

10 February 1994

Dear Kay:

Here is the mission material I promised you yesterday on the phone.

Leo flew only on three missions, the third being his last. The Mann crew arrived with the Bomb Group 23 Apr 43. On 17 Apr the Group had lost 10 aircraft at Bremen, and was then stood down for two weeks while new crews and new planes arrived. Its next mission was 1 May 43, on which mission the Mann crew flew and from which both Mann and Leo received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Once again, the Group was stood down for a few days, and then weather intervened, and the next mission was 13 May 43, with the Mann crew flying. The Mann crew, except for Leo, flew 14 May 43, and another copilot was assigned for the day. Then they flew again on the 15th.

As you can see, information is rather slim concerning these missions, and is not consistent from one to the next. This is where the 367th Squadron Combat Diary and "First Over Germany" fit in. The Diary will give the big picture for the Squadron each date, and "First" deals more with the mission from other accounts and interviews and also handles the disposition of the individual crew members, as far as was known in about 1980.

At the time he flew, crew interrogation reports were completed only upon return of crews, but I have added the Missing Air Crew report to give you the crew detail. By Aug 43 they were typing all Crew Interrogation lists while the planes were gone, and I have them for crews who did not return.

Hopefully, in the near future I will get back to Archives and try to find the Mission Loading Lists, which is a confirmation of whom flew on a given raid. The lists are someplace, but Archives does not know how to find them at present. I hope they will let me help them solve this dilemma.

☺ hope this is helpful in your tracing of the whole brief combat career.

All the best,

Kathryn Miller-Manning  
1300 North Edgewater Drive  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

4-2-94

Mr Russell H. Strong  
306<sup>th</sup> B.G.A.  
5323 Cheval Pl.  
Charlotte, N.C. 28205-4937

Dear Mr. Strong:

My research moves along. I've found good info in my own library, such as the Appendix of "The AAF in WWII" from the AF History Office, W.F. Craven and J.L. Cate. The unnumbered volume, "Combat Chronology, the AAF WWII" by Carter & Mueller from the Simpson Center at Air University really puzzles me. If you have this volume check the 1943 listings for the 306<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>. If the enclosed copy of a 4 April 1943 is true, then there is clue for me. Do you have mission reports on this mission? 3 April indicates no missions. What were the other two "ridden to their end"?

I've made contact with a former friend from the 8<sup>th</sup> and still at Barksdale. Also Maxwell looks good, other acquaintances there. Of course I'll share everything I find.

I still hope to visit you right after snow threats are behind us, and when Lee's nephew can visit with me.

Additional photos will include one of Elden Mann's wife, Clara, and their son Toddy. Another is one of Toyoko, and another of Lee, me, Claudie, & Barry in Casper. It's

very bad, but all there is. If you are not collecting such things, please let me know.

Going back to my old office, getting into my collection of 32 years, made me homesick. ~~Of~~ course they found something they need me on. We'll have another hearing with the base closure committee in 1995. I'm going to help with the research going back to 1927 when the first airstrip was cut out of an overgrown farm and phosphate mining site. It's so nice to be needed.

Again, thanks for the information, your kind words, and all the wonderful memories this is conjuring up. Ye Gods, I'm a well blessed person!

Sincerely

Ray Manning

\* If I didn't tell you - I was the Wing Restorer for the 1608/437<sup>th</sup> from 1959. Loved every minute of it, and even got to help restore a C-47, C-121 and a C-124. We already have a C-141<sup>#</sup> and rather than ~~it~~ it go to the boneyard, it will be flown in to the Base. (CAF#B)

April 4, 1943.

Hello Darling —

Still takes me fifteen minutes to find what day of the month it is — that's supposed to be a sign of mental instability or something isn't it? This damn place is having some effect on me I know. I'm so grouchy and disagreeable that I can hardly live with myself. A list of my gripes would fill many pages, so I'll not start on them. Maybe a couple might be worth mentioning — no mail, (that's my #1 extra-special gripe) poor laundry, poor food, no mail (it's worth mentioning again) poor climate, no social life, and last of all I miss my gal more than I thought I could possibly miss anyone.

We're certain by now that our mail is being censored somewhere along the line, so we don't particularly give a damn what we say anymore. Matter of fact we don't particularly give a damn. (period) I remember telling you that I thought this business would change me — I was right. We've gotten into this thing up to our neck, and nobody could go thru it without changing somewhat. The last raid we were on was a dandy. Dopey & I brought a ship back that they decided to use for salvage — didn't want to fly it again. That makes three of the things I have ridden to their end. That shows how good my luck is, doesn't it. I wouldn't take a hundred dollars for this medal Mom sent me, I've always had it with me and sincerely hope I always will. Funny to people who can't visualize what's happening over here how much faith we put in a thing like that I guess, but believe me it's awfully im-

portant.

Our crew is about broken up now. We four officers are still "in the pink", but only one enlisted man can't qualify for the Purple Heart. Our engineer is dead, two men are probably crippled for life, and another one won't fly again. We're all damned unhappy and plenty mad. Hell of a note for one crew to get a beating like that, but that too is luck I guess.

Now, the memories I have of you in my mind are the only really pleasant things I have over here. Some day I'm hoping to find my mind in a decent state so I can write a letter that I can feel is worthy of you. I haven't done that but a few times since I left.

About sixteen mugs are yelling for me to turn the lights out so they can sleep. That makes the odds too high, so I'll have to give in.

Good-nite Mrs K-

LCK.

Try to have faith in me till this damn thing is over. Maybe I can justify it someday.

AVIATION STUDENTS—CLASS 42-K—FLIGHT A—ECHELON ONE



Gibson Robert Bernard Goodman Jack Lynn Griffin Charles Junior Harpool Joseph Munson Hart Henry Adam Heim Victor James Hepburn



Virgil Henry Jeffries Ellsworth Harry Kenyon Leo Riffle Kisamore Joseph Frank Kulik Reed J. Lamb John Paul Lamping

