

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

December 6, 1986

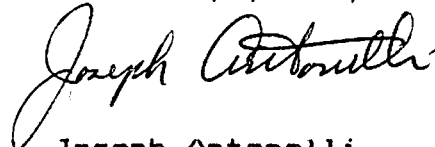
Dear Mr. Strong,

Please accept my apologies for taking so long in responding to your request regarding my late brother, Daniel. I have enclosed a couple of photographs taken during the 1940's. Also enclosed is an article written by a the local newspaper in Orlando Air Force Base, Fla. during Daniel's medal awarding ceremony. It also gives a slight background as to the period from his discharge to the early '60's.

Daniel is survived by two brothers, Joseph and Angelo, four sisters, Mary, Nicholette, Marie and Carmela, his son, Daniel Jr. and two daughters, Terry and Marie. Daniel upon his return to Norwood, Ma served as a policeman for the Westwood Police Department.

I hope that the enclosed materials are helpful to you in your much appreciated efforts in publishing your quarterly newspaper. I would like to request a copy of of the newsletter upon publication. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Antonelli". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Joseph Antonelli
21 Tremont Street
Norwood, Ma. 02062

2 September 1986

Mr. Joseph Antonelli
25 Tremont St.
Norwood, MA 02062

Dear Mr. Antonelli:

I understand that you are the brother of the late Daniel J. Antonelli, who served during WW II with this Bomb Group in England.

At the present time I am preparing for the January issue of our quarterly newspaper a lengthy feature on the events of 11 January 1944, a mission to Halberstadt, during which your brother shot down four attacking German aircraft.

I need more information on your brother, and would appreciate any help you might give.

If a widow survives, perhaps she has some of the information in her possession, thus I would appreciate her present address.

I would also like the date of death, and some brief description of his employment following service, family, and in particular, a copy of the citation for the oak leaf cluster which he received to his Distinguished Flying Cross.

Do you recall if in 1944 any of the Boston newspapers carried stories on his exploits? If copies of these exist, I would appreciate receiving xerox copies. I would also like to obtain the loan of a WWII era picture of him.

If any costs are incurred in supplying any of these materials, I will be happy to reimburse you.

I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong



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Air Force Finally Catches Up With Norwood Sergeant

ORLANDO AIR FORCE BASE (MATS), Fla.—The Air Force has caught up with a Norwood, Mass. Air Force Sergeant, now serving at Orlando Air Force Base, Fla.—to award him six medals earned for an outstanding combat record as a gunner during World War II.

MSgt Daniel J. Antonelli, son of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Antonelli of 21 Tremont Street, Norwood, formally received the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters during a recent parade and review ceremony held at the central Florida Military Air Transport Service base.

Col. Albert M. Welsh, base commander, made the presentations to the airman who compiled an impressive record of destroying five enemy aircraft during 25 combat missions as a B-17 gunner with the 8th Bomber Command in Europe.

During the hectic days of WWII, many Air Force personnel like Sergeant Antonelli distinguished themselves in combat and were given citations for the future award of medals. Rapid demobilization at the end of hostilities resulted in many of these medals not being presented.

"Pleasant Surprise"

To the amazement of administrative personnel recently checking Sergeant Antonelli's service records, it was discovered that he was entitled to the half-dozen decorations.

"It was a pleasant surprise to me too," commented Sergeant Antonelli. "I had almost forgotten about them. I sure appreciate the Air Force's remembering."

Sergeant Antonelli graduated from Norwood High School in 1932. Since entering the Air Force, he has spent over six years of his 14 year active military career overseas. His exceptional combat record was compiled in only one year in Europe in 1943-44. Since that time he has served in France, England and Korea.

Other decorations held by Sergeant Antonelli are the American

Defense Service Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two bronze stars; National Defense Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal with a bronze cluster and four loops, and the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with two bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

The 45-year-old Sergeant has been serving as NCO Club Secre-

tary at Orlando Air Force Base since his return from Korea in the fall of 1953.

He and his wife, the former Alice T. Leonard of Islington, Mass., now reside in Orlando, Fla., with their three children, Alice T., 10; Daniel J., 6, and Donna M., 4.

He is a member of Elks Lodge No. 1124 in Norwood.



NORWOOD WWII ACE DECORATED — MSgt Daniel J. Antonelli (right), son of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Antonelli of 21 Tremont Street, Norwood, receives the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters for a World War II gunnery record of five enemy planes destroyed. Presenting the medals at a recent parade review ceremony held at Orlando Air Force Base, Fla., is Col. Albert M. Welsh (left), base commander.