

17 March 1986

Mr. Loren Carter
Box 3044
Chatsworth, CA 91313

Dear Loren:

Prior to receiving the copy of the story on the "insurance" refund, I had read about it in the newspaper. But, today I was talking with another 306th veteran who works for the VA in Washington, and he confirms that the story is a hoax.

It has been circulating off and on for 25 years, but the only dividends paid on GI insurance are for those policies which are today in force. I receive an annual dividend, which today is enough to cover my premiums, because I have never dropped my GI insurance. I do not have to make application for it, it just comes along in the mail about the first of May each year.

You can be sure that if such a dividend were to be paid to all WWII veterans it would be amply publicized in every newspaper in the land. But it just isn't so.

Sorry, but I can't use it in Echoes, although I have seen it in one of the 8th AF group newspapers.

Thanks for writing.

Sincerely yours,

NEWS RELEASE

INSURANCE REFUND FOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

WASHINGTON--

A bill was passed in Congress recently which will give all World War II veterans a dividend of \$.65 per \$1000.00 of their G.I. Insurance for each month of service. This refund is due regardless of whether or not the insurance is still carried. The dividend cannot be received unless it is requested.

The Veterans Administration is urging all World War II veterans to apply, regardless of whether any insurance was held. The Veterans Administration will check for eligibility. The refunds are not going to make anyone rich, but a couple hundred dollars is always nice. For example: a veteran who had \$10,000.00 in insurance would be entitled to dividends as follows: 12 months, \$78.00; 24 months, \$156.00; 36 months, \$234.00; and 48 months, \$312.00.

Please send your name, social security number, address, service serial number, date of entry into the service, and your date of discharge from the service to:

WORLD WAR II INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PROCESSOR
VETERANS CENTER
P. O. BOX 8079
PHILADELPHIA, PA 10101

This bill has not been publicized, so please spread the word.

This notice was received by Loren Carter, Box 3044, Chatsworth, CA 91313, on February 21, 1986.

Box 3044
Chatsworth, CA 91313-3044

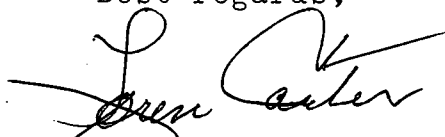
February 24, 1986

Dear Russ,

Enclosed is a notice from someone at the VFW post that I belong to in Anza, California.

Since it applies to all ex-GIs, I think that you can alert more people than anyone about this. It's a pleasant surprise this time.

Best regards,



Loren Carter

Loren Carter

Monday 6-29-92

Hi, Russ,

In 1944 one Sunday after a mission two B-17s collided over Thurleigh air base, killing all crewmen and dropping debris over the eastern end of the east-west runway. I was almost directly below the collision on my bicycle. Pieces of planes and bodies were falling all around me, so I left the area as fast as I could. The 306th Echoes, in one edition in 1991, ran a picture of that incident. I would like to get 5 or 6 copies of that issue of the 306th Echoes. Is it possible to do so? If so, would you send them to me. I will pay for the cost of the papers. If there is any charge for them, please send me a bill, and I will pay it at once.

Everything is OK in this sector.

Sincerely,

Loren Carter
Box 3044
Chatsworth, CA 91313-3044

16-2
Copies / 1 Jul 92

monday august 9, 1993

russell a. strong
secretary / editor
5323 cheval place
charlotte, nc 28205

dear russ,

my typewriter is wounded, no upper case.

i need your help. at thurleigh a had a friend in the 423rd bomb squadron. his name was harold e. claytor. when we returned to the usa after the war, we met in hollywood, california. later he married my sister. they had two daughters, my nieces. mickey, as we called him, and my sister are both dead. the reason for this message are my nieces. they never knew their father.

i want as much information as you can provide about harold e. claytor, of the 423rd bombe suadron. any information about him will appreciated very much.

i need his birth date, his birth place, anything about his family, his social security number, his army serial number, where can i get a copy of his birth certificate, a copy of his army discharge, all, or any other information about him. my nieces would like to know all about their father, my friend, and brother-in-law.

thanks in advance for any help that you can provide for me.

sincerely,

mr. loren carter
box 3044
chatsworth, ca 91313-3044

i was in the 369th bomb squadron.
i truly enjoy the 306th echoes.

