are relegated to "The Old Guard". I just dont feel that old....Thanks again for the prompt info, and Ill hope that some time before long you can make the detour here.

Allen

ALLAN B RICHARDSON
228 Wolfe St
Winchester VA 22601



Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, VA
22601



Robert Morris

Patriot



U.S. Postage 13c

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Lalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Dear Russ

30 January 1983

About three weeks ago I sent you two New Years card mounted on an 8x10 matte. At the same time I sent something else to a friend in California, and, some valuable negatives to a professional color laboratory in Kansas City for processing. The lab has not received the order and I have not heard from you or California. I am worried about a possible loss of mail. Would you be kind enough to let me know as soon as you can if you received the cards so I may notify the post office. Trust all is well with you. Best.

Alban

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, VA.
22601



"Swamp Fox" Francis Marion, 1782

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

ALLAN RICHARDSON
228 WOLFE STREET
WINCHESTER, VA.
22601



19 December 1983



Russ: A nice card from the Klettes reminded me of 306th friends. Another year brings us more distant but enduring memories. Mary and I are well enough and we trust you are too. Sorry I could not attend the Reunions, and sorry to learn the passing of Chip Overacker. It's sad he died an embittered man. C'est la vie. All the best for the holidays.

Allan



Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan
49007



Holiday greetings to the 306th
May their memories and pride endure.



Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

13 June 1983

Dear Russ:

We have a lecturer coming this weekend whose name is George Louis Aghamalian. According to the bio on him, he was in the Eight Air Force. Could you possibly tell me by return mail if he was at Thurleigh, also any other information you might have on him.

How about stopping by here for a good bicker session? That quest bed is still waiting for you.

All the best.

Allan

ALLAN RICHARDSON

Photographer

228 WOLFE STREET
Winchester, Virginia 22601

703 - 662-3137

21 August 1982

Dear Russ:

Received your postcard of the tenth. Does your wife approve of your chasing all over the globe with only a week or so at home? You certainly are dedicated. Somehow I too have too many things undone even with no more than a junket to the Vineyard and that wedding in Gross Pointe. Thanks for the good wishes on my 45th and 83rd. I only wish Mary felt as well as I do. Next time you go to North Carolina, I trust you and your wife can detour thisaway. How many sons and daughters are you fortunate enough to have?

Enclosed are the items of interest which Paul Reed sent me: the excerpt from Jablonski's FLYING FORTRESS; which gives the detailed report of Cramner's encounter; some of the official items, including a few November 1942 reports I made prior to the fatal raid. I had no idea they existed. Also, Paul Reed's letters to me. If I can think of anything else of interest Ill send it along.

Mary is working in her garden and I am Trying to take respite from confusion. We shall probably stay here for the rest of the season. I wish I might join the 86 reunionists at Thurleigh in October, but chances are not good. Same for Symposium in Cincinnati.

All the best and will let you know of anything new.

Sincerely,

Allan

Allan Richardson
228 Wolfe Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

30 December 1983

Dear Russ:

I appreciated your nice letter and wondered if I were losing my memory, that I sent you two Christmas cards.

Im glad to know that Chip Overacker died a relieved man and that he got his bitterness out of his system.

As you said, you seem to have undertaken an almost impossible task with your project of a Biographical Directory of Command, etc. It reminds me of the title of Thomas Wolf's book, "Of Time and the River". Good luck and I wish I could be of help. In my 84th year I have to slow down plus Mary is curtailing any junkets which I dont like to comply with. I see no harm in liesurely drives here and there. But guess who wins the arguments? Anyway, all the best for the New Year and we will always be glad to see you if you can come thisaway.

Sincerely,

Allan

ALLAN RICHARDSON

Photographer

~~228 WOLFE STREET~~
Winchester, Virginia 22601

New Address:
Westminster-Canterbury Drive Rm 285
Winchester, Virginia 22601

~~703-662-3137~~
New phone: 703-665-5991

31 May 1988

Edward J. Hennessy, Jr.
2013 Plaza Del Padre
Las Vegas, Nevada, 89102

Dear Ed:

Just after receiving your kind letter of April 2nd, I came down with pneumonia which nearly finished me. I almost heard Taps in the far away hills. The family took matters in hand, put me in the combined retirement and nursing home where my wife Mary is, then sold our house at 228 Wolfe Street. Westminster-Canterbury is my new home and address. Disposing of over a half century of possessions was a trying ordeal. Under constant care, my dear Mary is living in her own world. Often she does not recognize faces.

Today is the first time I have had the strength and courage to write. However, my recovery is promising. Attending the 306th Las Vegas reunion will be determined by my health comes late October. I'll let you know as soon as I possibly can. Your very kind invitation and seeing again Mal, Willie Williams, Russ Strong and others would mean much to me. As to Barnsfather, my opinion of him leaves much to be desired. So sorry about Manny Klette's death. Mary and I had some pleasant visits with him and Marguerite a few years ago. Thanks for the picture. Gordon is just a namesake, but I would like to meet Terry and Hazel and the handsome chap in the middle of the picture. Is the Falcon Inn where the poet Edward Fitzgerald often tarried while translating the verses of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam?