AVIATION STUDENTS—CLASS 42-K—FLIGHT A—ECHELON TWO



Dwaine Clinton Lighter Robert Delos Long Richard Dorn Loughman Chester Lowe

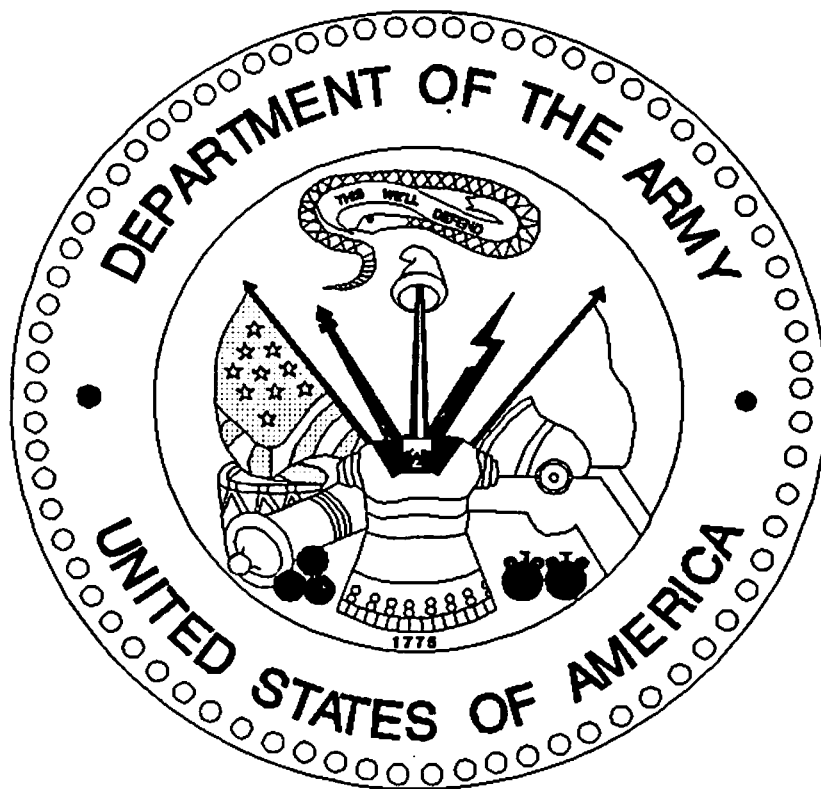


Malmquist Don Diploma Martin James Glyndon Masters Ned McCarty James Henry McKamy Marlow James Miller, Jr. Richard Arlen Nicholson



George O'Brien Thomas Nelson Padon Robert Edwin Pierson Robert Alvin Pitts Gilbert Allen Plastor Kenneth August Quade

12  
INDIVIDUAL DECEASED



PERSONNEL FILE

MEMORIALIZATION OF NON-RECOVERABLE  
REMAINS OF WORLD WAR II

THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUDITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY

NAME (Last, First, Middle)

KISHAMBER LEO R

RANK

FL O

SERIAL NUMBER

T 000104

ARM OF SERVICE

RAF

DATE OF DEATH

15 MAY 43

AREA OF DEATH

NORTH SEA \*

NAME OF AUDITOR

WIMBURY

DATE

6 FEB 51

NAME OF REVIEWER

DATE

RAESDALE 6 FEB 51

REMARKS

\* ABOVE DECEDENT AND TWO (2) OTHERS WERE PART OF TEN (10) CREW MEMBERS ABOARD AN AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS LOST IN THE NORTH SEA, 15 MAY 43. THREE (3) RMC, FOUR (4) RECOVERED. FOR PURPOSES OF MEMORIALIZATION, THE AREA OF DEATH IS NORTH SEA, CODE 60.





NON-RECOVERABLE CASE  
RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL

NUMBER 14530 (3)

AREA OR ZONE(S)

European

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

Kisamore, Leo R.

RANK

F/O

SERIAL NUMBER

T-0 000 104

THE ATTACHED PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND THE FINDINGS OF NON-RECOVERABILITY OF THE REMAINS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL(S) ARE APPROVED. (Corrections in name, rank, and/or serial number have been effected when appropriate.)

The above decedent and two (2) others.

IN THE COURSE OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING SOURCES OF INFORMATION HAVE BEEN EXAMINED FOR ADDITIONAL CLUES. COPIES OF ANY DOCUMENTS BELIEVED MATERIAL TO THE CASE ARE ATTACHED FOLLOWING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW.

	INITIALS OF ANALYST	(CROSS OUT THOSE NOT APPLICABLE)	INITIALS OF ANALYST
1. 293 FILE OF SUBJECT(S)	<i>WPK</i>	2. a. REPORT OF DEATH b. FINDING OF DEATH c. STATUS REVIEW & DETERMINATION	<i>WPK</i>
3. A - Z FILE OF KNOWN INTERMENTS IN U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES, ISOLATED LOCATIONS, AND SEA BURIALS	<i>WPK</i>	4. GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWN RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA	
5. ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF "BELIEVED TO BE" AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED UNKNOWN	<i>WPK</i>	6. ALPHABETICAL FILE OF FORMER UNKNOWN NOW IDENTIFIED	<i>WPK</i>
7. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES a. Missing Air Crew Report			<i>WPK</i>

THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY AS PRESENTED IN THE ATTACHED PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

NONE

CAK  
File

*Thomas E. Cox*  
Identification Branch

NAME OF ANALYST

*A. Kennedy*  
A. KENNEDY/cwb

CASE TO BE FORWARDED TO - - - - -  
FOR CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATION TO INTERESTED PARTIES.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

CASE REVIEWER, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION

*W. A. Wolf*  
W. A. WOLF

CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION

*Robert G. Lay*  
ROBERT G. LAY, Capt, QMC

APPROVED

CHIEF, IDENTIFICATION BRANCH

*Thomas E. Cox*  
THOMAS E. COX, Capt, QMC

DATE

*Nov 30*

*one case*

100-1-11 Oct 50  
# 14,530

HEADQUARTERS  
7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
APO 757 (Liege) US ARMY

Proceeding of a Board of Officers appointed in accordance with letter  
AGAO-S 293.9 (27 Mar 47) D-4, War Dept, TAGO, 9 April 1947.

The Board convened pursuant to par 2, SO 108, headquarters, 7887 Graves  
Registration Detachment, APO 757, US Army, 29 August 1950, at Liege, Belgium  
on - 4 OCT. 1950. The purpose of the Board was to deter-  
mine the non-recoverability status of certain casualties now under juris-  
diction of this command.

The Board reviewed report of investigation, statements of witness and  
other papers, contained in the files of 7887 Graves Registration Detachment,  
EA, pertaining to the case of the following named casualty/casualties, the  
remains of which have not been recovered. The case records and other data  
considered, are attached.

CASE No.	NAME	GRADE	ASN
	KISAMORE, Leo R.	F/O	T-0 000 104
	MYERS, Charles E.	T/Sgt	14 056 820
	SCHATZ, Alfred M.	T/Sgt	32 297 081

FINDINGS: The Board having carefully considered the evidence before it,  
finds the remains of said casualty/casualties are non-recoverable.

RECOMMENDATION: That the case concerning subject casualty/casualties be  
forwarded to the Office of The Quartermaster General for final approval.