16 August 1993

Dear Loren:

Your letter of 9 August poses a few interesting problems. I do think that with a bit of correspondence you can probably solve them.

Here is all that I know about HAROLD E. CLAYTOR. He was with the original Group at Wendover, and his serial # was 19060635. He was assigned to the 423rd squadron, was an assistant crew chief and worked at one time on the engine change crew. He was a tech sergeant at the time he left the 306th. He may have become a crew chief. I just don't know.

I think you have to begin with a death certificate. You know where he died, I assume, and have at least an approximate date. You will need to write to the county clerk in the county where he died and ask for a death certificate. They will need to know date of death, or approximate, your relationship to the deceased, and ask how much the charge will be, and then send them a check for the proper amount. You probably ought at the same time to pursue a death certificate for your sister, especially if they died in the same place. This should tell you place of birth, his parents, and date of birth. It may also include his social security number.

Go to your local public library and ask the reference librarian for help. She will be able to help you with addresses, perhaps fees for certificates, etc. If you know where he died, you may want to contact the undertaker there who served the family, as he may well have a substantial amount of information obtained from the family at that time. The library there ought to be able to supply you with a copy of an obituary for Harold.

You need to check into your pieces' birth certificates, as they may contain a bit of information that would be useful. The American Legion where he died may also be helpful in assisting you. Did he belong to the Legion or DAV?

Talk with the librarian about where to poke around for the Social Security number. Once you have this you can approach the Veterans Administration for any data they may have. Did he possibly go to college after the war? Colleges have lots of information on former students, and can be approached through the alumni office.

Once you begin to unravel things, you may want to check into his baptismal certificate, if possible; any high school records, etc. It was not unusual for people to have their discharge certificates recorded by the country clerk after they settled in after the war. Check into this.

Perhaps you can also find out who were the executors for his estate and for your sister's estate. Such a person should be able to lead you to data.

If he lived in California you may be able to drive to the right place and do a lot of the work first hand.

When I write for such things, I am always profuse in my thanks for triubling them, and also enclose a stamped, addressed reply envelope. This makes them think you are serious and also considerate. Don't make someone else pay the postgge.

Keep me posted. I will want Harold's date and place of death. I am also interested in how quickly and how much data you can put together.

All the best,

friday

september 10, 1993

hi, russ,

after using the post office box in chatsworth, ca for over 30 years i have changed to tarzana, ca, nearer to where i now live. when i first began at chatsworth, the post office was at one end of a feed and tack store. horses were more important than mail in those days, and they still are. chatsworth is the last outpost of horse country in the san fernando valley. when i first used the post office box a cowboy named roy rogers had the box next to mine. at that time, he and his wife, dale evans, were the honorary comayors of chatsworth, he had a huge ranch there at the foot of the santa susanna mountains. my wife and i would go to roy's shooting range area on sundays, and shoot skeet, along with many of the movie cowboys and others from the film industry.

my old post office box number.....

mr. loren carter box 3044
chatsworth, ca 91313-3044

the new number.....

mr. loren carter
box 571624
tarzana, ca 91357-1624
phone number is 818 996-2022

i guess that you can use this info for the new directory next year, and for your records. this change is permanent.

i sent copies of your letter to my nieces, the daughters of harold e. claytor. i explained to them that time was of the essence. i told them to send their information either to me, or directly to you. let's see what happens. the ball is in their court.

thank you for your assistance, i will help you in any way that i can.

we still keep 'em flying,

loren



The Eighth Air Force Historical Society

ARTHUR E. SWANSON
65 Beddington Lane
Strasburg, PA 17579

Russ, since this poor fellow is from the 306th,
thought you might want to know about his
desperate circumstances.

