

9 May 88

Dear Paul,

Thanks for your letter of 26 March. I especially appreciated hearing about Bob Lake, whom I admired as a friend and an instructor pilot. He certainly had an active career flying and a second career in business. Your letter brought so many memories that I got out my 63d AAF7D Raymond-Richardson Aviation (Douglas, Georgia) class book with all the photos and enjoyed re-reading it and looking at all the young, clean-cut, patriotic, all-American men of our generation: administrators, flight instructors, fellow aviation cadets, etc. I must say that all of you who ran that program and taught ~~basic~~^{primary} flying did an amazing job!!!! I have special admiration for my initial flight instructor, Jessie Coleman (unfortunately for his group of cadets, he became ill and we were farmed out to other instructors as they could work-us-in) and after being passed around I was lucky to have Bob Lake as my instructor. I'll never forget my embarrassing experience: I was very proud of the many rolls, loops, lazy eights, etc. I was doing when I suddenly realized I had drifted almost over a practice landing field. I took off trying to escape identity only to be caught up with by a skilled flight instructor (from the photos I believe it was a popular pilot named Sweetman). He was waiting for me when I landed. Convinced that I had learned a lesson never to be forgotten, he punished me only with a run around the field carrying a parachute. I was most grateful to say the least. I have more than my share of pleasant memories of our training at Douglas.

Sorry I have no more information concerning Norman Friskie than you. I think you are correct about Harrington. He must have joined us at Gunter Field for Basic. I recall the day I made the big decision to leave flight training to go ground forces (infantry). E.D. Scott left the same time, only to re-enter flight training at a later date after being commissioned. I believe he ended up flying B-17's.

Again my congratulations to you for your most valuable service training cadets during the war and your most successful career as a pilot with private industry.

My wife Edna joins me in sending our best wishes to you and Tannie.

Sincerely,  MAERTENS

P.S. I wrote you about my Army pilot son-in-law. My other daughter married one of my top cadets when I was a Regimental Cmdr at West Point. He is a full colonel, commander of the famous 3d Regt, Old Guard, which handles the thousands of ceremonies each year in the D.C. area. We are blessed with these two truly outstanding sons-in-law.

(over)

Assignments:

Infantry Company Commander, Europe, World War II, 1944 - 1945
Company & Battalion Commander, 1st Infantry Division, 1945 - 1948
Operations Staff Officer, Fort Monroe, Virginia, 1948 - 1950
Infantry Weapons Test Officer, Fort Benning, Ga., 1950 - 1953
Battalion Commander, Korea, 1953 - 1954
Staff Officer (G1), Japan, 1954 - 1956
Staff and Faculty, Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas 1957 - 1960
Student Air Force War College, 1960 - 1961
Advisor, Nationalist Chinese Army, Taiwan, 1961 - 1963
Commander Assignments, 82d Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, NC, 1963 - 1964
Commander, First Regiment of Cadets, USMA, West Point, NY, 1964 - 1967
Division Advisor, 18th Vietnamese Division, 1967 - 1968
Professor of Military Science, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 1968 - 1972

Personal Data:

Date and Place of Birth: 9 March 1921, Spokane, Washington.

Family: Mrs. Edna F. Maertens (wife)

Mrs. James F. Hennessee (daughter)

~~Captain~~ ^{Col} Hennessee, Infantry (son-in-law) *Comdr "old guard" regt.*

Miss Georgann Maertens (~~college student~~) *Married Army Aviator*
Lt Col D. R. OZBOLT

Parents: Colonel Kameil Maertens (father, deceased)

Mrs. J. K. Bush (mother)

Colonel J. K. Bush (~~step-father, retired~~) *deceased*
~~8522 Beechtree Road, Bethesda, Maryland~~

Brothers: Colonel J. E. Maertens (~~Fort Ord, California~~) *ret'd*

Colonel T. B. Maertens (~~Fort Benning, Ga.~~) *ret'd*

BIOGRAPHY

GEORGE K. MAERTENS
Colonel, United States Army

MAR 9 1921
Colonel Maertens was born in Spokane, Washington. Being the son of a Regular Army Officer he was raised on various Army posts throughout the United States, graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School, San Antonio, Texas in June 1938.

He attended Millard Preparatory School for West Point and won a competitive examination for appointment to enter West Point, July 1939. Due to wartime requirements his class graduated some four months early (19 January 1943). He was commissioned in Infantry but detailed to Tank Destroyer.

375RD INF. 997TH DIV.
He fought in the European Theater as an Infantry Company Commander in World War II, and remained after the war with the Army of Occupation including duty with the Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders.

In March 1948 he returned to the United States for duty with G-3 (Operations Division) HQ, Army Field Forces, Fort Monroe, Virginia. From 1950-53 he served as Infantry Weapons Test Officer at Fort Benning, Georgia until sent to Korea as Commander of a Mortar Battalion. From 1954-56 he was assigned as a staff officer in G-1, HQ Armed Forces Far East, Japan. He was selected to attend the Army Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, in 1956; followed by over three years as a member of the Staff and Faculty, United States Command and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (1957-60). In the summer of 1960 he was selected as one of ten Army officers to attend the United States Air Force War College at the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama. Upon graduation he was sent to The Republic of Free China (Taiwan) to work with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's forces for two years.

In June 1963 he reported for command duty with the famous 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. The next year, June 1964, found him assigned to the United States Military Academy, West Point, as Commander, First Regiment of Cadets. In June 1967 he left West Point for duty as Senior Advisor to one of the ten Vietnamese Infantry Divisions, returning in June 1968.

On 1 August 1968 Colonel Maertens was honored and proud to become the Professor of Military Science, Clemson University.

Retired 12 Oct 72.

*Retired from 2nd career (HS teacher and Director of Counseling) July 86
1975 to*