

June 11, 1990

C. Dale Briscoe  
7829 Timber Top Drive  
Boerne, Texas 78006

Dear Mr. Briscoe:

My assignment to the 306th Bomb Group at Thurleigh (369th) was brief and not particularly important to the Group mission or to the war effort. However, Bombardier Duane Esper befriended me (a tired Army AA Artilleryman from the continent on temporary assignment), and I counted him a good friend. I've tried several times to locate Duane through these intervening years, but unsuccessfully. Perhaps he will respond to your reunion plans.

I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your use. If you have any information on his whereabouts, or any ideas on how I might extend my search, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Thank you for the considerate attention I know you will give this inquiry. I hope the reunion goes well. I was proud to be even a minor and transient part of the Group effort in WWII.

Sincerely yours,

  
Don F. Hanlen

Route 1, Box 1160  
Benton City, Wa. 99320  
(509) 588-4528

*Russ - I have not  
responded - no info on  
Esper. Dale*

26 June 1990

Dear Don:

I regret that I could not answer your letter to Dale Briscoe at an earlier date, but three trips have kept me on the run this month.

In answer to your query about Duane Esper: He was on our mailing list at one time, and then mail was returned. I tried to reach him, but was unsuccessful, and so his name was dropped.

I was told by a West Coaster that Duane was a sportscaster for a Los Angeles TV station for some period of time. But I was never able to produce anything from that lead. I also checked LA areas telephone directories and again came up blank.

Sorry I can't be of further help on this at the present time, but he may rise up once again and join us.

When did you arrive with the 306th? I found your name on some orders or something, and had you in my card file, but did not attach to my data any arrival or departure date.

Intelligence officers are not numerous on our roster. John Bairnsfather died a couple of years ago, Bill Van Norman died last year. We have only Beekman Pool, Ralph Schreiter and Rudy Skalak on the list at the moment, along with some enlisted men who worked in the office. I worked in Public Information for about six weeks in the September/October 44 period, but left and returned to combat when I got bored. I had only five more missions to finish before going home, and that looked more attractive than the promised captaincy.

We are happy to have you with us!