

Dear Paul,

Well, it was a great surprise when I received your phone call regarding events that took place so many years ago. Of course those years have always brought fond memories and I have periodically looked through my book of memories. I will always remember my first Instructor "Red" and am sorry that I could never find him. I thought he lived in Pa. I have talked about him many times and can still see him coming across the ramp.

Well, what happened to me. I completed my training at Spence Fld. Macon, Ga. Was assigned to become an Instructor, then transferred to Troop Carrier in Texas. My desire to fly fighters prompted me to volunteer for Twin Engine Fighter, which I thought was a P-38. However I wound up in a B-26 outfit in Banksville Fld., Ala. From there we were assigned to Crews and flew overseas via Greenland and Iceland to arrive just in time for "D" Day in England. Flew 49 Missions and outside of some flak holes in the plane came through the War in fair shape. I stayed in the Air Force Reserve for over 27 years, with a variety of assignments, and retired as a LtCol in 1983. My civilian career was with the navy and I retired from the position of Civilian Personnel Director. We have a farm up in Damascus, Pa., and that is our hobby. We travel back a fourth during the year, summer and winter. We usually make about 2000 bales of hay and have a garden that feeds the local population there and here in N.J. My wife is Lenore from N.J. and she is with me on most projects. I have been attending the Reunions of our 585th Bomb Squadron for quite a few years now and we have a great time. We have been in Cal., No., Calif., Mont. Colo. Ohio, and will be in Dayton this year and next year in Md. Martin is having a celebration on the 50th Anniversary of the first B-26, and it is expected that a few people will show up. Copy of Gula enclosed. Am also enclosing a copy of an article from Air Force Mag. regarding a mission that I was on. We lost some great guys. Also enclosed is a picture of a model B-26 that a friend gave me to assemble.

Be the good Lord willing and we do not have a conflict with our Reunion, I will sure try to get to Ga. I think it is great to renew acquaintances and recall the many good things that have happened over the years.

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I, m sorry that I do not have information on any of the other guys that I trained with at Douglas. We seemed to go a lot of different ways after we left there. I corresponded with both Joe and Odom for a period of time. Then of course knew that we lost both of them during the battle of the Buldge. Odom never graduated for Douglas and was a Gunner at time of his death.

Well, I'm looking forward to spring and enjoying the weather and all the things that go with the blossoms. If you ever get the opportunity to come east, give us a call. You have the phone number here (201) 892-9232 and in Pa. it is (717) 224-6349.

thank you again for thinking of and taking the time to get in touch with all of the guys.

Our Best ot You, Your Wife and All,



Jim





HERE IS THE ORIGINAL B 26 IN FRANCE - WITH JIM