

Noel G. Coughlin, Sr.  
6 Woodhall Lane  
Clifton Park, NY 12065

May 25, 1993

Mr. William Houlihan  
39740 Jylen Road  
Bellville, WI 48111

Dear Mr. Houlihan:

My brother, Lt. John F. (Jack) Coughlin was a pilot with the 368  
Squadron - 306th Bomb Group. He arrived in England in February 1944 and  
was lost on a mission to Oberpfaffenhofen on 24 April 1944.

Some years ago, under the Freedom of Information Act the attached  
information was obtained - I now pass it along for the interest of the  
folks who will be attending your reunion. I also include a couple of  
other items which some of the people may relate to.

The Oberpfaffenhofen of 1944 is, I believe, now referred to only as  
Paffenhofen and is located about 20-25 miles north of Munich on the  
Ilm river.

My very best wishes for a most happy get-together.

Noel G. Coughlin, Sr.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AGFC-3 201 Coughlin, John F.  
(6 Nov 45) 0805405

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

6 November 1945

Mrs. Mary M. Coughlin  
312 West Woodruff Street  
Watertown, New York

Dear Mrs. Coughlin:

Since your husband, First Lieutenant John F. Coughlin, 0805405, Air Corps, was reported missing in action 24 April 1944, the War Department has entertained the hope that he survived and that information would be revealed dispelling the uncertainty surrounding his absence. However, as in many cases, the conditions of warfare deny us such information.

Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended, provides for a review and determination of the status of each person who has been missing in action for twelve months. Accordingly, your husband's case was reviewed and he was continued in the status of missing in action as of 25 April 1945. The law further provides that a subsequent review shall be made whenever warranted. Upon such subsequent review the making of a finding of death is authorized.

All available records and reports concerning the absence of your husband have been carefully investigated and are deemed to warrant a subsequent review of his case. Information in the hands of the War Department indicates that your husband was a crew member of a B-17 bomber which failed to return from a bombing mission to the Munich-Augsburg area of Germany. The plane was last seen in the vicinity of Augsburg. It had been badly damaged by enemy fire and was compelled to leave the formation. No trace has been found of the bomber or its missing crew members.

Since no information has been received which would support a presumption of his continued survival the War Department must now terminate your husband's absence by a presumptive finding of death. Accordingly, an official finding of death has been recorded. The finding does not establish an actual or probable date of death; however, as required by law, it includes a presumptive date of death for the purpose of termination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts and payment of death gratuities. In the case of your husband this date has been set as 6 November 1945.

# INDIVIDUAL FLIGHT RECORD

(1) SERIAL NO. D-809,05 (2) NAME CORRELLIE JOEL (3) RANK 2nd Lt. (4) AGO 1914  
 (5) PERL. CLASS 01 (6) BRANCH AG (7) STATION 111<sup>th</sup> AFH AF  
 (8) ORGANIZATION ASSIGNED 8th (9) ORGANIZATION ATTACHED 1st  
 (10) PRESENT RATING & DATE Pilot 6/30/40 (11) ORIGINAL RATING & DATE Same  
 (12) TRANSFERRED FROM \_\_\_\_\_ (13) FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS None  
 (14) TRANSFER DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PERL. CLASS	NAME	BIO.	A. F.	COMMAND	WING	GROUP				SQUADRON		STATION	NO.	PL.	(17) MONTH	YEAR
						NO.	TYPE	NO.	TYPE	NO.	TYPE					

DAY	AIRCRAFT TYPE, MODEL & SERIAL	NO. LAUNCHES	FLYING HOURS (incl. in 15 min. time)	COMMAND PILOT C. CA.	CO-PILOT C. P.	QUANT. PILOT DUAL OR	PILOT PILOT		BASED PERL.			NON BASED		SPECIAL INFORMATION					
							DAY	NIGHT P. H. OR H.	NON-PILOT	OTHER (SERV. & SERVICE) HOURS	OTHER (SERV. & SERVICE) HOURS	REMARKS	REMARKS	REMARKS	REMARKS				
1	B-17																		
2	"																		
3	"																		(Aborted)
4	"																		(Combat)
5	"																		(Abandoned)
6	"							3:25											(Combat)
11	"							9:00											(Combat)
15	"							2:15											(Combat)
16	"							2:10											(Combat)
17	"							9:00											(Combat)
18	"							3:10											(Combat)
19	"							4:05											(Combat)
20	"							7:15											(Aborted)
22	"							3:10											(Combat)
26	"							4:15											(Combat)
27	"							7:25											(Combat)
28	"							7:00											(Abandoned)
30	"							2:15											(Abandoned)
31	"							2:10											(Abandoned)
29	"							1:50											(Abandoned)
13	COMB.																		1:30
21	IE																		1:30
25	IE																		1:00

