

Harold Kenneth McCaleb
809 Brickell Rd. N.W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35816

October 14, 1943, Schweinfurt, Germany
Heavy Bomb Group, B-17, 306TH, 8TH AIR FORCE

Probably 20,000 - 15,000 FT.

Intentionally fell long distance before
pulling rip cord. Probably falling at maximum
free-fall velocity. Severe pain in groin
when parachute opened. Hit ground hard.
Minor concussion and unconscious for
several minutes. British chest type
parachute.

Joined 306th. Group, 367th. Squadron June 30, 1943

1988

In the October/issue of 306th Echoes in the listing of Navigators
my name should be

Harold K. McCaleb and I arrived in
the group- 43-06-30.

Kenneth has never joined the Caterpillar Club and I think he should (Mrs.)

205/837-0372 McCaleb

8/80

fighters hit 3 engines

down between Waryburg + Chucifast

De Broyer broke both legs

Butler, Altoona, PA
1st mission after war

James H. Harris



367th, 368th, 369th, 423rd Squadrons, and service organizations
Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England – September 1942-April 1945

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

Historian

Russell A. Strong
Rt. 1, Scotch Meadows Drive
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352

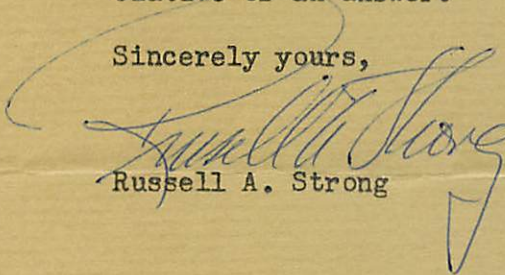
12 April 1977

Dear Mrs. McCaleb:

I had a letter from John Roller this week in regard to my research on the history of the 306th Bomb Group. He informs me that your son, Kenneth, also served with this group and that you would be able to give me his address. We are attempting to locate as many former members of the group as we can, and I am particularly interested in your son because of his combat experiences.

I enclose a postpaid envelope and would be most appreciative of an answer.

Sincerely yours,


Russell A. Strong

Was member of 369th squadron. Shot
down on mission to Schierfurt, October
14, 1943, along with about half of the
group. Recently, after many years, I tried
to contact Richard Butler, the first pilot
that day, with no success.

Last May, with 17 others who were
POW's at Stalag Luft III, we made a
return visit to the site of the former camp.
Am enclosing a memorandum I wrote
recently.

H. Kenneth McCaleb
809 Brickell Rd. N.W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

H. KENNETH McCALEB
809 BRICKELL
HUNTSVILLE, ALA. 35805

RETURN TO STALAG LUFT III

H. KENNETH McCALEB
809 BRICKELL
HUNTSVILLE, ALA. 35805

by H. Kenneth McCaleb

It was 33 years ago that the 8th Air Force, based in England, suffered the Schweinfurt trauma. On Thursday, October 14, 1943, 229 B-17 bombers were dispatched to Schweinfurt, Germany in an attempt to destroy vital ball bearing factories. Sixty B-17's did not return from the mission.

Early October had been a busy time for 8th Air Force bombers and the crews were tired. Missions had been made to Kiel, Bremen, and Gdynia (Port of Danzig). Crews were briefed at 4:00 A.M. for Schweinfurt on Tuesday, October 12. The 8th Air Force had previously bombed the ball bearing factories in August of 1943. On this morning there was rain and fog in England. The mission was cancelled before the B-17 engines were started. The crews were again briefed for Schweinfurt on Wednesday, October 13 and again, because of bad weather, the mission was cancelled. And again there was a briefing for Schweinfurt on Thursday morning, October 14.

However, the end of the runway could not be seen through the fog and rain and most bomber crew members waited for word that the mission had been cancelled again. Engines were started and B-17's were taxied to the end of the runway. Unbelievably the command for take-off was given and bomb and gasoline loaded B-17's climbed through the overcast with pilots wondering how they were going to land when the cancellation order was given. The B-17's emerged from the overcast at about 2000 ft., assembled in formation, and approached the enemy coast of Europe. The clouds disappeared and over Nazi occupied Europe it was an October "Indian Summer" day.

It has been reported that the 229 B-17's were attacked by 1100 Luftwaffe fighter planes on the way to Schweinfurt. Crew members would report that it was the greatest air battle of WWII. In retrospect, it is wondered if the Luftwaffe had advance knowledge of the target that day.

Of the 5 planes put in the air that day by the 390 Squadron of the 306th Bomb Group, one plane completed the mission and returned to England. One B-17 had engine trouble and "aborted" the formation over France. The other 3 were shot down. The 2-wing planes of the plane of this writer were hit and exploded. It is believed that one crew member of the 2 B-17's survived.

On the bomb run between Wurtzburg and Schweinfurt, 3 of our engines were hit and with one engine on fire, the pilot pushed the bail-out alarm button. The 10 crew members survived as prisoners of war until liberated April 29, 1945.

Last May (1976), 18 former prisoners of war in Stalag Luft III returned to the site at Sagan (now Polish territory). The barbed wire fences, guard towers, and frame buildings of Stalag Luft III had disappeared. A POW museum and memorial to the allied prisoners who died had been built on the site. With an honor guard of Polish school children and the school band playing the National Anthems of the U.S.A. and Poland, the 18 former POW's laid a wreath of flowers at the memorial. With a few tears, another wreath of flowers was laid at another memorial, a couple of kilometers down the road, erected in memory of the 50 POW's (mostly British) murdered after the "Great Escape" from the "North Compound". And down the road several more kilometers, another wreath of flowers was laid at the monument at the site of the mass grave of 30,000 Russian POW's. American and British POW's received Red Cross food parcels, clothing, and blankets. Russian POW's in Germany and German POW's in Russia died from starvation, disease, and exposure.

The group of 18 traveled on to Berlin and Munich where they met two of the former guards and the assistant German Commandant of Stalag Luft III. On the last day in Germany the group traveled by bus to the town of Moosburg to view the Church steeple from which, on April 29, 1945, the American flag was unfurled signaling liberation to thousands of allied prisoners of the nearby prison camp. The bus stopped enroute to Moosburg at the museum at Dachau. On leaving, the elderly, former assistant Commandant of Stalag Luft III said "that is the shame of Germany". To which can be added, it is a shame that people on this earth can not learn to love, respect, and understand each other and to simply enjoy the wonder and beauty of this earth. It is a shame that human beings periodically attempt to destroy each other in wars.