*Robert D. Miller*  
ROBERT D. MILLER, Lt Col, O-41448 TC

*James C. MacFarland*  
JAMES C. MacFARLAND, Maj. O-1576321 QMC

*George Gunderman, Jr.*  
GEORGE GUNDERMAN, JR., Maj. O-1289071 QMC

*Clyde W. Steinsiek*  
CLYDE W. STEINSIEK, Capt. O-1040311 QMC

*Henry F. Myers*  
HENRY F. MYERS, CWO, W-2104778 USA

HEADQUARTERS  
7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT  
APO 757 (LIEGE) US ARMY

29 August 1950

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 108)

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

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2. PAC, Ltr WD-AGO-S 293.9, dtd 9 Apr 47, subj: "Establishment of Boards of Review for Identification of Unknown Dead Overseas", and par 118 b, SR 830-110-5, DA, 3 Mar 49, a Board of O's as follows is hereby apt to meet at the call of the President thereof, for the purpose of reviewing case records pertaining to the Identification of Deceased, Determination of non-recoverability of Remains and for the purpose of reviewing Major Discrepancy Cases:

LT COL ROBERT D. MILLER,	TC.,	O 41 448, President
MAJOR JAMES C. MAC FARLAND,	QMC.,	O 1 576 321
MAJOR GEORGE GUNDERMAN, Jr.,	QMC.,	O 1 289 071
CAPT CLYDE W. STEINSIEK,	QMC.,	O 1 040 311
CWO HENRY F. MYERS,	USA,	W 2 104 778

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BY ORDER OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MULVANITY:

ROBERT K. COLE,  
CWO USA,  
Asst Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ ROBERT K. COLE,  
CWO USA,  
Asst Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY

ROBERT G. LAY  
Capt QMC  
Memorial Division

HEADQUARTERS  
7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
APO 757 (Liege) US ARMY

OROP 193.9

SUBJECT: Non-Recoverable Remains

TO: Non-Recoverable Board, AGRC

1. It is recommended that the Board take action on the following cases:

NAMES:	KISMORE, Leo R.	F/O	T-O 000 104
	MYERS, Charles E.	T/Sgt	14 056 820
	SCHATZ, Alfred M.	T/Sgt	32 297 081

ORGANIZATION: 367th Bomb Sq 306th Bomb Gp

DATE OF DEATH: 15 May 1943

PLACE OF DEATH: North Sea Germany

SYNOPSIS: The above named subject casualties comprised three (3) of ten (10) crew members aboard a B-17-F aircraft, (number not indicated) reported on the OQMG Form 371, as missing in action, on the date cited above. A brief account of the incident as made part of MACR #R-830, is described in the following paragraph: "The aircraft took part in a bombing mission to the submarine pens at Wilhelmshaven, Germany, on 15 May 1943, at which time three (3) aircraft were lost from the 306th Group. The above ship did not reach the target as the aircraft became disabled over the North Sea and crashed. No search was made". Casualty Clearance Plan, dated 5 January 1946, revealed the following information: "F/O Kisamore's aircraft was reported by returning crews to have been one of many lost on mission on which aircraft dropped out of formation under heavy attack by enemy fighters. No definite version of the detail pertaining to F/O Kisamore's aircraft were obtained due to the poor visibility and the severity of the enemy attack. Of three (3) aircraft definitely seen to

GROP 293.9

SUBJECT: Non-Recoverable Remains

go down shortly after leaving the French coast on the way to the target, four chutes were seen from one and possibly eight from another. F/O Kisamore's aircraft was believed to have been one of these three." There is no German Dulag record on file this headquarters concerning this case. Three (3) of the crew members Lt. Lawrence E. Wolfe, Lt. Claude V. Toyek and S/Sgt Reginald G. Harris who parachuted to safety, were returned to US Military Control. Records available this headquarters disclosed the fact that the remains of four (4) crew members were recovered as unknowns from civilian cemeteries at Tonning, Tetnhausen and Busum, Germany. These remains were later identified as Lt Alden T. Mann, T/Sgt Woodrow T. Rosberger, S/Sgt Sherman E. Coleman and S/Sgt John C. McElroy. Their remains were buried at USMC Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium. All attempts to associate the above listed casualties with remains of unknown American deceased recovered from this area have been negative. In view of the above facts and findings, it can only be concluded that F/O Leo R. Kisamore, T/Sgt Charles E. Myers, T/Sgt Alfred M. Schatz were killed when their aircraft was hit by enemy fighter plane fire and crashed into the North Sea, and their remains have not washed ashore, but rest with the wreckage, in an unrecorded place which precludes recovery.

Reference is made to: OCMG Forms 371; MACR #R-830; Casualty Clearance Plans, dated 5, 7 January 1946; On file in the Office of The Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D. C.

2. It is recommended that the remains, based upon the above information and research, be declared non-recoverable.

*C. W. Stebinsiek*  
C. W. STEBINSIEK  
Captain QMC 700

Blood type -- ~~See~~ not available

Class 42-K

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR FLYING

(See AR 40-100, 40-105, 40-110)

1. KISAMOFF, LEO BIFFLE Avn./3 AAF 1304243 21 1  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Grade and arm or service) (Serial No.) (Age) (Years service)

2. RAF, Rosell, N. M. Appointment S/Sgt. Pilot July 1942, qualified  
(Address) (Purpose of examination) (Date and result last examination)

Avn/S Flying time as: Pilot 153:00; observer 10:00; pilot 153:00; observer 10:00  
(Aeronautical ratings) (Total) (Total) (Last 6 mos.) (Last 6 mos.)

3. Temperature 99.6 Vaccinations: Typhoid series, No. 1 Last 1942; smallpox 1941; reaction Vaccinia  
(Date)

4. Medical history.

(In the case of applicant include family. Has he ever had epilepsy, enuresis, headaches, dizziness, vertigo, fainting, stammering, tic, somnambulism, pavor nocturnus, migraine, insomnia, phobias, anxiety trends, irritability, apathy, elation, depression, sensory disturbances, amnesia, spasms, unconsciousness, repeated episodes of alcoholism, encephalitis, pneumonia, syphilis, renal calculi, tuberculosis, asthma, hay fever, repeated colds, mastoiditis, sinusitis, tonsillitis, arthritis in any form, malaria, severe injuries, major operations, or other pertinent history? Explain fully.)

Denies childhood diseases. Stunned in football game, 1937, 2 or 3 minutes, no sequel.  
Examinee denies all other illnesses, injuries, and operations.