*Robert G. Williams*  
 ROBERT G. WILLIAMS,  
 1 Lt., Colonel, AG,  
 Operations Officer,  
 306th Bomb. Sq. (H).

137) THIS MONTH	142) TOTAL STUDENT PILOT TIME	143) TOTAL BASED PILOT TIME	144) TOTAL NON-BASED PILOT TIME
138) PREVIOUS MONTHS THIS F. Y.			
139) THIS FISCAL YEAR			
140) PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS			
141) TO DATE			

AIRCRAFT	NO.	CARD NO. 1						CARD NO. 2					
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30



# INDIVIDUAL FLIGHT RECORD

(1) SERIAL NO. 0-805105 (2) NAME COUGHLIN JOHN (3) RANK 2nd Lt. (4) AOS 1316  
 (5) PERS. CLASS 01 (6) BRANCH AG (7) STATION 306th (8) APO 557  
 (9) ORGANIZATION ASSIGNED 306th (10) ORGANIZATION ATTACHED 1st  
 (11) PRESENT RATING & DATE P106 6/30/53 (12) TRANSFERRED FROM  
 (13) TRANSFERRED TO  
 (14) TRANSFER DATE  
 (15) ORIGINAL RATING & DATE Same  
 (16) FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS None  
 (17) TRANSFER DATE

DAY	AIRCRAFT TYPE, MODEL & SERIES	FLIGHT NO.	PILOT	TO PILOT	QUANT. OF DUAL	FIRST PILOT DATE	NON-PILOT	NON-RATED		REMARKS	
								TIME	REMARKS		
5	B-17	1				1:30				(Combat)	
11	"	1				2:15				(Abandoned)	
12	"	1				2:25				(Abandoned)	
13	"	1				1:45					
14	"	1			2:00						
14	"	1			2:25						
15	"	1				3:45					
18	"	1				8:50				(Combat)	
19	"	1				7:20				(Combat)	
20	"	1				3:50				(Combat)	
21	"	1				2:00					
23	"	2				1:50				(are)	
23	"	1				3:25				(are)	
24	MISSING IN ACTION										
6	COMB.										1:00
2	COMB.										1:30
23	LS										1:00
CLOSED											
CERTIFIED CORRECT											
<i>Robert K. Clavin</i> Major C. WILLIAMS 1st Lt. Colonel, AG Operations Officer 306th Bomb Op (H)											
COLUMN TOTALS		4:25		47:55							
(42) TOTAL STUDENT PILOT TIME				(43) TOTAL FIRST PILOT TIME							
(47) THIS MONTH				47:55							
(48) PREVIOUS MONTHS THIS F. Y.				208:35							
(49) THIS FISCAL YEAR				256:30							
(50) PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS		274:20									
(51) TO DATE		274:30		256:30							

# Lieut. John F. COUGHLIN LOST

Co-Pilot of Another Plane in Squadron Tells of Flight

## WATERTOWN FLIER LAST SEEN BAILING OUT OF HIS PLANE

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Coughlin Believed Prisoner of Germans—No Announcement Yet by War Department.

First Lieut. John Francis Coughlin, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Coughlin, 744 Gotham street, and husband of Mrs. Mary Margaret Murphy Coughlin, 312 West Woodruff street, pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber with the Eighth Air Force in England, has been unofficially listed as missing in action over Germany, according to a letter received by his wife.

The letter came to Mrs. Coughlin from a co-pilot of another fortress stationed in England. His brother was a co-pilot to Lieutenant Coughlin on the B-17 bomber. The letter stated that he believed that both his brother and Lieutenant Coughlin had bailed out safely and might be prisoners of war.