1977.



809 Brickell Rd. N.W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35895
May 30, 1980

WM. M. COLLINS, JR.

I am enclosing a \$5⁰⁰ check to help support
the 306th Association.

Am also enclosing a brief account of a
trip I wrote about several years ago.

I appreciated Jim Vaught's story.

H. Kenneth McCall

NORTH ALABAMA
SECTION



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Of the 5 planes put in the air that day by the 36⁷ Squadron of the 306th Bomb Group, one plane completed the mission and returned to England. One B-17 had engine trouble and "aborted" the formation over France. The other 3 were shot down. The 2-wing planes of the plane of this writer were hit and exploded. It is believed that one crew member of the 2 B-17's survived.

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*Written by
H. Kenneth McCaleb*

1976

October 26, 1993

Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Pl
Charlotte, N. C. 28205

Dear Sir:

We have been going through papers that have been stored these many years at my wife's parents. Well I the wife am writing! Anyway we have a number of items that you might find interesting. We have had conflicting reunions so have missed the 306th.

From the mission reports and the 367th Squadron diary I have put together the names of crewmen --there are missing reports for July 29 Keil Germany, and October 9, 1943 Gydnia Poland. Of the original crew only James E. Harris of Little Falls, New York is still living. We do have some addresses that we will include. The article written in Sept 1943 gives Sgt Edward DeBuyser Jr as ~~from~~ Rt 263 Rochester N.Y. I found a letter written by him to us in Norman Okla in 1947 giving the address of 2576 Parker, Rd. Rochester 5, N.Y. We would like to know anything about him, if you find information.

Lt. Joseph Lukens was killed Oct 14, 1943--Ian Elliott 4 Jan. 1944. Alexander Heyburn died about 1975-76. My husband has had several conversations with a brother who lives in Louisville, Ky. It is a shame they never contacted each other after returning to the U.S. but that seemed to be the way of most crews. We are in contact with Jim Harris and family and would like to know anything about Lt. James Parks. Woodrow Thomas who was 1st pilot on many of my husbands missions recently died -they had talked.

The enclosed copy of a photo that James Harris has is the only one we know about of some of that original crew. My husband had the camera, and in the old letters he was writing from England, he says time and again he plans to get a crew photo but he never did. They named their plane "Little Jimmy."

The days coincide exactly with those 50 years ago, so we have been reliving some of the events. On October 14, 1993 we were in Joplin, Mo. where the FAG Bearing Co. has a plant. The personnel manager took Kenneth on a tour of the plant and was interested in his story. He is an American--only one German is there at the plant. They were making front wheel bearings for Chrysler cars and all automated. I am sending also the write-up in the local paper. They are running a series of happenings 50 years ago.

This is far too long a letter, but I just wanted to share these things and you did ask in the last 306th Echoes for any old information.

Thanks again for all the time you have devoted to the organization and I do hope you find the missing reports.

Sincerely

Mrs. Kenneth McCall

Mrs. Kenneth McCall
809 Brickell Rd. N.W.
Huntsville, Ala. 35816-3503

8th AIR FORCE

306th BOMB GROUP

367th SQUADRON

ORIGINAL CREW

PILOT	James G. Parks	Tour	
CO*PILOT	Ian R. Elliott	KIA	4 January 1944
NAVIGATOR	Harold K. McCaleb	POW	
BOMBARDIER	Joseph W. Lukens	KIA	14 October 1943
RADIO	J. T. Callahan		
TOP TURRET	H. D. Cooke		
BALL TURRET	Edward DeBuyser	POW	
RIGHT WAIST	Alexander Heyburn	POW	
LEFT WAIST	Ernest H. Henderson	POW	
TAIL GUNNER	James E. Harris	POW	

American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.
Ninth Annual Convention
1993

SCHWEINFURT GERMANY OCTOBER 14 1943

306th Bomb Group-- 18 planes

3 aborted
5 completed mission
10 failed to return

367th Squadron 6 planes

2 returned early
1 completed mission
2 crews POW
1 crew KIA

8th AIR FORCE 306th BOMB GROUP 367th SQUADRON

CREW MEMBERS 1943

JULY 4 # 793
NANTES, FRANCE
368th Sqd.

July 10 # 175
CAEN, FRANCE

JULY 15 # 959
VILLACOUBLAY, FR.

JULY 17 # 175
HANOVER, GERMANY

PILOT	Lt. Linns	W. W. Thomas	W.W. Thomas	W. W. Thomas
CO-PILOT	G. Reese	J. G. Parks	J. G. Parks	J. G. Parks
NAVIGATOR	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb
BOMBARDIER	W. W. Swapp	J. W. Lukens	J. W. Lukens	J. W. Lukens
RADIO	J. J. Tobin	J. T. Callahan	J. T. Callahan	J. T. Callahan
TOP TURRET	M. J. Enos	J. Argenton	C. E. Vondrechek	Giouanni
BALL TURRET	P. G. Lester	E. DeBuyser	E. DeBuyser	E. DeBuyser
RIGHT WAIST	L. A. Brandon	J. P. Bloomen	J. E. Harris	M. J. St.Louis
LEFT WAIST	F. H. Nabon	W. J. Bell	W. J. Bell	A. Heyburn
TAIL GUNNER	J. C. Lotti	J. E. Harris	H. Golberg	J. E. Harris

8th AIR FORCE 306th BOMB GROUP 367th SQUADRON

CREW MEMBERS 1943

JULY 28 #076

KASSEL, GERMANY

JULY 29, # 894

KEIL, GERMANY

PILOT	W. W. Thomas	K. A. Reecher
CO-PILOT	J. G. Parks	
NAVIGATOR	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb
BOMBARDIER	J. W. Lukens	
RADIO	F. W. Palmer	
TOP TURRET	A. Heyburn	
BALL TURRET	E. DeBuyser	
RIGHT WAIST	M. J. St. Louis	
LEFT WAIST	E. H. Henderson	no crew report available
TAIL GUNNER	J. E. Harris	