OU 20/20

5. Eye: Inspection Normal Nystagmus None

6. Associated parallel movements Normal Pupils: Equality Equal Reaction Normal Left

7. Visual acuity: R. E., 20/20, correctible to 20/ 20 L. E., 20/20, correctible to 20/ 20

8. Depth perception (uncorrected) 8 mm. With correction 8 mm.

9. Heterophoria at 6 meters: Eso 0 Exo 1 R. H. 0 L. H. 0 Prism divergence 5

10. Red lens test Normal Angle convergence: PcB 45 mm. Pd 65 mm. 72

11. Accommodation: R. 10.0 D. L. 10.0 D. Addition required for 50 cm. R. 1 L. 1  
(Jaeger type): Right J. 1, correctible to J. 1; Left J. 1, correctible to J. 1

12. Color vision Normal to pseudo-isochromatic plates. (None missed in series of plates.)

13. Field of vision (form): R. Normal L. Normal Ophthalmoscopic: R. Normal L. Normal

14. Refraction: R. reads 20/20 with S. On record L. reads 20/20 with S. On record CAx 0

15. Ear: History of ear trouble Denies

16. External ear: R. Normal L. Normal Membrana tympani: R. Normal L. Normal

17. Hearing (whisper): R. 20/20. L. 20/20. Audiometer (percent loss): R. Not done L. Not done

18. Nares Normal Tonsils Normal

19. Teeth:

(a)														
Right (Examinee's)							Left							
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Indicate: Restorable carious teeth by O; nonrestorable carious teeth by /; missing natural teeth by X

(b) Remarks, including other defects Occlusion normal

(c) Prosthetic appliances Partial upper denture, serviceable Classification II See ar. 37 (a).

20. History of swing, train, air, or sea sickness Denies / see Par. 37 (b)

21. Barany chair (when indicated with results) Not done

22. Posture Good Figure Medium Frame Medium  
(Excellent, good, fair, bad) (Slender, medium, stocky, obese) (Light, medium, heavy)

23. Height, 73 inches. Weight, 183 pounds. Chest: Inspiration 42 Expiration 39 Rest 40 1/2 Abdomen 32 1/2

24. Skin and lymphatics Normal Endocrine system Normal

25. Bones, joints, muscles Normal

26. Heart Normal Feet 20 pes planus bilateral, mild

27. Pulse rate, 69-76 B. P.: S 116 D 76-74 Schneider 16 Pulse immediately after exercise 16  
Two minutes after exercise 76 Character Full and regular

28. Arteries Normal Varicose veins None

1. Substantiated appointment as cadet, commission in the Air Corps, commission in Air Corps Reserve, transfer to the Air Corps, or any other special grade I, II, III, or IV, see Part 3, AR 13-510.

0. 4. 1942





150

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON

15 JUN 1944

FINDING OF DEATH OF MISSING PERSON

Pursuant to section 5 of the Act of March 7, 1942 (Public Law 490—77th Cong.), as amended, and following a full review of all available information, upon direction and delegation by the Secretary of War, the Chief, Casualty Branch, The Adjutant General's Office this **16th** day of **May**, 194**4**, finds <sup>293</sup> Flight Officer Leo R. Kisamore, USA Army Serial Number S-104, Air Corps,

*Leo R. Kisamore*

to be dead.

He ~~was~~ was officially reported as missing (in action) as of the **15th** day of **May**, 194**3**, when the aircraft, of which he was a crewmember, was last seen over the North Sea, off the coast of Germany.

Date of previous reviews, if any **None**

In compliance with said section 5 of the Act of March 7, 1942, as amended, death is presumed to have occurred on the **16th** day of **May**, 194**4**.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

George F. Herbert  
Col., A. G. D.

Adjutant General.  
(Chief, Casualty Branch)

Date of birth: 27 February 1921

Home address: Cumberland, Maryland.



Emergency addressee (name, relationship, and address):

Mrs. Kathryn L. Kisamore, (wife)  
732 Brooklyn Avenue,  
Dayton 7, Ohio.

Beneficiary (name, relationship, and address):

James McKinley Kisamore, (father)  
R.F.D. # 5,  
Cumberland, Maryland.

Alternate:

Kenneth Lee Kisamore, (brother)  
R.F.D. # 5,  
Cumberland, Maryland.

Length of service (as of presumed date of death):

years, months, days.

Date of commission, appointment, or enlistment: 23 November 1942

Station of deceased (CONFIDENTIAL): Western European Area

In flying status?	Yes	x	No
In line of duty?	Yes	x	No
Own misconduct?	Yes		No x
Was deceased on duty status?	Yes	x	No
Absence authorized?	Yes		No

Social Security Number:

RECORDS DIVISION  
JUN 18 11 27 AM '42

Copy for:

- |                                                    |                          |                             |                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Office of Dependency Benefits.....                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Surgeon General.....        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Chief of Finance.....                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Machine Records Branch..... | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Social Security Board.....                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Casualty Branch.....        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Finance Office, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. .... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Record copy:                |                                     |
| Veterans Administration.....                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enlisted Branch.....        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| General Accounting Office.....                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Officers' Branch.....       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Army Effects Bureau.....                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | S. G. O. Nurses.....        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Federal Bureau of Investigation.....               | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quartermaster General.....  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

\*Designation made 23 September 1941 when officer was enlisted man; no break in service. Information of record shows wife, Mrs. Katherine L. Kisamore, 732 Brooklyn Avenue, Dayton 7, Ohio.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
~~WAR DEPARTMENT~~  
 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1947 DEC 17

--BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

AG 201	NAME KISAMORE, LEO R ASN T-104	GRADE P/O HUS	DATE CAS. REPORT RECEIVED  15
NAME AND ADDRESS OF E. A.	MRS KATHRYN L KISAMORE 732 BROOKLYN AVENUE DAYTON OHIO		DATE TELEGRAM SENT 18 <i>[Signature]</i>

THE INDIVIDUAL NAMED BELOW DESIGNATED THE ABOVE PERSON AS THE ONE TO BE NOTIFIED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY AND THE OFFICIAL TELEGRAPHIC AND LETTER NOTIFICATIONS WILL BE SENT TO THIS PERSON THE RELATIONSHIP IF ANY, IS SHOWN BELOW IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS PERSON IS NOT NECESSARILY THE NEXT-OF-KIN OR RELATIVE DESIGNATED TO BE PAID SIX MONTHS' PAY GRATUITY IN CASE OF DEATH

THE SECRETARY OF ~~WAR~~ HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR HUSBAND

GRADE	NAME	SERIAL NUMBER	ARM OR SERVICE	REPORTING THEATRE	E. A. STATUS	SHIPMENT NUMBER
P/O	KISAMORE, LEO R.	T 104	AG			3500
TYPE OF CASUALTY		PLACE OF CASUALTY		DATE OF CASUALTY		CASUALTY CODE
KILLED IN ACTION		IN		DAY	MONTH	YEAR
				15	MAY	44

REMARKS: DEAD  CORRECTED COPY  
 AG 704 /10 DEC 47/

KILLED

MEMO S.R. AND D. UNIT. APPROVED BY OIC. CAS. SEC. PA. BR. / OVER THE NORTH SEA. FINDING DEATH ISSUED PREVIOUSLY UNDER SEC. 5, PUBLIC LAW 490, 7 MAR. 47 AS AMENDED, SHOWING PRESUMED DATE DEATH 16 MAY 44. RPT DEATH, BASED ON INFO REC'D SINCE THAT DATE, IS ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEC. 9 OF SAO A 1, AND ITS EFFECT ON PRIOR PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENTS IS AS PROVIDED IN SEC. 3.

