

May 27, 1991

Dear Russ:

I have a couple of items that perhaps you can help me with.

In the October 1990 Echoes (page 9) there was a small article headed "Purple Heart" that provided information concerning how to apply for membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Several months ago I forwarded a copy of my Citation, along with a letter requesting an application form, to the name and address shown but have received no response. It has occurred to me that I should have sent some money to cover expenses, although the article did not mention it. Do you have any further information or suggestions?

I would also appreciate very much if you would check and see if you ever received any data on the February 1, 1945 mission to Mannheim (request pending). I was hospitalized immediately upon landing after that mission with unbearable pain and total loss of hearing in both ears. This condition was brought on by my inability to clear my ears as we let down in preparation for landing. My pilot, Pete Cation, tried to help by increasing altitude but this still didn't clear them. I was in the hospital for approximately three weeks before returning to Thurleigh. My hearing was never restored to normal and gradually deteriorated over the years until I finally was forced to start wearing a hearing aid in 1970 (should have started 20 years earlier but for foolish pride).

I filed a routine claim with the V.A. in 1946 but was turned down because of "no evidence of service connection" based on incomplete records at that time. I put the issue aside in disgust and just tried to make the best of the situation. Recently, when my latest (\$1000.00) hearing aid played out, I reluctantly decided to reopen my old claim with the V.A.

I apologize for burdening you with this pitiful tale but only offer it in explanation for needing documentary information about this particular mission. It is my hope and expectation that my pilot and crew made some report of this during de-briefing (I was unable to attend).

Incidentally, do you happen to know how I might obtain my medical records from Thurleigh and the Station Hospital to which I was sent? Also, how about Squadron (369th) records pertinent to this matter?

Russ, thanks for your help in this instance and for all you have done for the 306th gang.

Sincerely,

Max
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