8th AIR FORCE 306th BOMB GROUP 367th SQUADRON

CREW MEMBERS 1943

AUGUST 15 #175
FLUSHING, HOLLANDAUGUST 16, # 720
LE BOURGET, FRANCEAUGUST 17 #175
SCHWEINFURT, GER. VILLACOUBLAY FR.August 27 # 175
WATTEN FR

PILOT	W. W. Thomas	W. W. Thomas	W. W. Thomas	W. W. Thomas	W.W. Thomas
CO-PILOT	C. R. Stafford	C.R. Stafford	W. C. Bisson	F. H. Crawford	J.W. Kappmeyer
NAVIGATOR	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb	H.K. McCaleb
BOMBARDIER	J.W. Lukens	J. W. Lukens	J.W. Lukens	J. W. Lukens	J. W. Lukens
RADIO	A. Heyburn	F.W. Palmer	F. W. Palmer	F. W. Palmer	F, W. Palmer
TOP TURRET	F. W. Palmer	A. Heyburn	A. Heyburn	A. Heyburn	A. Heyburn
BALL TURRET	E. DeBuyser	E. DeBuyser	E. DeBuyser	E. DeBuyser	E. DeBuyser
RIGHT WAIST	M. J. St. Louis	M. J. St. Louis	M. J. St. Louis	M. J. St. Louis	M.J. St. Louis
LEFT WAIST	E. H. Henderson	E. H. Henderson	E. H. Henderson	E. H. Henderson	E. H. Henderson
TAIL GUNNER	J. E. Harris	J.E. Harris	J. E. Harris	J. E. Harris	J. E. Harris

8th AIR FORCE 306th BOMB GROUP 367th SQUADRON

CREW MEMBERS 1943

SEPTEMBER, 6 #175
STUTTGART, GERMANY

SEPTEMBER 15 # 727
ROMILLY-SUR-SEINE, GER.

SEPTEMBER, 16 # 727
NANTES, FR.

PILOT W. W. Thomas
 CO-PILOT J.W. Kappmeyer
 NAVIGATOR H. K. McCaleb
 BOMBARDIER J. W. Lukens
 RADIO F. W. Palmer
 TOP TURRET A. Heyburn
 BALL TURRET E. DeBuyser
 RIGHT WAIST M. J. St.Louis
 LEFT WAIST E. H. Henderson
 TAIL GUNNER J. E. Harris

W. W. Thomas
 J.W. Kappmeyer
 H. K. McCaleb
 M.J. St.Louis
 F. W. Palmer
 A. Heyburn
 E. DeBuyser
 H. D. Cooke
 E. H. Henderson
 J. E. Harris

W. W.Thomas
 J. W. Kappmeyer
 H. K. McCaleb
 E. H. Henderson
 F. W. Palmer
 A. Heyburn
 E. DeBuyser
 M. J. St.Louis
 H. D. Cooke
 J. E. Harris

8th AIR FORCE

306th BOMB GROUP

367th SQUADRON

CREW MEMBERS 1943

	OCTOBER 4 #363 FRANKFORT, GERMANY	OCTOBER 8, #175 BREMEN, GERMANY	OCTOBER 9, # GYDNI, POLAND	OCTOBER 10 #993 MUNSTER, GERMANY	OCTOBER 14 #175 SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY
PILOT	W.W. Thomas	W. C. Bisson	W. W. Thomas	D. H. White	Richard Butler
CO-PILOT	J.W. Kappmeyer	J. W. Kappmeyer		E. O. Rasmussen	J. W. Kappmeyer
NAVIGATOR	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb	H. K. McCaleb
BOMBARDIER	E. H. Henderson	M. J. St.Louis		O.K.C. Nabors	F. W. Banda
RADIO	F. W. Palmer *	T. R. Hill		J. C. Bocelli	A. Heyburn
TOP TURRET	A. Heyburn	A. Heyburn		E. E. Harbour	Amos May
BALL TURRET	E. DeBuyser	E. DeBuyser		F. W. Pulliam	E. DeBuyser
RIGHT WAIST	M. J. St.Louis	O. F. Thomas		W. R. Earnest	M. J. St.Louis
LEFT WAIST	O.O. Dobbs	E. H. Henderson		R. L. Whiteside	E. H. Henderson
TAIL GUNNER	J. E. Harris	J. E. Harris		W. R. Sherrill	J. E. Harris

no crew
report
available

* Killed in action

ALL POW'S.

Sept 1993

Lt. McCaleb Tells Of Experience In Germany

July 28
1943

Ellington Field, Texas—Over Kassel flak knocked out two of their four engines.

Dropping 3000 feet before the pilot could bring the Flying Fortress under control, they were attacked by two Focke Wulf 190's. They shot down both of them.

They got their bombs away while a third Focke Wulf was roaring in on their plane's tail.

Then the flight instruments went out. Haze blocked the view of the horizon.

The pilot gambled on reaching England, flying the crippled ship "by the seat of his pants." He brought her home, and crash landed in a cow pasture with all safe aboard.

These were the experiences of Second Lt. Harold K. McCaleb, 23, 509 West A. Street, Joplin, Mo., navigator, who received his preflight training at Ellington Field, and his fellow crew members on a B-17 during a recent raid on an industrial target in Germany.

An account of the mission was received today by Col. W. H. Reid, commanding Ellington, in a War Department dispatch from the Eighth Air Force in England.

Col. Reid immediately placed Lt. McCaleb's name in the Ellington Field Hall of Heroes.

"We were approaching the target area," Lt. McCaleb is quoted as saying "when anti-aircraft fire knocked out our No. 2 and No. 3 engines.

"Dropping fast, we fell behind our formation and were unable to catch up. I guess we appeared to be easy prey for the pursuing German fighters.

"The first Focke-Wulf to reach us came swooping in on our trail. Lt. Woodrow W Thomas, the pilot of 504 Harwood Ave, Baltimore, Md., rolled the faltering ship, and our tail gunner, Staff Sgt., James E. Harris of Little Falls N Y., let the attacker have a burst from his guns which sent it hurtling earthward.

