

8 March 1990

Dear Eileen:

I was greatly saddened yesterday to receive your note on Harold's death. I am sure that it brought great relief to him from his Alzheimer's disease.

It also brought back to me many memories of our period together as combat crew members, beginning long ago in 1944 when we first met at Alexandria, LA. The crew had formed several weeks before I got there, as navigators were in short supply, so I had to "learn" them and they had to "learn" me.

Often I think that our combat flying was perhaps the greatest experience of our lives, and we were lucky to come through it unscathed. I also remember the first time Hal landed the B-17 at Alex. It was a terrible ordeal for him, but within a short time he had mastered it. And, later I recall, his anxiety to become a first pilot, and how delighted he was at that time. Our paths diverged at about that point as I left combat for about six weeks, and then came back to finish up my last five missions after Hal had departed.

There were also great discussions in the barracks of an evening, especially when the subject shifted to religion. Hal defended his position well.

I saw Hal at a reunion in Phoenix, and then briefly when I stopped at your house en route to Escondido for a reunion.

When I was a boy my family used to come to Almont once a year or so as my mother had a brother who lived there, so I am not entirely unfamiliar with that part of Michigan.

I wish you and your family well in these days ahead. We have found North Carolina weather much kinder to my wife, so will remain here for the years ahead.

Love to all,

5 October 1977

Mr. Harold L. Prescott
20345 Audette
Dearborn, MI 48124

Dear Hal,

The accompanying letter will explain what I am about, a task which also involves running down a lot of people. Last night I decided to work on you (I have a WATS line available at times).

I called Massena, knowing that you didn't live there, but got an uncle, who then referred me to your mother in Syracuse. Had a nice chat with her, and finally convinced her that I knew so much about you that she would give me your address. I understand you are in the process of moving to Kingman, however.

She also told me that you had had a somewhat similar experience with Milt, as I had a couple of years ago. I was planning a trip to California and thought I might see him, but a note from him told me between the lines that he didn't want to see me. I did talk to his wife later and her comment "He's a very strange man." I have talked with him on the phone a couple of times in the last five years, but that's as close as he wants to get. I hope to get back to California in the next year, and might just drop in for 15 minutes, but that would be all.

I saw Art Vann about 10 years ago in Durham and have talked on the phone with him several times. He practices law there, has 12 kids, and I heard about eight years ago that he was in trouble over never having paid any income tax and might end up in jail (which I thought sounded like Art), but nothing ever came of it.

About 20 years ago we spent a night in Rochester, NY, and I had a great visit with Pete Ferrari, but I learned a couple

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of years ago that he died in about 1972, after having had a series of heart attacks.

Have never seen or heard of any of the other crew members, and have made a little effort to locate them in this study, but haven't tried very hard.

I went back to Kalamazoo after the war, finished college, had five sons, and left there in 1963 to work at Michigan State University. Came to North Carolina in 1966, and worked for Davidson College and Wake Forest University, and then took a job in Ohio in 1974. We came to North Carolina again in 1976, and much prefer the warmer climates to live in.

Two sons teach in the Charlotte, NC, schools (#2 in getting married in November), #3 is in the Army at El Paso, TX, with an ROTC commission; #4 is a sophomore at St. Andrews Presbyterian College here, where I work, and #5 is a sophomore in high school.

I am enclosing a copy of the last Newsletter for the group, which I started and edit.

Keep me posted on your new address, so you will be sure to get the next issue.

Have done a fair amount of traveling in my research, and have seen a lot of people you once knew. Its all been most interesting, and I hope to get down to writing this winter.

Give my best to your wife. Remember those wild days in Alexandria?

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1030 Hillside Dr.
Kingman, Ariz. 86401
Nov. 18, 1977

Dear Russ,

We were so happy to hear from you after all these years. I'm writing a few lines as Mom Prescott told you, Hal is in the process of changing jobs and quite busy at this time. In fact we are still living in a motel at present, we have bought a home here but are trying to do some painting before we move in.

Hal came back from the War and went to Clarkson College in Potsdam, N.Y. We had our first daughter, Duellen at that time. He graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering in Oct. 1948. From there we came to Michigan. He started with

Tara Mater Co. in Oct. of 1948
 in Dearborn, Mich. In 1957 we
 moved to Romeo, ^(with 7 kids) Mich. and lived
 there until 1963. In 1963 we
 went to Australia ^(with 7 kids) to help put
 a test track in there. We stayed
 there until 1965. When we came
 from there we moved to Bloomfield
 Hills, Mich. and stayed there
 until 1967. Hal's job was back
 in Dearborn. So in 1967 we moved
 back & have been there since
 this move. They asked Hal to
 come here in 1967 and manage
 the proving grounds here but
 our second daughter, Mary Beth
 was a Sophomore in high school
 and wanted to stay in Dearborn
 and I wasn't sure I'd like Arizona
 at that time. Thank goodness we
 got a second chance. When we
 didn't come to Arizona in 1967

Hal was offered a job in heavy truck development and that is where he was when this job came up.

It looks like you were living in Michigan at the same time we were. Too bad we didn't know.

So sorry to hear about Pete F. We tried on several trips to Detroit to see him in Rochester but never made contact. I think Hal talked to his mother once. I can remember all the good times we had in La. and gutterbugging with Pete.

Really shocked to hear Art Vonn & Joann had twelve children. She was always so stuck-up.

We would have had five children but I had three miscarriages along the way. Suellen married a man that graduated

from Western in Kalamazoo and they have two darling little girls, Tami Sue 10 yrs. and Bradi Lynn 7 yrs. They are the light of our lives.

Mary Beth doesn't have any children. She had bad luck in her first marriage and just recently married again. Nice guy this time (we hope).

Mom Prusatt flew out last week and will spend the winter with us in the Sun.

Hal has a lot of papers and maps and things plus pictures that you might like copies of. Right now, I don't know which box they are packed in. He saved quite a few of his flying trips especially the missions.

He never lost his love for flying. He has owned three already; a Cessna 170, a Cherokee 180

V

and we now have a Comanche 260
six passenger which he flew out
from Dearborn, Mich. by himself.
He also likes motorcycles and owns
a 550 Honda with a buddy seat
for me. I like them too.

As soon as we get more
settled, Hal will have time
to write you himself. In the
meantime hope this will keep a
little.

Keep in touch

Sincerely
Eileen

Thurs. Sept. 29th 66

Russell,

I was going thru some of Harold's army papers and found these snapshots. I thought you might like to have them.

I also found old Star and Stripes newspapers, cloth maps and lots of bombing pictures.

In fact I found a letter from Adam also Ferrari + Pluto. Adam mentioned you in his letter in a kidding way.

Harold is in his own little world but still knows me and our children. I keep him with me as I have home health care.

He had fifty years Jan. 18th.

Sincerely
Eileen



H. L. Prescott

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He rec'd his wings in Miss. and I believe it was Jackson.

So sorry to hear Milton isn't well. I was real fond of him. I don't remember Henry.

Sincerely
Eileen M. Prescott

8-25-92

Dear Russell,

Rec'd your card asking for information from Harold. Harold has Alzheimer's and cannot answer your questions. That is the reason for his early retirement from Ford and am now back to Michigan near our children.

I'm sure if its real important there are papers stowed away I could go through and see if the info is there.

Winter Wren
Troglodytes troglodytes

