

TUESDAY FEB 8 2000

MY DEAR STRONG;

I HAVE YOUR NOTE- NOW ABOUT THE PICTURE- I HAVE TO DIG DEEP INTO THE RECESSES OF MY MEMORY- I ARRIVED AT THURLEIGH ABOUT MARCH 1943- WHEN THE BUILD UP OF THE 8TH BEGAN IN EARNEST. THE SGT ON THE LEFT HOLDING THE BALLOON IS NORQUIST- I FORGET HIS FIRST NAME. THE FELLOW ON THE RIGHT I DO NOT KNOW. WHEN I ARRIVED- NORQUIST WAS ALREADY A TECH SGT- SO THE CHAP ON THE RIGHT MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED OR HE MAY NOT BE A WEATHERMAN. THURLEIGH -BECAUSE IT WAS ONE OF THE EARLIEST STATIONS IT WAS USED AS A TRAINING FACILITY- I WAS TRANSFERRED IN NOVEMBER TO ESTABLISH A WEATHER STATION AT SEETHING- THE 448 BOMB GROUP B-24 THE BALLOON THAT NORQUIST IS HOLDING IS A HYDROGEN FILLED BALLOON RISING AT THE RATE OF 300 FT PER MINUTE. THE INSTRUMENT IS A THEODOLITE - MUCH LIKE A SURVEYORS TRANSIT- MEASURING THE ELEVATION AND AZIMUTH OF THE BALLOON AT ONE MINUTE INTERVALS ALLOWS YOU TO CALCULATE THE WIND VELOCITIES AT VARIOUS HEIGHTS. THIS WAS DONE EVERY DAY ONCE A DAY. THE TRICK TO THIS LITTLE GAME WAS BEING SUFFICIENTLY NIMBLE TO PREVENT THE BALLOON FROM GETTING AWAY FROM YOU. IN ORDER TO GET THE PROPER BUOYANCY A BRASS PETCOCK WAS FITTED TO THE BOTTOM- IF TOO MUCH GAS WAS ALLOWED TO FILL THE BALLOON- THE BALLOON WOULD RISE WITH THE PETCOCK AND YOU HAD TO SHOOT IT DOWN. IF YOU LOSE THE PETCOCK- YOU LOSE THE WAR. I DO NOT THINK THAT NORQUIST ENDED THE WAR AT THURLEIGH- IF YOU ARE CURIOUS ABOUT HIS FURTHER HISTORY-WRITE TO ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU SOME NAMES THAT MAY HAVE THE ORDERS. AND THAT IS THE BEST THAT I CAN DO FOR YOU.-AS FOR ME - I SPEAK GERMAN AND I WOUND UP IN GERMANY WITH ALL THOSE CAPTURED WOMEN. AND OPERATION PAPERCLIP.

KEEP IN TOUCH

ZARCOFF