"Then another enemy ship came toward us. This time Staff Sgt. Edward Beuyser, Route 263, Rochester, N. Y., the ball turret gunner scored the kill.

"Continuing on alone, Lt Thomas levelled us out for the bombing run. Lt. Joseph W. Lukens, of Burlington, N. J., our bombardier, took over, scoring several direct hits. Meanwhile another Axis plane had attacked us, but turned away amid a foray of bullets.

Starting home, the Ellington-trained navigator and his fellow crew members discovered the gasoline supply was running low. The ship already was badly crippled.

"We had three courses open," Lt. McCaleb continued, "We could land in neutral Switzerland, bail out over Germany, or try to make it back to England. We took the last choice."

Lt. McCaleb stated he and the gunners jettisoned every loose object to lessen the weight of the plane. They saved only their guns and a few hundred rounds of ammunition.

As they reached the English coast he said, the No. 4 engine ran out of gasoline. Lt. Thomas spotted a pasture and levelled off for an emergency landing.

The ship knocked down a high tension line, smashed through a picket fence, hit a tree, then skidded to a stop. All crew members leaped to safety as flames enveloped the wreckage and set off the ammunition.

As they waited for transportation back to their base, Lt. Mc-

Caleb stated he walked up to Lt. Thomas and said: "Don't look so disconsolate. It could have been worse."

"I lost a cigarette case," the pilot explained. "It was a good one with my initials on it."

Torrance 74

"It was the tr
 im some resp
 money," says hi
 Mrs. Hogan le
 responsibility of
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 eather.
 "I can remem
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 r Volkswagon
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 Except for Mic
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 Michael threw

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The Joplin Globe

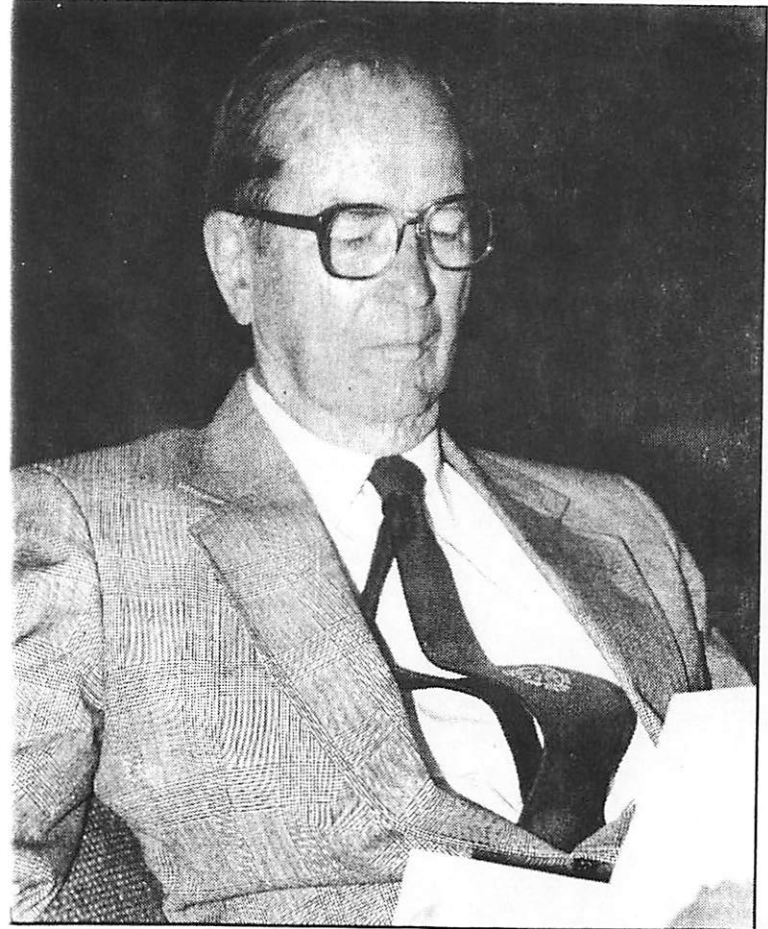
Joplin, Missouri

Oct. 14, 1993

THURSDAY

HEADLINERS

Retirement, reunions spark memories of WWII



Wednesday, Kenneth McCaleb took a few minutes to look over yearbooks and papers from The Chart, Missouri Southern College's school newspaper.

Globe/Glenita Browning

Today is a sad day for 73-year-old Kenneth McCaleb, former Joplin resident.

Fifty years ago today his B-17 airplane was shot down over Germany. He became a World War II prisoner of war.

Unsure of his plans, he says, "I might spend the day crying."

Memories leading up to that event are clear. There were briefings three days in a row about a bombing mission over Schweinfurt, Germany. The rain and fog in England continued, but once the planes cleared the English Channel, it was a beautiful sunny day, recalls McCaleb, navigator on his B-17.

He is a little more reluctant to think about what happened next.

The mission was his 19th, out of a required 25, in the Army/Air Corps. Of the 18 planes in the 306th bomb group that flew the mission, 10 failed to return. There were 10 crew members on each plane with half not surviving the war, McCaleb says.

He was not severely injured, but thinks he was knocked out for a time after he landed in a freshly plowed field.

"When you hit the ground in those combat-type parachutes, they don't let you land very easy," McCaleb says.

The mission was the biggest loss for the 8th Air Force, he says. That day, 287 planes left England on bombing missions; 60 were shot down.

McCaleb says when he woke up on German soil, he was surrounded by peasants and a local policeman who shouted at him in German, asking if he spoke German.

After being hauled from one location to another, he was interrogated and then spent 36 hours in solitary confinement, he says.

"I remember desperately wanting to look out a window to see what's going on," McCaleb says about solitary confinement.

The former first lieutenant says he spent 19 months as a prisoner of

war, mostly in a concentration-type camp at Stalag Luft III war camp. He says he was treated honorably by the Germans, but would not have survived without the American Red Cross food parcels, clothing and blankets.

His most frightening time came after he was taken to Nuremberg near the end of the war. The British were bombing Nuremberg, and some of the bombs got pretty close, he says.

"Those bombs made an awful racket."

A much happier day, one he often celebrates, is April 29. That was the day, in 1945, that he was liberated by General Patton's Army.