February 22, 1994

AES

Mr. Loren Carter
P. O. Box 571624
Tarzana, CA 91357-1624

Dear Loren:

We were sorry to hear of the difficulties you are experiencing and appreciate hearing from you.

The Board of Directors has authorized me to let you know we are extending to you a Sustaining Membership in our Society, and you will not be receiving any more Dues Notices.

Should your circumstances change and you wish to make a financial contribution to our Memorial Fund, we would be glad to hear from you.

Continue to enjoy our 8AF NEWS and know that in the spirit of what our organization is all about, this is our way of saying "thanks" for the contribution you made for your country and The Eighth Air Force. We are proud to have you as a Member of our Society.

Most sincerely,

Arthur E. Swanson
Finance Manager

friday 2-11-94

gentlemen,

please cancel me out of your organization. i am one hundred per cent disabled, i exist on my social security in a retirement home, i am an amputee, i have no money, even for haircuts, toothpaste, shaving needs, etc.

sorry that i cannot help you.

sincerely,

mr. loren carter
box 571624
tarzana, ca 91357-1624

CARTER, Loren E.

Fourth of July, 1994

Hi, Russ,

Enclosed is a copy of a monthly newsletter issued by the VFW post where I hold a life membership. Anza, California is located in the Mojave Desert, about as far from civilization as possible to move. Utter desolation surrounds this portion of nothingness. I thought that you might enjoy reading this letter. It is quite similar to many others from various parts of the United States.

When we were at Thurleigh I worked with a young man who sort of adopted me. Off and on after the war we wrote to each other, maintaining contact. He died several years ago, but his wife now corresponds with me. I think that she should be entitled to receive 306th Echoes, and be included in our directory.

His name was: Robert W. Barr

and he was attached to 369th Bomb Squadron.

His wife's name and address are:
Phyllis Barr
8013 Karr Street
Chatanooga, TN 37421

and 10 July 94

Maybe you can contact her and try to help her with this situation.

I notice that you ever so busy with Group matters, etc

Thank you for your assistance.

Adios, for now, buddy. Good luck in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Loren Carter

P.S.

It seems that all they do at this post, and most others like it, is eat and drink. Much like wartime, heldover.

May 8, 1995

Mr. Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Russ,

I just received the April, 1995 issue of 306th Echoe

I have a dear friend from Bedford, who now lives in Texas. Her sister, who still lives in Bedford, is the mother of a child fathered by Hassel Richardson, whose picture is on page 6 of the April, 1995 issue of the 306th Echoes. I have been trying since the end of the war to get any information possible about Hassel, who I knew.

I would like to send copies of this issue of the Echoes to the family of that boy and his mother, as well as my friend in Texas. I am sure that they will be delighted to receive that paper.

Please send me five copies of the April, 1995 issue 306th Echoes, if you will. Also, send me a bill for the merchandise. Thank you in advance.

My best regards to you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Loren Carter
Box 571624
Tarzana, CA 91357-1624

May 26, 1988

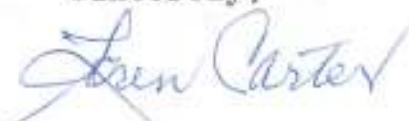
Dear Russ,

I am interested in locating Hassell Richardson, who was in the 369th Bomb Squadron with me at Thurleigh. He was, I believe, a radio repairman out on the line, which was where I often saw him. I do not find any reference to him in the directory, 1986 edition. It has been so long since I last saw him that anything could have happened to him. I certainly would appreciate anything that you could do to help me locate him, or assist me in determining what has happened to him since WWII.

Thanks in advance for your efforts.

My best wishes to you for your own good health and well-being.

Sincerely,



Loren Carter
Box 3044
Chatsworth, CA 91313

February 16, 1988

Please send me one set of 306th ECHOES on microfiche. At \$5 per set, my check for \$5.00 is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Loren Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Loren Carter
Box 3044
Chatsworth, CA 91313-3044