REPORTS OF DEATH ISSUED 19 Dec 47 mo

PROCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAR. 2B, OPER. BUL. 35, 1945.

ACTION BY COMPOSITE SECTION: REPORT VERIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		FORM 43	AG 201 REC.
CASUALTY BRANCH FILE ATTACHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR CHARGED TO			DATE
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (AS INDICATED BELOW):			
FILE NO. <i>Penn's Law</i>	MESSAGE NO. 490	TYPE <i>Dead</i>	DATE AND AREA 16 May 44 ETO
E. A. NOTIFIED <i>29 June 47</i>			
FORWARDED TO	SPEC. IDEN.	C. & P.	TELEGRAM
			LETTER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			CERTIF.
			E. REL.
			CORRES.
			REPAI
			S & D
			NON-DEL
REPORT NOT VERIFIED		NO FORM 43	NO CAS. BR. FILE
CHECKED BY <i>[Signature]</i>		REVIEWED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	

DISTRIBUTION "A"  1 COPIES      DISTRIBUTION "B"  \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES  
 WD AGO FORM 0365 1 MAY 1945      EDITION OF 1 JAN. 1945 MAY BE USED.

SENSITIVE SURFACE - HANDLE EDGES ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
~~SECRET~~  
 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DATE 2, December 1947

REPORT OF DEATH

no 5D 852

FULL NAME Kisamore, Leo R.		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER T 104	GRADE E/O
HOME ADDRESS Cumberland, Md.		ARM OR SERVICE AG	DATE OF BIRTH 27 Feb 1921
PLACE OF DEATH European Area	CAUSE OF DEATH Killed in action		DATE OF DEATH 15 May 1943
STATION OF DECEASED European Area	DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE 25 Nov 1942		LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS MONTHS DAYS
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (Name, relationship, and address) Mrs. Kathryn L. Kisamore, wife, 732 Brooklyn Ave., Dayton, Ohio			

BENEFICIARY (Name, relationship, and address) On 22 Sep 41, while an EM, he desig. as beneficiaries:  
 James McKinley Kisamore, father, RFD #5, Cumberland, Md.  
 Kenneth Lee Kisamore, brother, same as above\*

INVESTIGATION MADE	IN LINE OF DUTY		OWN MISCONDUCT		WAS DECEASED ON DUTY STATUS		AUTHORIZED ABSENCE		IN FLYING PAY STATUS		OTHER PAY STATUS (Specify below)	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
									YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	BATTLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/>	

ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT  
 \*Mrs. Kathryn L. Kisamore, wife, 732 Brooklyn Ave., Dayton, Ohio (Not designated)

Finding of death has been issued previously under Sec 5, Public Law 490, 7 Mar 42, as amended, showing presumed date of death as 16 May 44. This Report of death based on information received since that date is issued in accordance with Sec 9, of said Act, and its effect on prior payments and settlements is as prescribed in Sec 9.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2 and 7 of the Act of 7 Mar 1942 (56 Stat. 145) as amended, the records show that this officer completed 5 months and 21 days of active service at the time of his death.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
~~SECRET~~

*[Signature]*

ADJUTANT GENERAL

Control No. 1279

EFFECTS QUARTERMASTER, ETOUSA

SUMNER COURT

DEPT 6-14

APO 597

United States Army

7 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Closing Statement, Account of:

KISAMORE, Leo R.	F/O	T-104.
(Name)	(Rank)	(ASN)

TO: Effects Quartermaster, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot,  
601 Hardesky Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri.

1. Submitted herewith is complete file of subject person;
  - (a) Organization 367 Bomb.Sg. APO.634
  - (b) Status Missing in Action 15 May 1943.
  - (c) Beneficiary Mrs. L. R. Kisamore (wife)  
732, Brooklyn Avenue,  
Dayton, OHIO

2. Personal effects were shipped 8 February 1944.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Incl.#	Date Rec'd	<u>RECEIPTS</u>		Dollars	Sterling
		Details	Amount		
1	2 June 43.	Letter of Transmittal		\$29.05.	

Total to be accounted for

\$29.05

Incl.#	Date Pd.	Details	<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	
			Amount	

Total Disbursements

None

Balance

\$29.05. \*

\*Sterling converted for transmission to U.S.

Inclosed check to Effects QM, Kansas City

\$29.05

Balance at this office

None

4. Remarks: None

5. Account is now closed at this office.

6. Request acknowledgment of receipt by indorsement on the reverse side hereof.

EDWARD CHAYES  
Major, QMC.  
Effects QM, ETOUSA.

3 Incls. Incl. 1 to 2 Complete file of subject person.

Incl. 3 U.S. Treasury check # 189 Dated 6 March 1944.

~~SECRET~~

By:                       
Date:                       
Initials:                       
30682

HEAD QUARTERS, 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Commanding Officer  
United States Forces

(S-3-2)

512.1

AO 634,  
30 May, 1943.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Inventories of Effects and Money Orders.

TO: Commanding Officer, Effects Quartermaster, Quartermaster Depot  
Number 110, APO 887.

1. Transmitted herewith are A.D., A.G.O. Form Number 24, Inventory  
of Effects, for the following named officers of the 367th Bombardment  
Squadron (H), 306th Bombardment Group (H), who are missing in action from  
15 May, 1943:

1273	1st Lt FRANK B. CLARK, O-739813	1st Lt JOHN H. WINCHILL, O-662021	1274
1275	2nd Lt ORAN H. HIGHLEY, O-732618	2nd Lt LOUIS S. HEENS, O-667413	1276
1277	2nd Lt CLAUDE V. TOYK, O-732686	P/O JAMES H. CLARK, E-85	1278
	1279	P/O LEO A. WISBROE, E-104	

2. Transmitted herewith are money orders, in the amounts indicated,  
for the following named officers:

1st Lt FRANK B. CLARK	57.19
1st Lt JOHN H. WINCHILL	21.46
2nd Lt ORAN H. HIGHLEY	35.77
2nd Lt LOUIS S. HEENS	32.44
2nd Lt CLAUDE V. TOYK	47.23
P/O JAMES H. CLARK	11.10
P/O LEO A. WISBROE	29.05

For the Commanding Officer:

14 Incls:  
Incls 1-7 - A.D., A.G.O. Form 24.  
Incls 8-14 - Money Orders.

PAUL J. ...  
2nd Lt., ...  
Actg. Asst. ...

~~SECRET~~  
Handwritten signatures and stamps at the bottom of the page.