"There were a lot of happy men that morning. Many tears were shed that day, too," McCaleb says.

Over the years, he says, he hasn't dwelt on the war too much. But about 10 years ago, when he retired, he found the memories

See Memories, Page 2B

Memories

Continued from Page 1B

were still there.

During his visits to Joplin, McCaleb often notices the FAG Bearings Corporation buildings. He recalls a mission on Aug. 17, 1943, when his bomb group destroyed Fischer FAG, the German parent company to the local plant.

McCaleb and his wife, Margaret, returned to Joplin from their Huntsville, Ala., home for their Joplin High School 55th class reunion last weekend. They make the trip twice a year to visit his 97-year-old mother.

This trip is a time for reminiscing, McCaleb says. The couple spent Tuesday at Missouri Southern State College. Both attended the former Joplin Junior College. In 1939, McCaleb was editor of the school newspaper and named it "The Chart." He says he had journalistic ambitions at that time.

"It was the best name I could think of. It sounded like a dignified name for a college newspaper."

After receiving an associate degree, McCaleb joined the Army/Air Corps. After the war, he returned to school to obtain a mechanical engineering degree at the University of Oklahoma-Norman.

He says he used his journalism talents in writing test reports on Saturn rockets at Marshall Space Flight Center. He retired from that job in 1982.

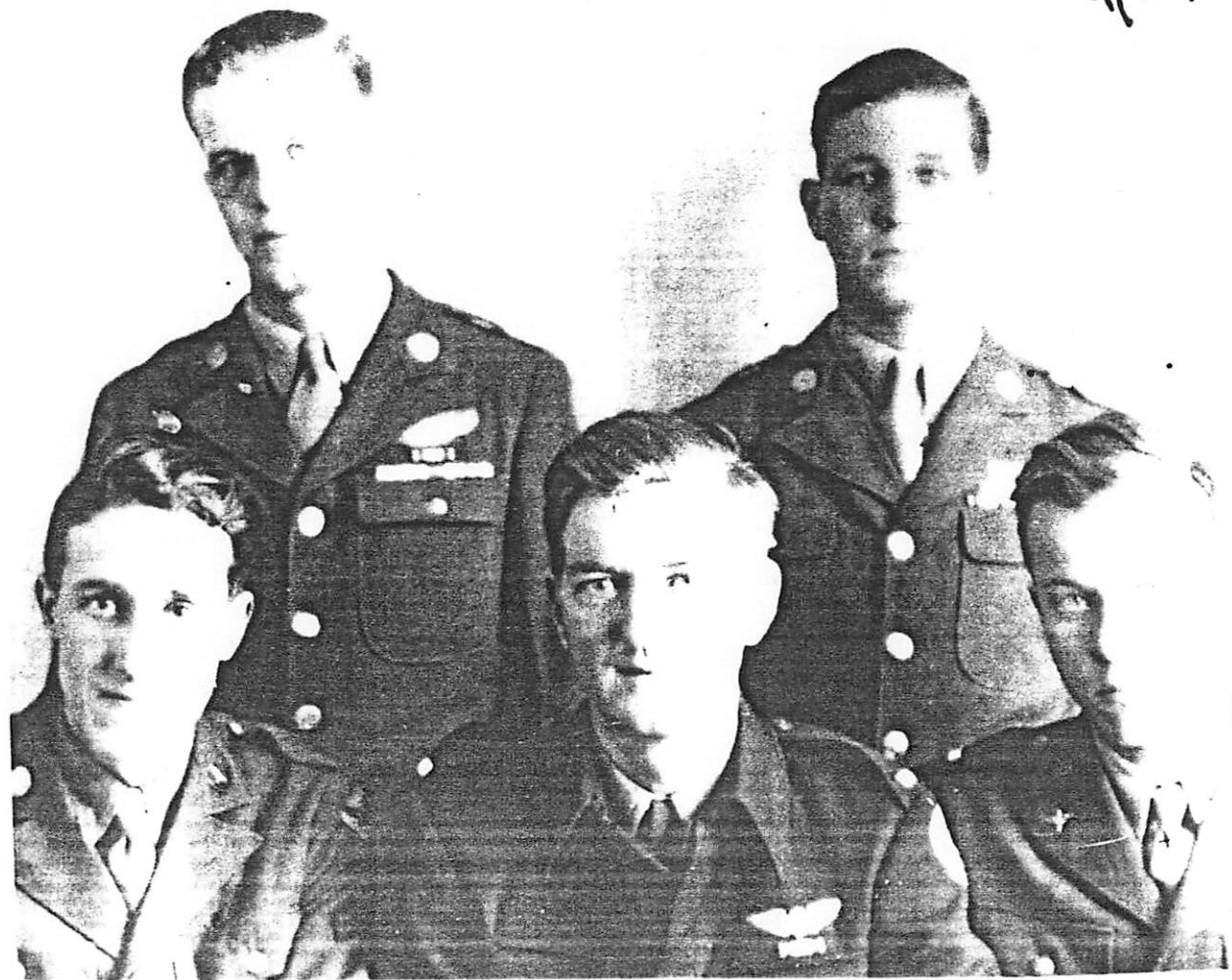
Because of his war-time experience, McCaleb says he has a greater appreciation for life, enjoying good health, his family, good food and smelling the flowers along the way.

With a group of 18 people, he returned to Germany in 1976. He says he shook hands with the German guards who attended the reunion as they toured the war camp together.

Now his days are filled with reading, mostly about history.

"I wish I could do something to prevent future wars," he says.

EDENBURGH SCOTLAND 9-30-43
9/30/43



30 April 1999

Dear Ken and Margaret:

I was delighted to receive in today's mail a copy of "In Search of Peace", and will make good use of it in the April issue of Echoes, which I plan to put together this weekend.

On what little I have been able to get through it earlier in the day, I am much impressed with the idea and the execution. I will plan to write more to you later as I actually read it over the next several days.

My suspicion is now that I will use parts of it in several future issues of our 306th publication.

I would also like to suggest that you send along a copy or two to the Mighty Eighth AF Heritage Museum at Savannah, addressing it to the library therein, so that they may add it to collection. The 306th has made major contributions of materials to their library, as well as funds. As I go about sorting my current book collection, I take a box full to them each time I am traveling in that direction.