The letter said in part: "Jack and my brother went down today, but it is reported that the whole crew was seen to bail out of their planes, which means they are safe, though it may mean they are prisoners of war."

The last letter Mrs. Coughlin received from her husband was on April 22 from England.

On March 27, Lieutenant Coughlin was awarded the air medal by the Eighth Air Force commander, Gen. Jimmy Doolittle. The last word received from Lieutenant Coughlin by his wife stated that he had completed twelve bombing missions. He had also been awarded oak leaf clusters to the air medal, and a citation from the general.

Lieutenant Coughlin, former employe of the New York Air Brake company, was inducted into the U. S. army July 22, 1942. At Fort Niagara, he chose to become an aviation cadet and started his flying career at Nashville, Tenn. He received the wings of a pilot at Turner Field, Albany, Ga., June 30, 1943. Mrs. Coughlin was present at his graduation ceremonies.

# Lieut. Coughlin Died At Munich; Bomber Set Afire by Enemy



Lieut. John F. Coughlin

Official Word of Death Received Here—Officer Worked to Let Rest of Crew Bail Out.

In an effort to keep his burning B-17 Flying Fortress in the air long enough to allow the rest of his crew to bail out, First Lieut. John Francis Coughlin, 27, husband of Mrs. Mary Margaret Murphy Coughlin, 312 West Woodruff street, met death when the flaming bomber crashed to the earth near Munich, Germany, on April 24, 1944.

After more than a year, Mrs. Coughlin finally received official notice that her husband was dead, after he had been in the "missing in action" archives of the war department since April, 1944. The letter, sent by the adjutant general's office, Washington, D. C., officially listed him as dead.

However, Mrs. Coughlin also received a letter from a crew member of her husband's plane, which described the action in which Lieutenant Coughlin died.

The officer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Coughlin, 744 Gotham street, was based in England with the Eighth Air Force. He left on a bombing mission over Munich on the morning of April 24, 1944 with his crew of ten men that man a B-17. They completed their mission, according to the crewman's letter, and then headed back to their base.

However, on the way over Germany, a hail of flak met the plane and it burst into flames. Then, 18 German fighter planes opened up on the crippled B-17, inflicting more damage to the craft. It is believed that Lieutenant Coughlin was wounded during the machine-gunning, but he did not let his men know it.

He kept kidding the crew members on the earphones and ordered them to bail out, the crewman wrote Mrs. Coughlin.

"He kept up the kidding to keep up his crew's morale while he and his co-pilot tried to keep the burning plane on an even keel so that the crew could bail out," the serviceman wrote. "Six of us made it all right out of the plane. On the way down, one of the crew's chutes failed to open and he died. Five of us made it to the ground. Your husband, his co-pilot and the crew chief went down when the plane crashed." Lieutenant Coughlin had never seen his daughter, Kathryn Ann, born on Sept. 3, 1944.

He then went to Sebring, Fla. where he attended transition school, which qualified him to become the pilot of a Flying Fortress.

In September, 1943, he came to this city on leave. On Sept. 1943, he married the former Miss Mary Margaret Murphy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Murphy, 312 West Woodruff street. She was formerly employed by the New York Telephone company.

The couple was married in the St. Patrick's church by Rev. John L. Plunkett, pastor of the church. Following their marriage, they resided at Pyote, Tex., where Lieutenant Coughlin was stationed.

Believing that her husband would go overseas soon, Mrs. Coughlin returned to this city last January to reside with her parents. Lieut. Coughlin went overseas Feb. 4, 1944.

