

Henry T. Harrison
20 Woodcrest Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28804

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Dear Paul:

Thanks for the most interesting letter. Well, the VIP plane with Larry and Norman and Breyer on board should be either in or close to Christchurch by now. BAE I news is not as sexy today as it was back in 1929 when Russell Owen used to write one, two or three columns about us in the TIMES regularly.

I was pleased to get your story of Winchester because the one I had from Jerry Pagano was most unhappy - "everything off schedule and mixed up". I truly would liked to have been there to see Larry and Ruth Siple and meet new persons like the Byrd girls and yourself. I haven't seen Larry since Grace and I drove our Anne up to Carleton College in Northfield back in 1956. I was puzzled over a note I had from Larry a week before Winchester which said nothing about planning to be there.

Received a note from Johanna Konter on 11/22 advising that Dick had died on 8/25/79. She wrote to Pete Demas at the time but Pete failed to pass it on to me, probably assuming that I had heard.

about Pete
Pagano called me on 11/19 (at 1530EST) and I immediately called Larry to pass on the news to him. He had not heard, said that he was ready to start out for the pole "tomorrow". I also sent postcards to the rest of our survivors (except Vaughan who was reported on his way to DCA.) Then Pagano called everyone by phone the next morning, getting through to Mason, Blackburn, Smith, Roos, Bursey (who is quite ill and might not make the Ford celebration at Dearborn), Goodale, Bird, Davies. *We said he still had BAE II to cover*

Paul, I was intrigued about your reference to Finn Ronne. Let me tell you what happened at our 40th reunion of BAE I survivors at the Olde Colony in Alexandria in November 1969. As coordinator for the reunion, I invited Ronne and wife to come down and have a drink with us (along with Ruth Siple and others) on our final day. They did. I had no sooner welcomed the Ronnes to our group than Mrs. Ronne went into a vicious diatribe about REB, with remarks (as well as I can remember) to the effect that "Everybody knows that Byrd was a total phony, a fraud, a liar, etc., etc." I was so shocked that I still don't remember if I even tried to answer her. What would you have done?

Martin Ronne and I were shipmates at Little Anperica in the same room for fourteen months and I have the greatest respect for his memory. In spite of the language barrier, Martin fitted into our lives without the slightest trouble, was admired and liked by all. Pete Demas ran afoul of the Ronnes and the Isacksons at least once during his crusade to hold up REB's memory. Too bad we couldn't have given him more help!

Paul, this is a rewarding exxperience knowing you and re-knowing Ruth.

Henry Harrison

Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple
Washington