Also, a copy ought to go to the 8th AF Historical Society, as they would probably highlight it in a future issue of their newspaper.

Again, my thanks to you for your gift and the thought that went into its presentation.

Sincerely yours,



H. K. McCaleb
809 Brickell Rd NW
Huntsville AL 35816-3503

1 July, 1999

Mr. Russell Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, N. C. 28205

Hello,

Please find enclosed a check for \$10.00 for a copy of the new 306th directory.

As you can see by the enclosed from SSMA, we will be unable to attend the 306th reunion in St. Louis or the 8th Air Force Historical Society reunion in Savannah in October also.

We have been unable to attend SSMA as our High School or Missouri Southern reunions have been the same dates. We will be leaving Savannah and going to Joplin, Mo. for the October 23rd reunion of The Chart newspaper that Kenneth named and founded 60 years ago. We are proud of our old Junior College, now Missouri Southern. It gave the guys two years of college and so many went into the Army or Navy Air Force during World War II.

We did send a copy of "In Search of Peace" to the museum in Savannah to the librarians address but no response yet. General Clark has put his copy in the Air Force Academy POW Archives. He was a South Compound camper as Kenneth. There is also a copy in the War Eagles Museum in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, 12 miles from El Paso Texas, because a former roommate volunteers there. We have not sent one to Andersonville yet but plan to do so.

Thank you for your encouragement in our modest endeavor. Kenneth sure lost his zeal for writing after having to be so brief in communicating from POW camp-(I think!). So I get the honor to write most times!

Hopefully we will meet again-the last was in Knoxville.

Best Wishes

Margaret & Kenneth

P.S. were mission reports ever found for 29 July 1943 to Kail GERMANY + 9 Oct. 1943 - Gydna Poland?

*mailed
9/27/99*



Former Prisoner of War
at
Stalag Luft III

16 June 1993

I have received my copy of the 367th Squadron Combat Diary. It is very well done and a welcome addition to my World War II library.

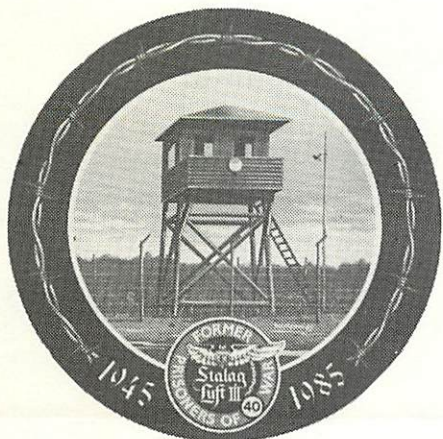
On page 27 there is an error--
T/Sgt Francis W. Porter should be Francis W. Palmer, who died Oct. 4, 1943.

On April 15, 1992 I received a call from his brother, Richard J. Palmer, 8617 N. 49th Ave. Glendale Arizona 85307, ph-602-934-0145. He was going through some of his mothers belongings and found a letter I had written Mrs. Palmer after I returned in 1945. We had a very nice telephone visit. Francis was his older brother. I was the one who discovered he was dead on the plane.

You are to be commended for all the work you have done on behalf of all of us.

Sincerely

H. Kenneth McCaleb
809 Brickell Rd. N.W.
Huntsville, Ala. 35816



**Stalag Luft III
40th Reunion
Denver, Colorado**

May 2 - 4, 1985

August 1994

Ann 17 Nov 94

I noticed in The July 1994
306^B Echoes the Article about
Listing of decorations for officers
in the 306^B

Perhaps my husband
Harold K. McAleB (As he
would be listed) would FALL in
The category of Listings.

He became a POW 14^B Oct
1943 -

This would be one more
Bit of information for me to
Add to my personal writings.

Thanks - Mrs. H. Kenneth McAleB
809 Brickell Rd NW
Huntsville Ala 35816-
3503 -

Grants approved for MSSC students' peace projects

From staff reports

The McCaleb Peace Initiative at Missouri Southern State College has approved grants for student projects in South Africa, Germany and Yugoslavia.

A campuswide competition for a \$5,000 grant from the McCaleb Peace Initiative has resulted in proposals that so impressed the founders of the Initiative that they gave \$10,000 more to fund additional proposals.

Two years ago Kenneth and Margaret McCaleb of Huntsville, Ala., donated stock then valued at \$150,000 as an endowment to assist in finding ways to bring about peace and to prevent war.

Kenneth McCaleb was a World War II prisoner of war after being shot down on a bombing mission over Schweinfurt, Germany. He spent 19 months in POW camps.

McCaleb attended the college when it was Joplin Junior College in the late 1930s. He founded and named the college newspaper, *The Chart*, in 1939. He and his wife gave the money to the college with the understanding that through the college's Institute for International Studies, questions about causes of war and ways of achieving peace be studied and addressed in *The Chart*.

In the first year of the Initiative, a *Chart* reporter attended a prisoner of war reunion in Schweinfurt and visited other cities in Germany. This year, however, it was decided that the Initiative would sponsor a campuswide competition which would require that proposals be submitted by teams, each team comprised of one faculty member and one student. The teams would submit proposals to explore some topic on the general theme "In Search of Peace," and prepare a series of articles for *The Chart* with the series later to appear in booklet form.

The first team to receive a \$5,000 grant is the team of Kelly Dengel,

McCaleb Peace Initiative recipients:

■ Kelly Dengel and Allen Merriam for "South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission: A Model for Peacemaking."

■ Daniel Johnston and Sabine Cramer for "In Search of Peace: ... and what do we learn from World War II?"

■ Kosta Savic and William Kumbier for "In Search of Peace in Kosovo."

junior international communications major from Idaho, and Allen Merriam, communications professor, for a project entitled: "South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission: A Model for Peacemaking."

They will study the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of South Africa to show how it has begun to heal the people of South Africa and to investigate how future leaders of South Africa may take full advantage of the commission's work.

Dengel will travel to Cape Town, South Africa, to visit the TRC headquarters, and will do research at the University of Cape Town in association with Phillippe Salazr, a distinguished professor in the Centre for Rhetoric Studies.