AG 201 Kisamore, Leo R.  
(30 Mar 44) PC-G

1st Ind.

mad/rjc

Hq. ASF., AGO., Washington 25, D. C. 22 April 1944.

To: The Effects Quartermaster, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, Kansas City 1, Missouri.

Flight Officer Leo R. Kisamore, T-104, who has been missing in action since 15 May 1943 in the European Area, designated as follows:

BENEFICIARY: Mr. James McKinley Kisamore, father,  
RFD #5,  
Cumberland, Maryland.

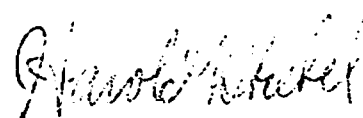
ALTERNATE BENEFICIARY: Mr. Kenneth Lee Kisamore, brother,  
RFD #5,  
Cumberland, Maryland.

NEAREST RELATIVE: Mr. James M. Kisamore, father,  
same as above.

BAILEE: Mr. James M. Kisamore, father.

W.D., A.G.O. Form 43 shows that soldier has a wife, Mrs. Kathryn L. Kisamore, 732 Brooklyn Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

By command of Lieutenant General SOMMERVELL:

  
Adjutant General.

1944

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

AG 201 Kisamore, Leo R.  
(16 May 44) FC-5

2 June 1944

• Mrs. Kathryn L. Kisamore,  
732 Brooklyn Avenue,  
Dayton 7, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Kisamore:

Since your husband, Flight Officer Leo R. Kisamore, T-104, Air Corps, was reported missing in action 15 May 1943, 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. The record concerning your husband shows that he was a crewmember of a bomber which failed to return from a mission over Germany.


Full consideration has recently been given to all available information bearing on the absence of your husband, including all records, reports and circumstances. These have been carefully reviewed and considered. In view of the fact that twelve months have now expired without the receipt of evidence to support a continued presumption of survival, the War Department must terminate such absence by a presumptive finding of death. Accordingly, an official finding of death has been recorded under the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, approved March 7, 1942, as amended by Public Law 848, 77th Congress, approved December 24, 1942.

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 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 16 May 1944, the day following the expiration of twelve months absence.

I regret the necessity for this message but trust that the ending of a long period of uncertainty may give at least some small measure of consolation. I hope you may find sustaining comfort in the thought that the uncertainty with which war has surrounded the absence of your husband has enhanced the honor of his service to his country and of his sacrifice.

1 Incl.

Sincerely yours,

  
ROBERT H. DUNLOP  
Brigadier General,  
Acting The Adjutant General.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AG 201 Kisamore, Leo R.

PO-CO 350032

22 December 1947

Mrs. Kathryn L. Kisamore  
732 Brooklyn Avenue  
Dayton 7, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Kisamore:

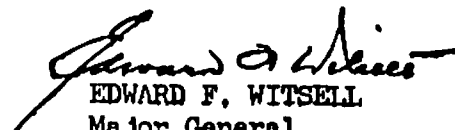
I am writing you relative to the previous letter from this office in which you were regretfully informed that a Finding of Death had been made in the case of your husband, Flight Officer Leo R. Kisamore, T-104, Air Corps, and that the presumptive date of his death had been established as 16 May 1944.

Of the ten man crew of your husband's aircraft, four members were captured by the Germans, three were reported killed in action when their bodies were washed ashore and Flight Officer Kisamore and two others have been carried in a status of presumed dead. According to information submitted by a repatriated crew member, the pilot of the aircraft, (now deceased) told him that your husband was killed instantly by a direct 20 MM impact. In view of the above information, the records of the Department of the Army are being amended to show that Flight Officer Kisamore was killed in action on 15 May 1943 over the North Sea.

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, 7 March 1942, as amended, official reports will now be issued by the Department of the Army which will indicate the actual date of his death as that shown above. The issuance of this official Report of Death will not affect any payment or settlement of accounts which has been made on the basis of the Finding of Death.

My continued sympathy is with you in the great loss you have sustained.

Sincerely yours,



EDWARD F. WITSELL

Major General

The Adjutant General of the Army

STANDARD TIME INDICATED  
 RECEIVED AT  
 37 WEST THIRD STREET  
 FULTON 9191  
 DAYTON, OHIO  
 TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS  
 TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

# Postal Telegraph

*Mackay Radio*

Commercial Cables



*All America Cables*

*Canadian Pacific Telegraphs*

THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM OR RADIOGRAM UNLESS INDICATED BY SYMBOL IN THE ADDRESS OF THE MESSAGE. SYMBOLS DESIGNATING SERVICES ARE OUTLINED IN THE COMPANY'S HANDBOOK WHICH IS ON HAND AT EACH OFFICE AND ON REQUEST FROM REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.

Form 16

DA.NA172 N.WC165 WMUA 104 41 GOVT= WMU WASHN DC MAY 24  
 MRS KATHRYN L KISAMORE  
 732 BROOKLYN AVENUE DAYTON OHIO ==

I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THE COMMANDING GENERAL EUROPEAN AREA REPORTS YOUR HUSBAND FLIGHT OFFICER LEO R KISAMORE IN ACTION SINCE MAY FIFTEEN IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION OF HIS STATUS ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED ==

ULIO THE ADJ GENL ==

2040Z==

NO. \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_  
 BY WH AT 7:15 TO 12  
 CALLS 1-1116 11-11

Kisanore

23 February 1994

Dear Russ:

I'm sure the fates are against me! As you can see by the attached, something happened to a letter I sent you. I am at a loss to know what happened, but now I know why I have heard nothing from you. I've double checked my mailbox each day, the book is so important.

You can read the first para, but the second needs repeating here. I'm trying to match Lee's letters with mission records, and the recall of Toyek and Wolfe. In your opinion what constituted a completed mission? I've always thought, and written, that a bombing mission was complete when the bombs left the plane (bomb bay). Our airlift missions, combat, were complete when the load dropped from the opened doors. It was then that the primary interest was getting out of there. Was it the same with bombs?

Harris Manning, my husband, was a nav. instructor at Monroe, La. I noticed some of the 306th people had been stationed there. He has one yearbook. Do you think this would help you with pixs of some of the cadets, etc. He was called (affectionately) Pappy. He was 24 when he went into cadet s --- so the Monroe time was '42 and 43. I'll send it to you if you think it will help, and then pick it up when I make the research trip North in April.

Again, thanks so much for all you've done for me, and so many other people.

Sincerely,

28 February 1994

Dear Kay:

I don't know what officially counts as a mission, but I say it you were in the plane and killed on takeoff you had flown a combat mission.

Others may get pretty sticky about it, but I say it doesn't really matter a whit fifty years later.

Lots of people refer to flying  $8\frac{1}{2}$  missions because they were shot down. I say they did their best and it looks like 9 missions to me.