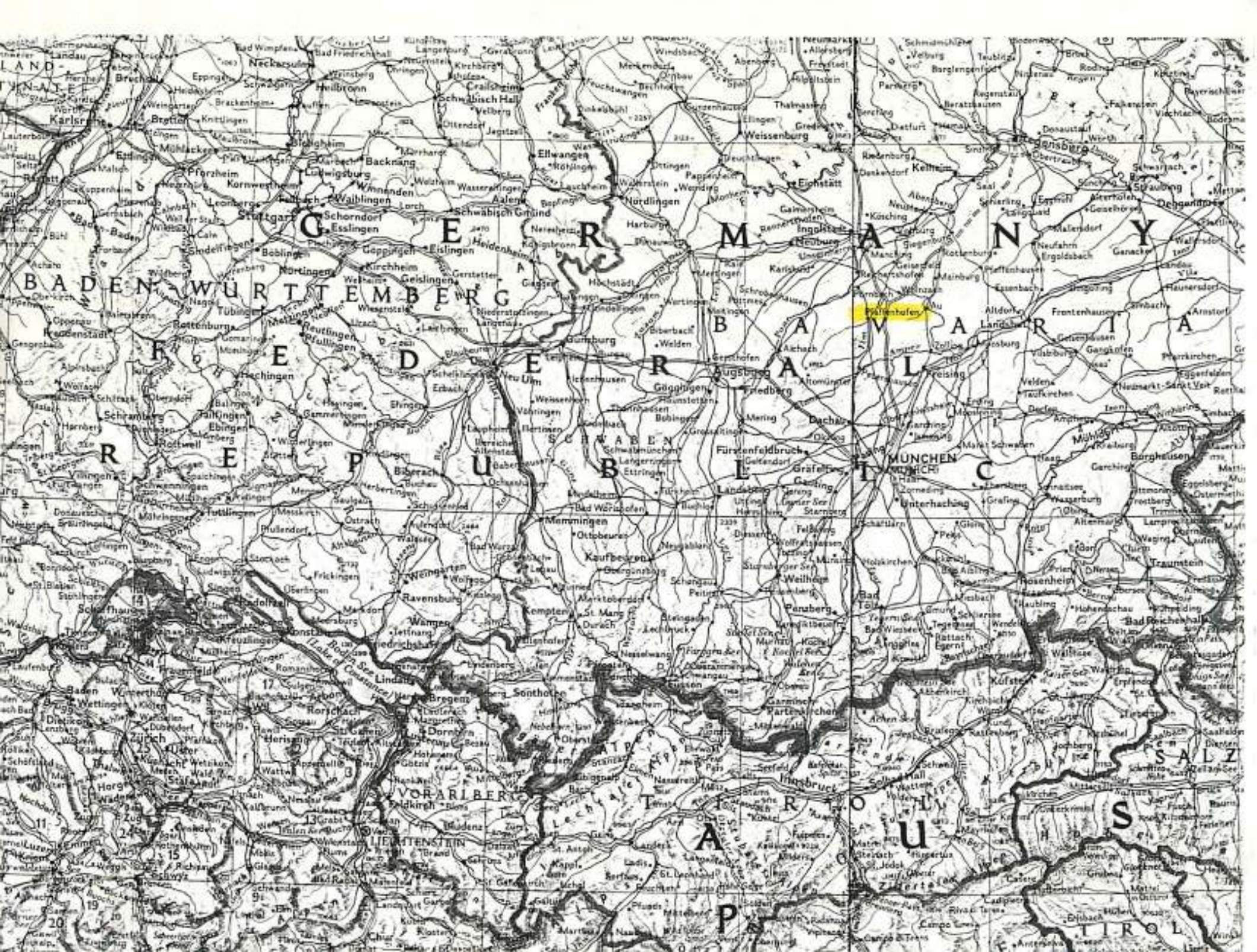
He was a former employe of the New York Air Brake company. Inducted into the army on July 22, 1942, he chose the air corps and became an aviation cadet, starting his flying career at Nashville, Tenn. He received the wings of a pilot at Turner field, Albany, Ga., June 30, 1943. Mrs. Coughlin was present at his graduation ceremonies.

He then went to Sebring, Fla., where he attended transition school, which qualified him to become the pilot of a B-17. In September, 1943, he came to this city on leave. On Sept. 2, 1943, he married the former Miss Mary Margaret Murphy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Murphy, 312 West Woodruff street. She was formerly employed by the New York Telephone company.

The couple was married in St. Patrick's church by Very Rev. John L. Plunkett, pastor of the church. Following their marriage, they resided at Pyote, Tex., where Lieutenant Coughlin was stationed. Mrs. Coughlin returned to Watertown in January, 1944, when Lieutenant Coughlin received his overseas orders. He went overseas on Feb. 4, 1944.







BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

GERMANY

BAVARIA

REPP

SCHWABEN

MÜNCHEN

VORARLBERG

TIROL

SALZBURG

19

17

15

13

11

9

7

5

3

1