Merriam this summer will attend the Intercultural Communication Academic Conference in Rochester, N.Y., which will focus on maintaining peace and a civil society.

The second winner of a \$5,000 grant is the team of Daniel Johnston, senior German/sociology major from Joplin, and Sabine Cramer, assistant professor of German, for "In Search of Peace: ... and what do we learn from World War II?"

See Grants, Page 6A

Grants

Continued from Page 3A

The project involves many interviews here and abroad, some already in progress, with a public lecture by a

professor from a German university to be held on campus, analysis of peace events in Germany, research on status of German peace movements within Europe, a public opinion poll concerning peace and global conflicts, a comparative study of news broadcasting media and an investigation of German peace forces. Johnston will travel to six German cities.

The third \$5,000 grant goes to the team of Kosta Savic, freshman international business major from Joplin, and William Kumbier, associate professor of English, for a project entitled "In Search of Peace in Kosovo." Savic was born in Bosnia but spent his childhood and adolescence in

Belgrade, coming to the United States in 1998 as a high school exchange student. For this project he will return to Belgrade for the first time since 1998. He will interview people who hold different positions in government, politics and the community, as well as people of different nationalities.

24 October 2002

The two enclosures tell the story of the unexpected. We had only been home since Oct 1. Kenneth would have had major surgery that evening,

It's rather odd but for Oct 14 being a holiday, he would have been buried 57 years from Oct 1943. The cemetery is a beautiful Civil War one & will be down by the lake.

Thanks for the extra July issue.

God Bless

Love

Margaret McLaughlin

We had 57 years!

11

Died Oct. 8, 2002

H. Kenneth McCaleb

Kenneth McCaleb of Huntsville died Tuesday at Crestwood Hospital. He was 82.

Mr. McCaleb was a retired mechanical engineer at NASA. He was a veteran of the United States Army Air Force. Mr. McCaleb was an ex-Prisoner of War of World War II in Germany.

Mr. McCaleb founded and named The Chart newspaper at Missouri Southern State College (MSSC) in Joplin, Mo. in 1939. In 1998, he and his wife founded The McCaleb Initiative for Peace at the college.

Mr. McCaleb volunteered with several local organizations including the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. McCaleb was a 54 year member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a member of Elks Lodge 1648 and the American Legion 237. He was a member of Grace United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Margaret McCaleb; a son, Robert D. McCaleb and his wife, Patti, of Cleveland, Tenn.; three grandchildren, Laura, Leah and Landon McCaleb; and a sister, Bettie McCaleb of Joplin, Mo.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. today at Laughlin Service Funeral Home, Inc. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday at Grace United Methodist Church with Rev. Fred Webster officiating. Burial will be on Tuesday at 1 p.m. CST in Chattanooga National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to The McCaleb Initiative for Peace at MSSC, 1595 Newman Rd., Joplin, MO 64804.

THE CHART

Founder of McCaleb Initiative for Peace, *The Chart* dies

BY ALLISON ROSEWICZ
Editor-in-Chief

The College is mourning the loss of a long-time peace promoter.

Kenneth McCaleb, creator of the McCaleb Initiative for Peace at Missouri Southern, died around 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2002, at Crestwood Hospital in Huntsville, Ala. Complications from an intestinal blockage led to a fatal heart attack. He was 82.

"I was standing right by him one

moment, then he was gone," said his wife, Margaret McCaleb.

He was a retired mechanical engineer at NASA.

McCaleb graduated from Joplin Junior College, the precursor of Southern. While a student at Joplin Junior College, he established and named the College



Kenneth McCaleb
newspaper, *The*

Chart, on Nov. 10, 1939.

"I was trying to get a sensible name for a college newspaper," McCaleb said in 1988. "*The Chart* sounded like a straight-forward name that could serve as a record of the College's progress. It must have been a pretty good name."

Margaret McCaleb said her husband considered his time at Southern "a wonderful educational opportunity."

After graduation, McCaleb was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II, just five days before the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He was a navigator aboard a B-17, flying

bomb missions over Germany.

On Oct. 14, 1943, he was shot down and taken to a German camp as a prisoner of war for 19 months. He was released April 29, 1945. He was 25.

The war experience affected McCaleb for a lifetime, and he dedicated his life to peace. In 1998, he and his wife created the McCaleb Initiative for Peace at Southern so students could research the causes of war and learn ways to prevent it.

The McCalebs donated 2,000 shares of Time Warner stock, worth approximately \$150,000, to the College in 1998

for the initiative. This equals about \$5,000 per year for a student-journalist to travel abroad and report on peace issues for a supplement in *The Chart*.

Margaret McCaleb said the initiative at Southern will continue to be funded.

College President Julio León said he was sad to hear about McCaleb's death.

"He was a great friend of the College," León said. "He was a very dear person to this college and *The Chart*. We will remember him with

TURN TO **MCCALEB**, PAGE 9

MCCALEB:

From Page 1

fondness. We wish Mrs. McCaleb our condolences."

Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies and *The Chart* adviser, first met McCaleb in the spring of 1988 at the 50th anniversary of the College. He said the McCalebs have always stayed in contact with the staff and advisers of the newspaper.

"It was remarkable how he kept in touch all the way from Alabama," Stebbins said.

Margaret McCaleb said she and her husband were avid readers of *The Chart*.

"We look forward to *The Chart*," she said. "We get aggravated when the postman doesn't bring them."

She called her husband a "thoughtful" and "very studious man."

"He was always reading and expanding his mind," she said.

León and Stebbins agreed. León said McCaleb was "very well-informed" and had "a strong interest in international affairs."

"He's a great benefactor," Stebbins said. "Every college or university has to have people like Kenneth McCaleb to bring an air of greatness, of credibility. We're fortunate we had him. He gave so much of his own money and time to improve this institution."

McCaleb is survived by his wife of 57 years; a son, Robert D. McCaleb and his wife, Patti, of Cleveland, Tenn.; three grandchildren, Laura, Leah and Landon McCaleb; and a sister, Bettie McCaleb of Joplin.

On Sept. 26, the McCalebs came to Southern for the Gockel International Symposium. When they returned home Oct. 1, McCaleb began to feel ill. He was admitted to the hospital Oct. 6.

