

BETTINGER, George Clark passed away on February 16, 1992 in Pasadena of Emphysema. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Mary Elizabeth (nee Leonard); his daughters: Karen Talmon-l'Armee and Anne (L. Eugene) Hallsted; two grandchildren, Virginia and Michael Riley; sister, Bette (Case) Hoffman; and mother, Mae Bettinger; plus many nieces and nephews. Mr. Bettinger, born at home, at 36th and Flower in Los Angeles on April 14, 1916, was the son of the late, George E. Bettinger, former Superintendent of the Alhambra School District; and was a life-long resident of Alhambra and San Gabriel. He attended Alhambra High School from 1930-1934, and graduated from the University of Southern California in 1939, after earning a BS in Chemical Engineering. He played football for the Trojans under Howard Jones for three years and participated in the 1938 Hula Bowl. He was also an active member of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity and the Trojan Knights. After Pearl Harbor, Mr. Bettinger joined the Army Air Corps (now Air Force), and went through training to be a B-17 Pilot, becoming a Lieutenant in March 1942. He was a member of the 369th Squadron, 306th Bomber Group, and was shot down over Germany during the second Schweinfurt Raid and imprisoned from October 1943 through May of 1945. He was released by General George Patton and became a member of the Inactive Reserve afterward.

He was a self-employed businessman after the war with varied interests in companies involving frozen orange juice in its early days; aircraft seat making; and life insurance. He was a former member of California Country Club in the City of Industry and had been a member of San Gabriel Country Club since 1980.

In his leisure years he actively enjoyed his golf game, both locally and in his travels, which also included visits to many locations throughout the world.

At his request there will be no services. Burial of ashes will be at sea, assisted by the Neptune Society. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the American Lung Association.

#3 engine ran away
dropped out of formation
#1 engine or fire

Douglas +

Bloch broke collar bone
Wright left leg badly wounded

Bettinger hurt

APRIL 26, 1989

MR. LELAND DOWDEN
4422 MALLARD CREEK CIRCLE
STOCKTON, CA 95207

Dear Leland:

Please forgive me for not answering your Post Card dated March 29, 1989. Between seeing Doctors, doing excersises and the accounting for my C.P.A. to prepare our income taxes for 1988, I put everything else aside.

Your Book arrived, but like everything else, I put it aside also. I am now trying to catch up on correspondence, that arrived during the period from Jan. 1 thru April 17.

I have enclosed 5 photocopies of the picture you sent to me. I am NO. 3, Tex Marish is No. 2, and Charles Schoolfield is No. 9. I recognized a couple of other faces but I can't remember their names.

I flew overseas with Schoolfield as his Co-Pilot. When we arrived at the 369th Squadron, I, for reasons unknown, was reassigned to Tex Marish as his Co-Pilot, where I stayed, until I as assigned my own Plane as 1st pilot.

I found Schoolfield's address in the roster I recieved, but I couldn't find Tax Marish's name listed. Perhaps Charlie Schoolfield will remember some of the other names. His address, as listed in my roster, is Box 186, Seligman, AZ, 86337.

If you write to him, please say hello, from me. As with so many things, I have not written to anyone in the 369th.

Best regards,



GEORGE C. BETTINGER

4 May 1989

Mr. George C. Bettinger
8444 Sheffield Road
San Gabriel, CA 91775

Dear George:

I am doing some work on a second edition of First Over Germany.

At the time I was writing the original manuscript I had no contact with you or any member of your crew. Therefore, I am writing to ask if you can fill me in on some of the details of 14 October 1943:

What happened to your plane? Flak, fighters, or both. When did you disappear from the formation and what was going on?

How did people get out of the plane? Who was hurt and what had happened to them? What happened to all of you on the ground?

I know that Elbert S. Wood, Jr., your navigator, was killed.

As a reminder, I am enclosing a copy of the missing air crew report, and a copy of the formation check list. In what position was your plane flying?

Any assistance you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(A/c)
NAME: GEORGE C. BETTINGER
(BATTALION COMMANDER CO. "A")

Pilot class: 42J

Graduation site: RANKIN AERO ACADEMY
TULARE, CA

The pilot's class may be a 42- , 43- , or 44-
with a letter appended to the number, or you
may have only a date.

His mother kept a scrapbook of his
entire war experience thru
photos + clippings! Wouldn't have
had a clue w/o it! We enjoy all the news —
ABH