

1 August 1986

Sandra G. Whiteman
4642 Willis Av
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 Apt. 202

Dear Miss Whiteman:

In response to your inquiry of 28 May concerning your late father, I regret that I cannot give you a great deal of information. Let me first give you what little statistical data that I can:

Harold W. Whiteman, O-794082, navigator, 367th squadron. Promoted to first lieutenant, 28 March 43; Received Air Medal, 31 March 43, oak leaf cluster to Air Medal, 17 April 43. Missing in action, 17 April 43, Bremen.

Your father had flown at least 10 missions at the time of his becoming missing in action, as the Air Medal or oak leaf cluster was awarded for each five missions.

He was flying as navigator for Capt. Craig J. Harwood on the fateful day. Of the crew, three were killed in action and seven became prisoners of war. The only members of the crew for whom addresses are known are: Louis J. Enloe, Rt. 3, Owensville, MO 65066, and who was the engineer on the crew, and Robert G. Robel, 146 S. Ryan St., Auburn, AL 36830, the radio operator.

Harwood was killed, Gerald Clymer, the co-pilot, died in 1967, and Frank Wolinski, the bombardier, has not been located.

Details of this mission, in which the group lost 10 planes, are contained in the history of the 306th, First Over Germany. A copy of this book is available for \$20. If you are interested in it, send me a check for that amount, and the book will be forwarded.

Evidently, your father did not come to the 306th, which was stationed at Thurleigh, six miles north of Bedford, as a member of a combat crew, but rather as an individual. Special orders assigning men to the group are very scarce for this period and I do not have any documents showing anything about your father, other than the data I have mentioned above.

I realize that this information is very sketchy, and I regret that it is the best I can do.

Sincerely yours,

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I have checked further into records, and find that definitely your father did not come to Thurleigh as a member of Harwood's crew, which arrived 30 Dec 42. That crew had no bombardier, and a different navigator. So your father was picked up along the way someplace. As to whether he had flown with Harwood before, I do not know.

There is an outside chance that your father might be remembered by two other men: Col. Kenneth A. Reeher, 38 Da-Vinci, Lake Oswego, OR 97034, who was the squadron operations officer, and Hugh Phelan, who was the squadron navigator. Both of these I would think were outside shots, but probably worth writing for information. You might also try Charles F. Jones, 2027 Jeffrey, Troy, MI 48098, who had just become group navigator, and who has an excellent memory.

In writing any of the names suggested, it would probably be well to mention that I suggested you write, as I know all of the men.

8-7-86

Dear Mr. Strong,

I can't tell you how happy + excited I was to receive your letter. Thank you so much for the information! How did you know all this? I wrote to the Army Records Bureau (I believe in MO) + my dad's records had been destroyed in a fire. Thank you so much!

I have enclosed \$20.00 for First Over Germany. Do you have any other publications I might find of interest? I have done a great deal of research for the book I want to write about Dad, so I've begun collecting resource material.

Can you tell me a little about your organization? Do you have a newsletter, annual meetings, etc.? I would like to participate if that's possible. I also have 2 brothers younger than I who would be equally interested.

Thank you also for the names + addresses. I shall contact all of them in the near future. I can't thank you enough!

I'm not sure if I told you why I am seeking this information, but I will give you a brief idea.

When Dad was shot down, he broke his leg as he landed. He was taken to a private Catholic hospital (St. Josephs Stipt) + remained there for approx 6 weeks, before going to Stalag Luft III. One particular nun took care of him + made a lasting impression. After the War he called her every Easter Sunday (when he was shot down) until he died in 1974. He made several trips back to

visit with her, but none of the 4 "kids" ever met her, until I went to Bremen in '82 (+ again in '84). I stayed in the nurses' quarters at St. Josephs Stift as a special guest of Sister Emertia, the nun who took care of many Allied men. She showed me the room where my father ^{was confined} ~~stayed~~ (it's a delivery room now!) + it was truly awesome to feel I was going back ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ history. I am 35 + therefore have only heard + read of experiences + life during the War. But I would like to write a fictional story based on facts about a German hospital + those Germans who hated Hitler + the Nazis. I'm sure you can understand the amount of research involved. Do you know of any men to whom I could write about their experiences in German hospitals? Sister Emertia gave me a few leads + I have some interesting info from them. Of course, the ideal is to interview both Germans + Americans. Sister was very helpful, + I became very close with her, but she unfortunately died in January.

I look forward to receiving the book. If you mail it right away, please use my Calif. address. I will be moving back to Atlanta on Sept. 5, + my new address will be 54 Ivy Parkway, Atlanta, Ga. 30342. I hope you can send it soon.

Once again, many thanks + all the best to you in your endeavors of keeping the Association airborne! I hope to hear from you on the above-

Best regards,
Jandra Whitman

5-28-86

Dear Mr. Collins,

Please excuse my informal note. I found your address through someone at an air show in Chino, CA.

I am trying to do research on a book I want to write about my father, Dr. Harold Wilson Whiteman (he was a Lt. & later became Capt.) He was in the 367 Bomb Squad & 306 Bomber Group. He was shot down over Bremen on 4/17/43 & spent 6 wks in St. Josephs Stift before going to Stalag Luft III.

My father died in Nov '74 from a brain tumor, so I would like to locate men who might have known him. Can

M B S

you please give me some help or
advice? Does the 8th AF have a
special publication?

I would sincerely appreciate
your assistance + guidance.

Sincerely,
Audra J. Whiteman

(818) 784-0138 home
(213) 657-1968 work

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Sherman Oaks, Ca. 91403

P.S. Do you know where Dad was based in
England before the April 17th '43 bombing raid?