

jsbybee

From: "KAREN KAYE" <karenkayecares@bellsouth.net>
To: <jsbybee@sybertech.net>
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2009 10:24 PM
Subject: Jake Ellin relative

Dear John,

I am Jake Ellin's granddaughter and Jerry Ellin's niece, who was the Sgt. killed in WWII. I received your information from Heska Amuna Synagogue. I would like to hear from you as soon as possible either by phone 954-384-1217 or email. This is very important to me as my mother just passed away. I live in Ft Lauderdale, Florida.

Many thanks,
Karen Kaye

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 8.5.386 / Virus Database: 270.13.5/2220 - Release Date: 07/05/09 17:54:00

BILL PORTER
Wise County Hist.

CWITAS
SWITAO

LOW
MARIAN JAY
NIC K.

Mike Mucha

jsbybee

From: "Ron Lowther" <flyinglobster@bellsouth.net>
To: "jsbybee" <jsbybee@sybertech.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2009 3:14 PM
Subject: Karen Kaye's Cousin

Hi John,

Karen wanted to forward the contact info of her cousin Robert Angel who may have known Jake Ellin. He was about 13 when Jake was killed. He is about 77 years old and lives in a monastery. His health seems to be dwindling and can not see well, but you might be able to get something from him. He wasn't sure if charges were dropped or not against the SS police officer for shooting Jake. Robert can be reached at 315-298-5256
135 Canning Factory Rd
Pulauke, NY 13142

Thanks again for all the info you sent.
Best.
Ron

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 8.5.392 / Virus Database: 270.13.58/2306 - Release Date: 08/16/09 06:09:00

Weston, FL

Reinsdorf claimed this aircraft. However, copilot David M. Jones told me that this is incorrect, there were no enemy fighters near them. The crew bailed out at 1230PM near Wilmeasau, Poland (about a mile south of Auschwitz). Copilot Jones evaded the Nazis and the rest of the crew except Ellin was taken POW. Ellin was killed by 4-5 rifle shots (shoulder, back and 3 in abdomen) from an SS Sgt. Swittaj. Swittaj claimed that Ellin was attempting to escape. Bill Porter at the Wise County, VA Historical Society has a blurb that Ellin's "attempted escape" was his refusal to dig his own grave. Ellin's surviving crewmen were shown his bloody parachute, harness and A-2 jacket with bullet holes. Ellin's body was stripped and buried behind a barn. After the war, Ellin's body was reburied at the cemetery in Jawischowitz, Poland and I do have a photo of same. Ellin's body was reinterred in Ardennes Plot DD-11-270 and finally returned to the states and buried in Heska Amuna Cemetery. Jake Ellin was born 18 Nov 1925 in Norton, VA. Enlisted in Louisville, KY 11/43, left the states in July 44, first to England then Italy.

Would your organization have any further data on Jake Ellin? May one find out if SS Sgt. Swittaj was ever called to account for Ellin's murder? Are there any living relatives of Jake Ellin?

I would be happy to share the American and German reports and photos if you desire them.

Thanks for your time.

Respectfully,

John D. Bybee

Vermont, IL

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 8.0.237 / Virus Database: 270.11.1/1961 - Release Date: 02/19/09 18:45:00

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 8.0.237 / Virus Database: 270.11.1/1961 - Release Date: 02/19/09 18:45:00

called "The Center Menorah."

Deaths of servicemen were frontpage news. I found nothing for Jerry in the months after December, 1944 [granted, I only skimmed the issues]. In the years immediately following the war there was a piece on a memorial service that named five Knoxville men killed during the war. Ellin's name was not among them through 1947. Nor was he named among the medal award winners in a May, 1946, article. Sometime in 1947 the Knoxville Jewish War Veterans group decided to place a memorial at the New Jewish Cemetery [that's the cemetery that the two Jewish congregations share]. In March, 1948, the Menorah notes that the JWV Memorial Post No. 340 voted by acclamation to add Sgt. Alvin Jerome Ellin 'as an honor member of the post.' I've attached a copy of the article; I'm not sure that everything contained in it is factual but you may be in a better position to judge that than I. I don't know who provided the information for the article. As you can see, various statements conflict with the information you've uncovered. I'm afraid our only copy bears the holes from having been kept for years in a notebook.

We don't have lists of Heska Amuna members that go back to the 1940's, and our earliest Heska Amuna newsletter is dated 1948.

We don't have a 'family file' on the Ellins, I'm afraid, but I would be happy to start one and include the material you've collected. I can see that he and his parents are buried near the Lipshins from the information the Archives has on cemetery burials, but I do not know when he was finally interred here in Knoxville.

I know nothing about SS Sgt. Swittaj.

I hope this has been of some assistance to you.

Nicki Russler

Archivist, Knoxville Jewish Archives

From: jsbybee [mailto:jsbybee@sybertech.net]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 10:53 PM
To: Nicki Russler; admin@heskaamuna.org
Subject: WWII Sgt. Alvin Jerry Ellin

Hi Niki,

Marion Jay at the Heska Amuna Synagogue gave me you email address.

I am doing research for a book on the Sunday 17 December 1944 mission flown by elements of the 15th Air Force against the synthetic oil refineries at Odertal (Kozle, Poland) and Blechhammer, Germany. On that date Sgt. Alvin Jerry Ellin flew as a tailgunner on a 301st BG/419th BS B-17G-35-BO, #42-32104, "St. Francis". Ellin's B-17 suffered flak damage to two engines near Bielsko, Poland and was unable to transfer gas between the inner wing tanks. Unterofficer Maier IV/JG300 flying a FW-190A-8 out of