I think that a combat-loaded aircraft is on a mission when it begins its roll on the runway, and personnel should be credited with a mission if there is a fatality prior to entering enemy territory.

Our planes were usually credited with a mission if they entered enemy territory, but I am sure that planes lost around England on the way out were probably not accorded that recognition. Planes lost over England, either going out or returning were always treated differently in statistics than those which went down in the water over the continent.

I have included a page from the USAF Dictionary may be helpful-- or maybe not!

All the best, and I am off to Florida in the morning for a week.

The note got mixed up in mail. <sup>2 Jul</sup>  
That's good for I can give you more  
info. I've been in touch with Zois P.  
Davis (listed as CP on the 14 May  
mission to Keil.) He's checking his  
201, but can't ever remember being  
a CP, as his position was 1st P.  
also, he's moved - new address  
over.

Z. Duncan Davis

77 Eastbrook

Jackson, Mo. 39216

③ This cancels my attendance at  
the reunion - however it will mean  
completion of the African Episode for  
the Echoes. Both Claude  
and Larry have said  
yes

Sincerely

P.S. Met a McMahon at Key Manning  
Maxwell. His family first came to Chas-  
so I'm trying for records of their arrival  
and stay here. He was 368th.

28 June 1974

Dear Russ:

Enclosed check is for the 367th  
combat diary. Read some of it at  
Maxwell. Also obtained some good  
info at Suitland.

In August I'm going to Calif. to see  
Topek and Wolfe - and then in Sept.  
to England and France - and to  
Germany. I've been in touch with the  
Counsel in Atlanta, and Embassy in  
Washington. I want to do whatever (ever)

Possible to solve the mystery of the <sup>(2)</sup>  
one unidentified person washed up  
on the shore on 15-16 May 1943.  
Claude feels it is Lee. I'm hoping the  
contacts will smooth the way for  
recovery of any remains. If there are,  
then I hope for DNA tests to be compared  
with a "DNA MAP" his brother has consented  
to. If a positive match, I'll bring him  
home. If not, any remains will go to  
Arlington for final burial. Wish me  
luck. I can't rest till I know.



Kathryn Miller-Manning  
1300 North Edgewater Drive  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

9 May 1944

Dear Russ:

Home a week or two early. The research was very successful, even to bits of strikes, and what it looked like thru contacts.

The Courtesy extended by all contacts at Suitland and by Mrs. Kincaid at the AF Historical office at Bolling was amazing, and of course much appreciated. I've invited several to Chasen. for a visit, and I do hope they come.

Do I have anything new and earth shaking? No - but I do have info that is soul shaking. It is now possible to envision and feel some things so graphically described. Your book was the beginning. Now the diaries of Capt. Glass and Lt. Murrin, along with Bomber Command Narrative of Operations has added to my knowledge. I may get to a point where I'd wish I had not started this project. Toyak's after the fact <sup>reports</sup> the washed up ~~summers~~ bodies with no tops, and Lee's aversion to those "tinker-belles." Then Mrs. Kincaid told me of the German's practice of burying bodies near wreckage

(2)

in the hope of further I.D. someday,  
other info is that only one <sup>unidentified</sup> body resulted  
from that raid of the 15<sup>th</sup>. I think I'll contact  
the German Embassy. That could lead to  
something.

My next trip will be Alabama and  
Georgia. Wish me luck on those.

Here my reason for writing. Enclosed  
check is for one of your books. The AFHO  
does not have one. Mrs. K., when I  
offered her mine (no because of the  
inscription to me) and then another, even  
gave me the enclosed mailing label  
to save postage. If you'll mail one, then  
anyone searching that facility will have  
your wonderful book. Right now I'm  
reading a second time, and finding info  
I don't remember. Thanks for your effort.

and thanks for your time. It's a gift I  
can't return and <sup>is</sup> so important to me.

Sincerely  
Kay Manning

11 Nov. 1994

Dear Russ:

Enclosed is Margaret's list. Sorry it's late, but the stack of mail, and "put off actions" had to be solved.

Right now I'm waiting for some kind of word from the Army Personnel people in Washington.

I talked w/ Mrs. Washington and Sandy Smith from Scotland. Fran Barber has transferred to another department. Sandy, his mother and their guests will visit in Chas. over Thanksgiving. I'll introduce them to our early Carolina records and the Huguenot Collection here.

Thanks for the book to Claudie.  
see over Kay Manning

Please send one of your books  
to:

ABMC (Berloth and Neese)  
CMR 460, Bldg 493  
APO AE 09703

Check enclosed - Thanks.

It's for their library at the  
military cemetery, Margarten.

Please sign it for them.

They're the ones who sent the  
enclosed list.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General

20 May 1943.

GENERAL ORDER )  
NO.....61 )

SECTION

- AWARDS OF SILVER STAR\* \* \* \* \* I
- AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL \* \* \* \* \* II
- AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS \* \* \* \* \* III
- AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS \* \* \* \* \* IV
- AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL\* \* \* \* \* V

III. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq., ETOUSA, 5 April 1943, the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following named Officers.

~~1st Lt. Robert G. ...~~ Group (H) Army Air

X

LEO R. KISMORE, T-104, Flight Officer, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement and heroism while serving as Co-pilot of a B-17 airplane on a bombing mission over enemy occupied Continental Europe, 1 May 1943. Before reaching the target enemy fighter planes repeatedly attacked in force, inflicting serious damage to the airplane and wounding all of the gunners. Displaying great courage and skill, Flight Officer Kisamore heroically aided the Pilot in maintaining position in the formation, successfully bombing the target and in safely landing the airplane, which was damaged almost beyond repair, at a friendly base. Throughout the entire mission Flight Officer Kisamore rendered invaluable assistance to the Pilot. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Flight Officer Kisamore on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Home address: RFD 5, Cumberland, Maryland.

IV. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 8 August 1932, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq., ETOUSA, 5 April 1943, the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following named Officers and Enlisted Men for extraordinary achievement as set forth in citation in each instance. These individuals have previously earned the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters for wear therewith.

ALBERT W. DIEFFENBACH, O-724143, Captain, 303rd Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Bombardier on a B-17 airplane on twenty bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. On the mission dispatched to bomb enemy installations in Germany, 18 March 1943, Captain Dieffenbach served as Wing Bombardier. Displaying great courage and skill, Captain Dieffenbach, knowing that the bombing effort of the entire formation depended on his accuracy, released his bombs directly on the target and, having accomplished this, manned the forward guns, fighting off heavy frontal attacks by enemy fighter planes. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Captain Dieffenbach on each of his twenty missions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

5 September 1994

Mr. Russell A. Strong  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Russ:

Just a quick letter to bring you up to date on my adventure. I did go to California, and it was one of the most inspirational and emotional events of my life. There was no strangeness --- we were the same friends we had been in Wyoming and Ohio. Larry Wolfe's wife was new to our little family, but it was as if I had known her forever. I spent some time with Claude Toyek and his wife Kay (he was assigned to the Aerial Photographic Laboratory -- my assignment too -- after his return to the states.) In fact he and Kay stayed with my family while they were getting acquainted with his assignment, and then when it was satisfactory, while they were looking for housing. Also visited with Larry for sometime, and then the five of us spent time in Brea.