If Fate allows, I'll look forward to seeing you et al in October. PS Did you read my article about Arizona Harris in ECHOES a few years back?

My warmest regards to you too and hope to hear from you again.

Allan R.

13 June 1988

Mr. Allan Richardson
Westminster-Canterbury Dr, Rm 285
Winchester, VA 22601

Dear Allan:

I was delighted to hear from you through your letter to Ed Hennessy, but saddened to learn of the condition of your wife.

I am pleased to know that you have successfully battled pneumonia, and I know that moving into the Westminster-Canterbury center was traumatic, but that you are now in a better position to take care of yourself and to be looked after.

We went through this with my mother, and the last ten years of her life was in a residential center where she was very happy, very mobile, and very active in every way. Then finally came that time when we had to put her into the medical center there for her own protection and that of people living around her. In about three years there she deteriorated and finally just slept away about a year and a half ago.

Your spirits sound good, for which I am pleased, and I do hope that you may be able to join us in Las Vegas.

Retired in January and in mid-July my wife and I are moving to Charlotte, NC, where we have purchased a house. Now we are in the midst of packing, condensing, etc. Its always a chore, but most necessary. We have two sons living here in Kalamazoo, but three sons and five grandchildren live in the Charlotte area, so we will continue to be in the midst of family. Also, the winters are much kinder to some of my wife's bronchial problems, and I am sick of snow and ice through March, and sometimes into April.

All the best to you, Allan, and I hope we can meet before too long.

Sincerely yours,

Allan Richardson
Westminster - Canterbury Rm. 285
Winchester, Virginia 22601
(703) 665-5991

21 June 1988

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Dear Russ:

Your letter was most welcome and described the situation perfectly. Watching Mary deteriorate and trying to keep up my recovery still leaves me with occassional depression. As you infered, it just takes time.

My summer plans are on hold. The expense of both Mary's and my being here has put a strain on income so I may not accept invitations far afield - Cape Cod, Georgia, Florida, etc. I intend to save for the 306th. I may have told Ed or Mal that I did go to Princeton reunion for my class's 65th and final one. We are all octogenarians and a lot of farewells were in order. My nephew drove me because I am not up to that 260^{mile} drive. Quite a few are from the mid south and North Carolina is favored. Im sure you will be happy there and dont forget to do some serious loafing for a while. If by chance you can detour this was Ill be very happy to see you and your wife. Otherwise Im keeping my fingers crossed for Las Vegas.

All the very best Russ.

Allan

Allan Richardson
Westminster - Canterbury Rm. 285
Winchester, Virginia 22601
(703) 665-5991

21 November 1988

Dear Russ:

Here is the questionnaire with as much information as I could recall. In moving here so many things of value were lost or disposed of which I had accumulated over many years.

So sorry time did not permit our having a chat but I realize you were required here and there constantly. But maybe Interstate 81 will bring you this way one of these days.

The Reunion was all I could have wished for. Ed Hennessy was wonderful the way he looked after me, and Willie Williams too. Mal was a great companion. Others constantly went out of their way to speak to me and treat me to an occasional meal. As for next year, my possible attendance in Little Rock will depend on health and Mary. With such pleasant nostalgia from Las Vegas I look forward to it.

My thanks to all of you for a fine Reunion.

Sincerely,

Allan

VIRGINIA

OBITU

W. WINCHESTER STAR 4/23/90
MAYOR **Allan B. Richardson**

Allan Barbour Richardson, 90, of Winchester, died Sunday in Winchester Medical Center.

Mr. Richardson was born July 7, 1899, in Park Ridge, Ill., the son of Frederick and Josephine Wells Richardson. His father, a watercolorist, was a distinguished illustrator of children's books.

Mr. Richardson was a photographer and worked for Bachrach in New York, where he was the studio's premier wedding photographer. He later free-lanced, specializing in photo illustrations for national magazines, and he taught photography and visual arts at New York's Brearley School.

He served in the Royal Canadian Flying Corps during World War I and was an Air Force veteran of World War II. He was a 1923 graduate of Princeton and served as class secretary for the last 10 years. He retired in 1968 and lectured, exhibited, and taught photography in the Shenandoah Valley. He was a member of First Church of Christ Scientist, served on the board of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and was a board member of Preservation of Historic Winchester.

He married Mary Hyde on June 23, 1937, in New York.

Surviving with his wife are two children from a previous marriage, Joan R. Whittaker of Ogden, Utah, and Peter Richardson of Woodbridge; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be at noon Tuesday in Christ Episcopal Church with the Rev. David Knight and George Terndrup officiating. Interment will be in Mount Hebron Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First Church of Christ Scientist, 203 S. Braddock St., Winchester 22601, or to the Living Memorial Fund of Christ Episcopal Church, 134 W. Boscawen St., Winchester 22601.

Arrangements are being handled by Omps Funeral Home.

died 4/22/90

LEWIS H. HYDE
PERSONAL REP

218 S. Washington St
Winchester, Va
22601

member of the class of
1923

WINCHESTER STAR
4/23/90