

8915 Seneca Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817-3556
May 15, 2000

John D. Bybee
2690 East 2350 St.
Vermont, IL 61484

Daer Mr. Bybee:

In the May 2000 issue of the 301st Bomb Group/Wing Association newsletter "The Raven", you had a letter concerning the fate of the Kearns crew lost on a mission to Blechhammer on 17 December 1944.

Apparently ypur inquiry must have received some degree of satisfactioⁿ if I am to judge correctly. What shocked me was to read about the tail gunner, Ellin. He was one of my tent-mates and had long wondered why he alone out of that crew was listed as killed. We know that it was always possible for an aircraft to break apart, but that hardly seems to be the case here. If you can do so, I would appreciate your providing me with as much information as you have on hand about this. Alvin Jerry Ellin was indeed Jewish, having been from, of all places, deep down in the hills of south^{west} Virginia, a town called Norton, where his father ran a department store ("Jake Ellin's Department Store"). Jerry was a good-natured guy, as I recall after fifty or more years. If you care to write, I would like to know the circumstances.

Sincerely,



Frederick M. Biggs
419th B.S., 301st Bomb Group
5th Wing, 15th USAF, 1944-45

8915 Seneca Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817-3556
May 23, 2000

Mr. John D. Bybee
2690 E. 2350th Street
Vermont, IL 61484-8444

Dear John,

Thanks for your letter of May 20 and the materials therein.
Whatever your intentions, I agree wholeheartedly with David Jones
as to the nature of these matters-use discretion in handling them.
It would be devastating to any of Ellin's family who might be surviving
-they know him as KIA only, no more.

Sorry, I have no photographs of either Ellin or the other crew members .
Most guys were very superstitious about having their pictures taken at the
time of preparing to board the aircraft - I was in one, taken by another
crew member, but never got a copy.

I cannot remember when Ellin joined us in our tent at Encera-must have
been shortly before his fateful mission. As I recall, the guy whose cot
he took must have been sent back to the States, having finished his required
missions. Ellin was indeed dark complected, spoke with a "Southern" Jewish
accent, coming as he did from the "coal country" of Wise County in extreme
southwest Virginia. I noted that he wasn't a draftee (his serial number begins
with the number "1", rather than "3") All air crew were volunteers, and
could ask for ground duty at any time, if they so desired. Note how many
15th AF bombers listed as missing or destroyed on that particular mission
were B-24s-we were always glad that if we had to fly these missions that
at least our planes were so-called "Flying Fortresses"-the B-17. ^{5th Wing 15A}
I notice that ^{our} your letterhead has the "BNSF" railroad logo-are you an ^{employee} employee
of the system? A railfan? Here in Maryland we enjoy the fellowship of B.&O.
Railroad fans in an active historical society, and we are in need of any info
on the B.&O. line that ended at ^{Beardstown} Beardstown, running west out of Springfield
on what was probably the old C.I. and W. This line has been inactive for years
but we would certainly be appreciative on any leads in this regard-the outer
"limits" of the vast B.&O. system.

Frederick M. Biggs

From Wise County Heritage Book

War and killed in

Coeburn,

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visited our home.

The seventh grade was Mrs. Carico. She treated us all alike; there was no one special student to her. I can still see her standing in class telling us about when she was a little girl living on a farm. She prepared us for high school and what was ahead for us.

The town policemen we all got to know as we walked from school in the afternoon, and they directed traffic at the foot of the hill.

In high school we had too many teachers to mention all of them, if I could remember their names, but there were a few that stood out from the rest. Mr. Addington, Mrs. Quesenberry, Mr. Turner, Ms. Jessee, Mr. Dotson, Mrs. Quillen, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Odell, Mr. Salyers and Mr. Hamm, just to name a few that touched our lives and helped make us what we are today. Who could forget Mr. Carl McConnell and the effect he had on all our lives? We were very fortunate to have had such people giving direction to our lives.

Our parents did their part, but you see it does take "a whole village" to raise a child. To all those who touched our lives, we owe a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid.

(Submitted by Alice B. Dingus, 54 Cartersville Rd., Ext., Cartersville, VA 23027).

Alvin Jerome Ellin



Alvin Jerome Ellin

Army, Sergeant, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Ellin of Norton, was born November 18, 1925. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in Louisville, Kentucky, in November of 1943. He was transferred overseas in July, 1944, first to England and then to Italy. He

Fifteenth Air Force. He was shot down over Germany on December 17, 1944, and killed by the Germans. After Ellin was shot down and captured, the Germans, after learning he was Jewish, made him dig his grave, then killed and buried him.

"He left us one December day, This boy we knew as "Jake"; Bound for the Air Corps, he marched away,

Roy Stewart Glovier

Roy Stewart Glovier was born August 18, 1914 in Wise County, Virginia, the son of John W. and Nannie Mays Glovier, who preceded him in death. He was married to Daisy P. Bailey and four children were born to this marriage.

In World War II, Roy Glovier was drafted and one of the first to go in the early spring of 1942, in Russell County, Virginia. He was an Army Corporal, N.C.O. Command, Post 305 - Regiment of the 75th Division. He fought battles in South Pacific theaters and other theaters. He did army engineering and lots of other services. He was in the Battle of Iwo Jima and Campaign of Okinawa. There, he was only a few yards away when he saw Ernie Pyle, the news man, shot by the enemy on April 18, 1945.

Roy Glovier won several ribbons and medals. He returned to the United States and was discharged early in 1946. He was a member of UMWA, Local Union No. 1256. He died on June 1, 1987.

To fight for freedom's sake."

(Submitted by Bill Porter, Coeburn, Virginia 24230)

Maude Hawkins Wins National Award

Maude Hawkins of Coeburn, Virginia was elected Treasurer of Wise County in November, 1979, and re-elected in November, 1983.

In 1984, for her outstanding service to Wise County, Mrs. Hawkins' name was submitted to The National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers for the Victor E. Martinelli award.

There was strong competition for



Left to right: Bill Porter, Maude Hawkins, Betty Salyers, at the Fine Arts reception.



Maude Hawkins receiving the National Treasurer of the Year Award at NACOF July 10, 1984

United States. To her surprise, she accepted the award and, in July 1984, traveled to Seattle, Washington to accept the award on behalf of her staff and Wise County.

Several accomplishments have been noted in her winning this prestigious award. Two of the most noted were her successful collections of the mineral resources tax and her investment program which earned over six million dollars during her first term. She became known as the "Six Million Dollar Lady."

In August, 1984, the Coeburn Arts Foundation honored Maude Hawkins for her distinguished public service reception held in Coeburn.

Maude Hawkins is the daughter of Jack and Lettie "Reedy" Couch, the widow of James Hawkins. She has one daughter, Janet, who married Charles Cowling and their two children are Joshua and Heather.

Maude Couch Hawkins resides in Florida with her family.

(Submitted by Bill Porter, Coeburn, VA 24230).

Napoleon Hill

Napoleon Hill was born in Norton, Virginia, on October 26, 1873. He was the firstborn child of James Hill and Mary Hill.