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TELEPHONE: 673-0550

Sept. 8, 1981

William M. Collins Jr.
(306th Bomb Group Reunion)
2973 Heatherbrae Drive
Poland, Ohio 44514

Dear Mr. Collins,

How could you have a reunion without the Red Cross girl? Who's going to bring the donuts? In fact, I didn't even hear about the reunion at Thurleigh, but saw a picture of it not too long ago. No names, and I had only a brief look, so I didn't recognize anyone. Everyone seems to have changed; I still feel the same.

I was the director of the Red Cross Club at the Thurleigh air base from October, 1943, to nearly Christmas, 1944. I came just before the Schweinfurt raid. You were there then, too, weren't you? Your name is familiar.

I was married in Bedford to my newspaper co-worker from Columbus, Ohio. He was then an American Military Government officer waiting for the invasion crossing. We went back to Thurleigh last year, but couldn't get on the base. However, a nice lady in town invited us for a proper English tea.

My husband and I live in California. We started the Ensign newspaper here in 1948, and retired almost 4 years ago after almost 30 years of 'round-the-clock toil. We will be leaving Sept. 18 for Minnesota and points east. We probably won't see much of Ohio, although Warren is my birthplace, and I am an Ohio Wesleyan graduate, and worked on the Citizen in Columbus. We will be driving east from Minnesota before the reunion.

We saw the reunion notice in the September VFW Magazine. I'd like to hear more about the plans for the get-together, just in case our driving schedule is changed. I am enclosing a postcard addressed to my sister's home in New York state, where I will be the first of October and a few days thereafter. I'd appreciate it if you will send me the reunion details.

Happy reunion,

Peg Haapa
PEG PERGANDE HAAPA
Former American Red Cross
Club Director, 306th Bomb Group,
Thurleigh, England

California address:

Mrs. Arvo E. Haapa
710 Jasmine Avenue
Corona del Mar, Calif. 92625

Phone: (714) 644-8608

(We probably won't be home until the end of October.)

14 December 1994

Dear Peg:

I am now following up on that reunion conversation of several years, occasioned by the death in November of Col. Robinson, and the arrival yesterday of a box of pictures from his daughter. In among them were a couple of Red Cross people.

That forced me to get my Red Cross file out, so I have copied all of the pictures, identified the few that I could, and send these copies along to you for your help.

I am hopeful that in the next couple of months you will return more identifications and a story about the Red Cross at Thurleigh.

Tonight I located Dr. Seaman for the first time because of a note on the back of the Cookson ~~papers~~, which directed my search to California. Strangely, his second wife's name is also Frances.

Mim Smith died in 1991, according to her daughter. I talked with her several times while she was in the States. Her husband is a Navy officer and they are currently living in Tokyo. a

I will put information on the Red Cross gals in my 306th file, so I am enclosing a bit of a biographical form for you.

Look forward to hearing from you,

710 Jasmine Ave.,
Corona del Mar,
California, 92625
March 30, 1996

Dear Russell,

It's true about Banana. I was on the base at the time that the guard challenged him with, "Who goes there?"

The goat didn't even say "N'yaaa", so the guard shot him.

It is NOT true, however, that goat was served that week for the honor crew dinner at the Red Cross Club. It was rabbit. (A little tough, though, as I recall.)

I'm sorry that I haven't answered your kind invitation to send you my "I Showed the Queen to the Latrine" story. I hunted for it and hadn't been able to find it when I ran into a series of health problems. I collapsed and smashed my ankle so that it needed 8 screws and some artificial bone to put it back together. And then they decided my heart stopped to cause the fall, so they put in a pacemaker. A while later my eye operation went bad because of the heart medicine.

I say my latest hobby is putting myself back together. I hope to be good as new before Las Vegas and regret missing Knoxville.

While I was in the hospital I started to rewrite the Queen story, but didn't get too far. Perhaps I can work on it after April 15.

In the meantime.....

I can't believe I don't have a copy of your book, but I can't find it.

Please find a check enclosed for \$60 for your book and postage and please give the rest to the association.

THANKSALOT

Peg

Peg Pergande Haapa
American Red Cross
Club Director

Anyone wishing to attend the
reunion on May 5, 2001, can
write:

Costa Mesa Historical Society
% Santa Ana Army Air Base
P.O. Box 1765
Costa Mesa, California 92628
or call: 949-631-5918

As a former newspaper writer
and publisher, I think you do
a tremendous job keeping us
informed via the Echoes --- even
though there was a slight typo in
my name in the October issue...

We are so lucky to have
you!

Blessings,

Peg Pergande Heaps

710 Jasmine Ave., Corona del Mar, CA (949)644-8668

January 15, 2001

Dear Russ

Congratulations on your plaque
at the San Diego reunion - It
is well deserved.

I know there are several 306-ers
that went through training at the
Santa Ana Air Base and the men
here have wanted me to track
them down (a monumental or
impossible job), but since they
are having a reunion, perhaps
you could include a note in
the "Echoes".

At the end of WWII, the
base became Orange Coast Jr.
College and therefore the reunion
will be at the college.

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CHRONICLE BOOKS





See you in *Memphis*!
Salt Pond, near Wendover, Utah, c. 1947. Ansel Adams. Copyright © by the
Trustees of The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust. Published by Little,
Brown and Company.

August 9, 2001



Dear Russ (and June)

Thanks for your com-
munique. Betty was a
clubmobile gal, so I didn't
know her. However, my doctor's
name is Stroud. Remind me
to ask you about other Kal-
mazon residents.

The more I think about
Emily Ray - she was with the
Redford club and I think the
accident occurred just before I
arrived at Shusleigh.

Incidentally, I think you said
you weren't at Wendover - I wonder
if any of the guys would recognize
this photo of *Blessings, Peg Hoopa*

Russell Strong
5323 Chesel Pt.
Charlotte, N.C.
28205