

Dear Bill

1/23

Sorry you couldn't make
Colorado Springs — If you did,
you hid from us!

We've had the flu — hope
you & yours are doing OK.

I don't know where else to
look or ask so I hope you could
play detective for me.

On Jan 11, 1944, going to
Halberstadt, Germany, a 'head on
attack' knocked us out of
formation & my pilot had
a 20 mm explode & he lost the
use of his leg ^{in the cockpit} forever — he was
sent back to the states & became
lost.

At all the reunions, no one
knows or remembers what happened to him.
He was a little angry that he got
hurt & could not become a "hero"
(according to the officers left in my crew
back in '44). I was about 18, tail gunner
so I, at that time was a little quiet and
up to the officers to keep in contact with "their"
pilot.

(over)

Now, at 61, I'm mature enough
to try and visit any one of my ex pilot's
kins

Approx 3 yrs ago the
306 Echoes had a 2 or 3 liner
"Chas J Kinsey³⁶⁹ pilot died (about
1975-79) I can't remember but the fact
is some one gave it to you or
Lynn Strong to put in the Echoes
If that's where your detective work could
help me

I called every Kinsey in
long distance 2 years ago, Atlanta
Georgia, where he was from before
WW II. They knew nothing of him.
I want to visit his family, since he
seemed to have become a recluse on
his injury, and tell them what
a good guy he was & what
happened.

Can you help?

Thank you
Ray Yerak

2048 Som Center Rd
Willoughby Hills, Ohio
(216) 943-0341 44094

13 October 1986

Dear Ray:

I haven't forgotten about you, but haven't been able to come up with any information on Charles Kinsey for you.

I thought you provided some good leads concerning his son, but they turned up fruitless, so I don't know where to turn at this point.

Wish I could do more, but I don't know quite where to turn at this point.

At this point I have no idea where the information came from. If it came in a letter from someone, that very likely got filed under their name.

I wonder if any of the information came from Czechowski, Sovis or Sweeney? They are all in the directory, but I have not kept a file on any of them as to correspondence. Why not contact each of them and see if they can give you any information at all? I had a letter from Czechowski last week, after querying him about the Halberstadt raid.

I am planning to do a feature eventually on that raid. Do you have anything you'd like to tell me about it? I'd appreciate any comments.

All the best,

Russell A. Strong

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MR RAY **A** YERAK
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WILLOUGHBY, OH 44094

'86

Light on the Poe _letters of Randa

his experience with the 306th and the 423rd where he flew as engineer
; crew, July 1944-January 1945, earned a degree at the University of
doctorate in sociology at the University of Chicago. He is now president of
sed consulting firm, Social, Educational Research and Development, Inc.

Colonel Russ Strong

Please change ^{3/41}
middle initial from D to A

Per your "Time to give a bit"
\$20. check sent to Bill Collins for expenses.

Thank you Ray A. Yerak