

8-6-92

Hi Russ,

JUST A FEW LINES TO LET YOU KNOW THAT WE MIGHT MAKE IT TO ENGLAND. WE HAD A MEDICAL PROBLEM (FAMILY) AND ^{DIDN'T} GET A CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR THE REUNION UNTILL THIS WEEK. HAD A TIME WITH OUR PASSPORTS. WOULD NOT ACCEPT OUR BIRTH CERTIFICATED BECAUSE THE SEAL WAS NOT PUT ON YEARS AGO. I HAD TO GET A COPY IN MY HOME TOWN & BETTY & I WENT TO GLOVERSVILLE, N.Y. FOR HERS. FINALLY GOT NECESSARY PAPER WORK AND AM WAITING FOR PASSPORTS FROM NEW YORK CITY. HERE'S THE BAD NEWS - THE TOUR IS OVER BOOKED. OVER 400 HAVE SIGNED UP. THE GIRL I TALKED TO PUT US ON THE WAITING LIST. HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE SOME CANCELTATIONS? I HAVE ENCLOSED SOME PICTURES THAT I MADE ON 28" X 22" POSTER BOARD - THERE ARE @ DIFFENT POSTERS OF THE WHOLE GROUP + @ POSTER OF EACH SQUADRON. AS YOU CAN SEE MY PHOTOGRAPHY WORK ISN'T VERY GOOD - BUT THE POSTERS AREN'T TOO BAD. WE WERE IN PITTSBURG LAST SEPT. HAD A GOOD TIME. SURE HOPE WE CAN SOMEHOW MANAGE THE TRIP TO ENGLAND. BUT BEDFORD HAVING ONLY @ HOTELS. THEY ARE BOOKED TO THEIR LIMITS. I WAS ALSO IN THE 367TH - SHOT DOWN SWEINFURT OCT. 14, 43. PILOT WAS W.W. THOMAS (GROUNDED AT THE TIME) REPLACEMENT PILOT WALL BILL BUTLER. WELL RUSS ENJOY YOUR TRIP TO ENGLAND. HOPE MY LUCK MIGHT CHANGE - THAT WE CAN JOIN YOU ALL.

SINCERELY,
Jim & Betty Harris

P.S. KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED FOR US.

12-4-92

Hi Russ,

JUST A FEW LINES TO LET YOU KNOW THAT ED BEAVER PASSED AWAY FRI, NOV 13TH AT HOME. I LOCATED ED JUST TWO WEEKS BEFORE WE LEFT FOR ENGLAND. HIS HOMETOWN IS ONLY 25 MILES FROM LITTLE FALLS. MY FRIEND & I GO UP TO THE RIVERSIDE AIRPORT JUST ABOUT EVERY MORNING. (ABOUT 2-3 MILES FROM HIS HOME.) SO WE LOOKED HIM UP. HE & HIS WIFE STAYED OVER IN ENGLAND ETC FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS. HE SHOWED US (DON & I) HIS SURGERY - WAS CUT FROM HIS UPPER CHEST TO HIS GROIN. HIS DOCTOR TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS COLEN CANCER AND THAT IT WAS TERMINAL. HE SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE THE REUNION IN ENGLAND REGARDLESS. I CONVERSED WITH HIM QUITE OFTE IN LONDON. DON'T KNOW HOW HE MANAGED IT. - "BUT HE DID GO". ED. WAS IN THE 423RD SQDN. I WAS IN THE 367TH P.O.W. OCT, 14, 43 SCHWEINFURT. HE GOT TO ENGLAND IN 1944. WELL RUSS. TAKE IT EASY; IF POSSIBLE. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN SEATTLE NEXT YEAR.

BEST REGARDS TO ALL,
Jim & Betty Harris

1-8-93

DEAR RUSS,

ENCLOSED - CHECK FOR \$5.00. I NEED THE MISSION REPORT FOR THE STUTTGART MISSION (9-6-43). KEN MC CALEB & MARGRET WERE KIND TO MAKE COPIES OF OUR MISSIONS FOR ME. KEN WAS OUR NAVIGATOR. MANY THANKS TO YOU & YOUR WIFE FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO RESEARCH AND TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A TREMENDOUS PROJECT. MY DISCHARGE HAS NO INFO AS TO REGARDS TO WOUNDS ETC. I RECENTLY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE V.A. IN REGARDS TO TAKING THE P.O.W. PROTOCOL PHYSICAL EXAM. I DID TAKE THIS EXAM A FEW YEARS AGO - AND IT WAS A "JOKE". NOW HAVE A SPECIAL QUESTIONER FORM TO FILL OUT AND TAKE TO APPOINTMENT. VERY GOOD QUESTIONS ON THIS FORM. I PRESUME THAT THEY HAD MANY COMPLAINTS AND SOMEONE HAS FINALLY TAKEN SOME ACTION. I FEEL LIKE RETURNING MY P.O.W. MEDAL TO SOMEONE? AND TELL THEM TO STICK IT SOMEWHERE.

VILLACOBLAY 14 JULY 43 FROZE HANDS?

VILLACOBLAY 24 AUG. 43 FROZE FEET? - 10% DISABILITY

BREMEN 8 OCT 43 - HIT FLAK - LEFT REAR HEAL

SCHWEINFURT 14 OCT 43 - SHOT DOWN - ^①FLAK WOUND - LEFT REAR SHOULDER.

② INJURED BACK WHEN CHUTE OPENED - HAD TO HOLD MY KNEES UP ALL THE WAY DOWN (PAIN) STILL BOTHERS ME SITTING. SLEEPING ETC. IGNORED BY THE V.A. ALL THESE YEARS. AM DISCOSTED & RIGHTFULLY SO. WELPUSSE BEST REGARDS TO ALL. HOPE TO MAKE IT TO SEATTLE. AGAIN THANKS - BETTY & I ENJOYED ENGLAND.

SINCERELY,
Jim & Betty Harris

MUCH NEEDED INFO - IN REPORTS!