Visitation was Oct. 10 at Laughlin Funeral Home in Huntsville. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Grace United Methodist Church with Rev. Fred Webster officiating. Burial will be at 1 p.m., Oct. 15 at Chattanooga National Cemetery in Tennessee. The McCaleb family encourages memorials to be made to The McCaleb Initiative for Peace at Southern.

"We've had a very good journey through life," Margaret McCaleb said. "We've had sad times, but far more happy times."

Hi,

Enclosed a check for The Book -
306^B Echoes -

Jim sure Kenneth will be pleased
to have a copy. I just couldn't
cut the Newsletter.

You certainly are to be commended
for all the work you have done
in keeping the fellows in touch
with each other -

Thanks Margaret McEaleb

29 MAY 2001



Photograph by: Corbis, Inc.



American Ex-Prisoners of War

MADE IN THE USA

20 MAY 2000

Hello!

We thought you might be interested in a follow-up on the project we began at Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, Mo. We were so impressed with the young people's ideas - gives me hope!

Kenneth's journalistic ambitions seem to have disappeared after writing those "telegram like" cards & letters from POW camp!

We wish you good health & continued fun times -

Sincerely
Margaret & Kenneth
McCalister



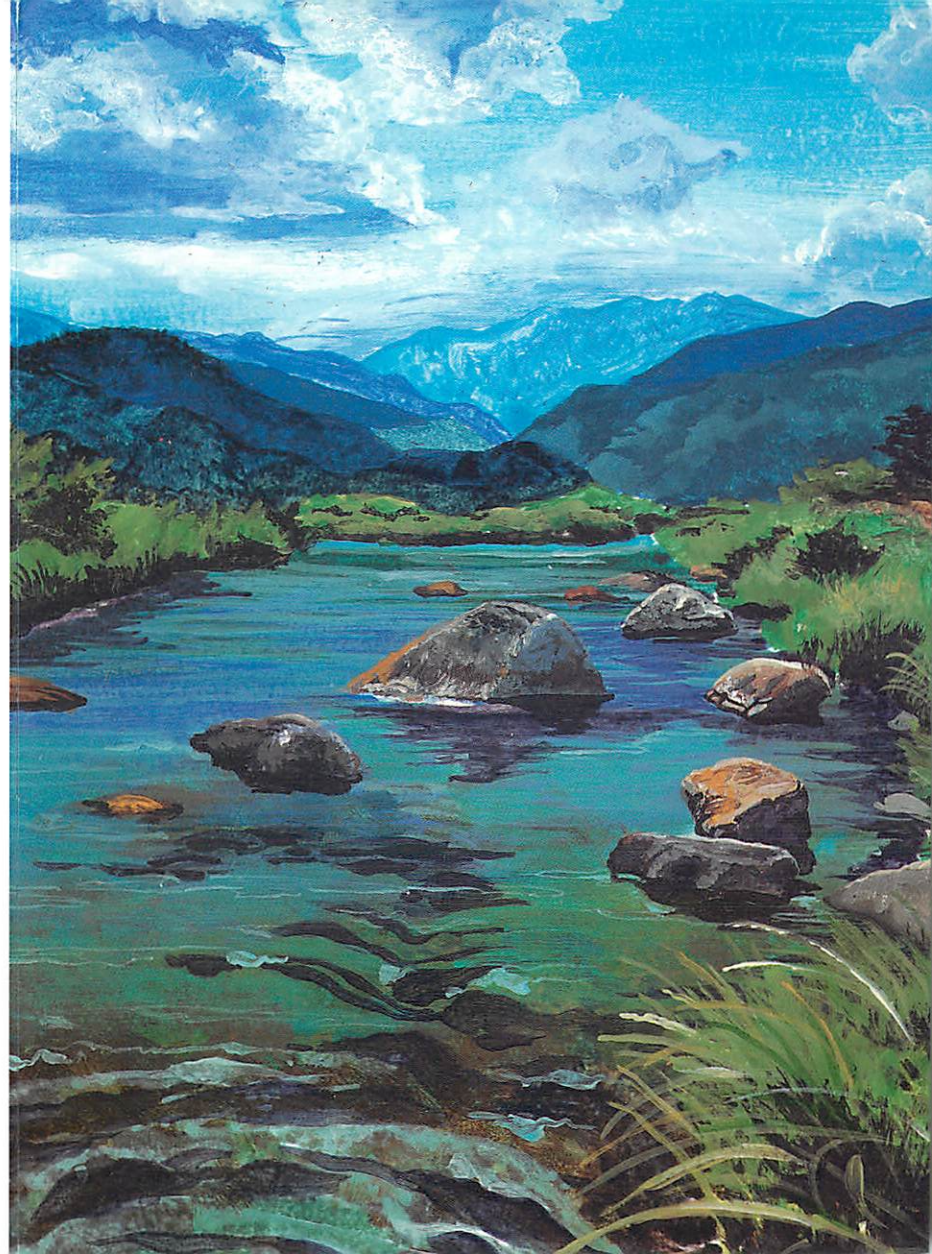
Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Illustration by Karin Snoots

Protecting Parks for Future Generations

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is America's only private non-profit organization dedicated solely to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System. For more than 80 years we have fought and won many battles on behalf of our parks with the support of our committed members.

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
1300 19th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20036
www.npca.org



Hello!

10 Sept 2002

Could you please send us a copy of
the last 306th Echoes - July, 2002?

I'm afraid I must have put it in
the blue bin! I so wanted to look

up something you had written you
were beginning to collect - some orders
as I remember. I've been sorting
again & thought there may be some items
of Kenneths you could use. We need
to really organize!

Thanks so very much for all
you do & have done for the 306th
fellows

Just add the enclosed to your



response
12 Oct 02

Stamp drawer,

thanks again. Oh yes, we will miss the reunion as it is the same time as our commitment to the Peace project at MSSE in Joplin which we will attend.

Peace hardly gets much attention anymore -

Best Wishes
Margaret + Kenneth
McCaleb



Mr. & Mrs. H. Kenneth McCaleb
809 Brickell Rd NW
Huntsville AL 35816-3503