

55 Winston Crescent  
Biggleswade  
Bedfordshire  
SG18 0HB  
England  
Tel: (01767) 220314  
E-mail: chris.harding@net.ntl.com

10<sup>th</sup> April 1999

Dear Russell,

Further to your letter, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1999, which we received today. Please find enclosed a list of all the information we have managed to find out about Rudolph Garcia. We started looking for him at the end of January 1999 with only a name and an approximate area where he was based. As you will see we have paid to have 2 searches done on him, neither of them came back with any conclusive information but we have tried just about every avenue that we can think of and we are now, slowly, running out of ideas. His photo was in the October 1998 edition of Echoes, <sup>top</sup>bottom picture, right hand, side 4<sup>th</sup> from the right, in the front row, in front on the MP. (Or man with the cap)

I have sent you a copy of the capture report, as you will see he is not mentioned!!! We also have a copy of the mission report for that day, 18<sup>th</sup> November 1942, but it is about 7 pages long and there is not very much relevant information on it about the crew or crash. We have had someone look for POW records for him but there isn't any. There is no Missing Air Crew Report either. We can only surmise that he wasn't captured or escaped before they made it to a camp and, in fact, made it back to the UK, even though he is not on the records showing these details. We have had a Military search done but there were no records found, there were apparently "Lost in the Fire" but we were told by someone else that only those records from "H" onwards were lost????!!!! We have no idea what's going on.

It really is a mystery what happened to him after the plane went down, we have spoken to the only living crew member, Don Eldredge the Co-pilot, and he claims that Garcia was on the plane and they were all together when they were sent to Brest hospital and later on the train journey. But after that he has no recollection. Any ideas or help would be greatly appreciated now as we have really run out of ideas.

Thanking you in anticipation

Chris & Mandy Harding

GARCIA



### **Details collected to Sgt Rudolph Garcia**

Airforce serial number: 18060087, reported for service 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1942

Ball-turret gunner on "Floozy" Tail number 41-24474

306<sup>th</sup> BG, 367<sup>th</sup> BS, but we believe they were flying for the 369<sup>th</sup> on that day

From Minnesota, we have no idea what part.

Shot down on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1942 after bombing raid in La Pallice, France, hit by flak, came down in the English Channel, picked up by French fishing boat, the crew gave the fishermen there money and 5 minutes later the German coast guard picked them up.

Lester Quandt was knocked out of his turret and wounded by machine gun fire. We believe he married a lady called Hilda (But we are not sure)

**Death search:** came up with 7 Rudolph Garcia's born between 1917-1922.

We have written to all the next of kin, nothing has come back. We can only guess that they were not the correct ones.

**Live search:** Came up with 3 Rudolph Garcias born between 1917-1922, one was already on the Death Search. One had his telephone disconnected so he had either passed away or moved. And the third had the following details and 3 addresses.

**SSN: 451-24-6692**

**DOB: 11/03/1920**

**RR1, Stillwater, PA, 17878-9801** (This should have a box number as part of the address, the date we have for here is 09/1989 & 2/1992, another search company searched and found him at this address in 1999)

**RR 213, Box 957, 09175** ( This is a military zip code which we have traced to Germany, the date we have for here is 12/1996 & 02/1996)

**215 N Greene street, Bloomsburg, PA, 17878** ( This address doesn't exist, dates for this address are 12/1996 & 2/1996)

We have written to the top 2 addresses, we have also done a search on the Internet and found a Rudolph Garcia in Darmstadt, Germany and we have today posted a letter to him. Also letters have gone to every 10 houses on RR1, Stillwater and one to just Rudolph Garcia RR1, Stillwater, PA with no box number (top address) Also the military address, and the doctors office said they had an address, though they didn't know if it was still relevant but they would forward a letter to him. We are going to send one to the Social Security Administration Office and ask them to pass a letter on to him. We have also written to Veterans Administration to find out if he has put in a claim for Benefit.

Of course, it may not even be the correct Rudolph Garcia but until we have contacted him we can not eliminate him from the list.

We need to get hold of his discharge papers to find out where he went to after the war or if he stayed in the Air force. We were told that he got sent back to the US in 1943, which would tie up with him getting back to the UK. But this

is not proved, as yet. And as there are no Military records for him making it is a bit difficult to find out.



- 3897** 18.11.42 Boeing B 17  
 Eldredge, Den Herbert 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lt., Erk. Marke 0-661 821, gefg.  
 Conte, Albert S/Sgt., geb. 16.5.19, Erk. Marke 13 041 498, gefg.  
 Gaston, Ralph 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt., geb. 24.10.18, Erk. Marke 0-442 041, gefg.  
 Jones, John Daniels T/Sgt., geb. 29.5.20, Erk. Marke 39 680 000, gefg.  
 Dillard, Joseph Alan Sgt., geb. 3.1.15, Erk. Marke 34 240 908, gefg.  
 Bolinger, Percy Garland S/Sgt., geb. 22.8.16, Erk. Marke 18 034 499, gefg.  
 Walker, James Otey 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt., geb. 2.3.12, Erk. Marke 0-789 839 gefg.  
 Quandt, Lester T/Sgt., Erk. Marke 17013, 111 gefg.  
 Jones 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lt., tot, Lt. aussege des 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Gaston, R,
- 3921** 23.11.42 Boeing B 17  
 Fulghum, Harold Cpt., geb. 5.3.15, Erk. Marke 0-421 211, gefg.  
 Haas, A. H. Lt., tot) lt. aussege des Cpt. Fulghum, H.  
 Gilliam, Lt., tot) lt. aussege des Cpt. Fulghum, H.  
 Eyster, Lt., tot) lt. aussege des Cpt. Fulghum, H.  
 Robinson, Major, tot) lt. aussege des Cpt. Fulghum, H.  
 6 unbekanntete tote.
- 3922** 23.11.42 Boeing B 17 frenzos. Kuste  
 Schicksal der Besatzung unbekannt.
- 3923** 23.11.42 Boeing B 17 frenz. Kuste, Abschuss über See  
 Schicksal der Besatzung unbekannt.
- 3924** 23.11.42 Liberator B 24 frenz. Kuste, Abschuss über See  
 Schicksal der Besatzung unbekannt.
- 3925** 23.11.42 Liberator B 24 frenz. Kuste, Abschuss über See  
 Schicksal der Besatzung unbekannt.
- 3933** 23.11.42 Boeing B 17 Fortress  
 Fryer, Peter Jason 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt., geb. 18.11.21, Erk. Marke 0-660 480, gefg.  
 Burden, Abraham Lincoln 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lt., geb. 15.10.21, Erk. Marke 0-726 121, gefg.  
 Krijak, Robert Cpl., Erk. Marke 32 177 037, tot.  
 Lindsay, David Sgt., Erk. Marke 62 975 448, tot.  
 Kosteki, S/Sgt., Erk. Marke 32 237 976, tot.  
 Houx, George S/Sgt., tot.  
 Buckminster, E., S/Sgt., Erk. Marke 110 159 905, tot.  
 Grenke, Erwin T/Sgt., Erk. Marke 1 3038250, tot.  
 Fulton, Dyer, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lt., tot.  
 Isbell, Clay M. 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt., Erk. Marke 0-438 523, tot.  
 Namen der toten lt. aussege des 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Fryer, P. J.