Re the African Adventure . It has grown by leaps and bounds. What I knew from three letters that Pan Am had managed to get out, was a mere fraction of the adventures they had. It involved sizeable sums of money for their release, under cover activities so that the neutrality of Guiana was not endangered, aircraft repair, theivery, and oh so much more. The tapes are wonderful, I have many more pixs and a few more documents. This will have to wait until I return from Europe. Right now I am spinning on a dime, trying to make more contacts, etc. I've decided to start in the North Sea area -- Helgoland, Schleswig, and any records, newspaper accounts, etc. that may be available there. Then I will do a bit of genealogy at Wildenhausen, which was an IP for many of these missions. That is the town of my ancestors - the Wildenhaus family.

I am in contact with the German Embassy in Washington, the Counsulate in Atlanta, our own Consulate in Hambourg, the German Federal Archives in Potsdamn and the Military Archives in Frieburg. Who knows I may find a record of the son-of-a-gun who did them in. Tomorrow I talk with Colonel Upstrum from Wright Museum. I'm hoping he may guide me to other research places.

Now, best of all, Claude and Larry are positive a DAVIS was not with them on the 14th. They remember that the 14th was the time of the non-functioning ball turret, which was redlined, and down for mx --- but was brought out on the 15th as repaired, but when that position was checked and guns fired, it had NOT been repaired. Additionally,

on both the 14th and 15th, both Lee and Larry were supposed to have been in London, but had been called back for the 14th and then held for the 15th. I will get documents from them on this subject.

Now --- a request please. Can you send Claude V. Toyek, 521 Shadow Lake Dr, Brea, CA 92621-2834, a signed copy of your book FIRST OVER GERMANY. Enclosed is a check for \$35.00. If that is incorrect please let me know. He saw mine, started reading it and was wonderfully engrossed in the amazing material. Then we went to Larry's and he had one too ---so we really had a ball. He really should have his own copy. Thanks. *Claudia*

Their POW tales are wonderful. They were at 3, made the death march to Nurenberg, and were there when Patton rescued them. Since there were prisoners so early, they were there for the moulding of all these men into a fraternal organization that worked for the good of all, protected each other, devised methods for the general good, etc. It is amazing. I could listen to their tales forever and never get bored. I have some pictures of the theater they built from Salvation Army ration containers, and others.

Sorry I go on so, but I am so involved, and its all so exciting.

Thanks for being so nice,

Sincerely,

*Kay Manning*



27 December 1995

Dear Russ & June:

Please take your vitamins, stay away from coughing and sneezing people - and keep your feet dry. Too many of us need you. And looking back - how can I say an adequate thank you for your support.

The package went off to Franklin two weeks ago. His son is a cabinet maker, and will create an adequate frame for the display. Slowly, goals are achieved.

Russ - in my notes (but with no source reference) I found - "Lee to Bovingdon - school for newcomers" - where? Do you know anything <sup>on this?</sup>

The New Year will see a renewal of the effort to find the shipwreck from Hamburg to ? Army transportation and the POW-MIA outfit at Crystal City have assured me



of that re-activation.

Genie info will be sent as I come across old and new info that I have used or will introduce in upcoming classes. If I ever master my new computer, I know my time will be better utilized. That will help

I've seen Mikey two times recently. Thanks for introducing us. Her search for materials on Jim is certainly expanding, and she has started the effort to prove her husband's averses. I think her final effort will be Southland/College Park and Maxwell. St. Louis seems to be a dead-end for her.

In case you pass thru Choen. in your travels, please include a stop for me. We do have an interesting city and I love to show it off.

and I do mean it!!

Love  
Kay

I've never been so surprised.  
I didn't know anyone had  
noticed. Now how do I live  
up to this?



## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION



*This certificate is presented to Mrs. Kay Manning, Department of the Air Force Civilian, by the Greater Charleston Military Community, in grateful recognition of her near life-long commitment to the United States Air Force. Mrs. Manning's association with the Air Force, dates from the early forties, when she was the spouse of an Army Air Force aviator who lost his life over Germany when his plane was downed by enemy fire. Her association with the Charleston Community, in particular, the Charleston Air Force Base, has been marked by unbounded enthusiasm, dedication, and tenacity while serving as the Wing Historian for more than twenty-six years. Mrs. Manning is a representative of the hundreds of thousands of spouses and non-uniformed members of the American military community who have also served this nation and its Armed Forces. Given this day, 18 November 1995, on the occasion of the Greater Charleston Joint Military Ball at The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina*

*Chairman of the Greater Charleston  
Military Ball Committee*



22 August 1996

Dear Kay:

I enjoyed our rather lengthy conversation this afternoon, and hope that I was helpful to you, and that you can perhaps help me on two matters:

1. Delineate a contact for me at the Historical Collection at Maxwell AFB, so that I am not treated like someone who just dropped in off the street. I'd like to do some meaningful research in that collection to provide more insights into 306th history and also to provide me with more information for Echoes.

2. Find out where the folders are for the Medal of Honor recipients, and tell me someone whom I can contact in Washington or Maxwell who can get me the Snuff Smith folder so that I can read ALL of it. Don't need to copy, just want to read it all.

I figure that's plenty to hang on you at the present. I'd like to go to Maxwell in September, or next January. Either would be acceptable.

Thanks,

because the liver was now involved. a CT last Monday showed SUCCESS!!! No trace of the thing.

Lee's brother wrote a book about his brother - Leo, My Big Brother - the biography of an achiever. It's great, and now he's got me trying my ability - letters from Lee giving details of Africa, loss of friend B-17, then on to the letter left in quarters - and Uncle Sam's terse "I regret to inform you, etc". Norm's book is selling very well. We'll see about another.

(2)

5 August 1999

Dear Russ & June:

You amaze me. The Echo gets better with each issue. Thanks for it and all the other good things you do for us. I haven't ordered my new address book - thought I'd get it in St. Louis.

Mikey & I all set - have a suite with a view. I'll go to a wedding in Calif - then back to St. L.

April I went to Duke to try for something experimental. Three days later my local Doc called - did I want to become a Guinea Pig - did

(1)

uff chatter - Again thanks  
for so many things you do  
for all of us!

Love  
Kay Manning

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287448

3

Christian Voice  
P.O. Box 96541  
Washington, D.C. 20077-7180

100-LTS  
printed in U.S.A.

