

Capt. Robert M. Losey

1908-1940



First American
killed in
World War II
April 21, 1940
Dombås, Norway

Associated Press

PROPOSAL TO THE
CITIZENS STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR A UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMP IN MEMORY OF



From Our Home
To Yours

1994

Love,
Lucy, Keith
Grant & Samuel

For our friends and family who have heard this story, please allow us this repetition, for 1994 has been in our home the "Year of Losey." Our story of 1994 really began on a spring day many years ago . . . the year was 1940.

It was one of those wonderful winter-spring days that we have in Norway when everything smells good and fruitful. It smells of wet moss wherever a stone raises its head above the snow. And there was a gentle and sweet sough through the treetops — a sough that became audible each time the harsh roar of the German aircraft engines died down for a little while and there was a pause in the gunfire. This was the day the American air attaché, Captain Losey, was killed.

April 21, 1940

Sigrid Undset

Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature 1928

Robert Moffat Losey, a 1929 graduate of West Point who was the assistant American Military attaché for Air in Norway, was struck in the heart by a German air bomb fragment, killing him instantly in Dombås, Norway, thus becoming the first American serviceman in uniform killed in World War II. Gone fairly unnoticed here in America other than in news reports of the day, Captain Losey's story came back to attention this past year when the Winter Olympics were held in Norway. On Tuesday, February 22, 1994, Keith was reading one of the "side story" articles from the olympics in the *USA Today* newspaper entitled *U.S. Soldier Honored In Small Town*. In it he read the story of Captain Robert Moffat Losey, the first American killed in World War II. He was amazed to read in the article that the people of Dombås, Norway, where a monument to Captain Losey had been erected, had been looking for many years for Captain Losey's family. Keith realized that he already had knowledge of this story for it was a part of the genealogy of his good friend, Chris Albers. Keith had done an extensive amount of genealogical research for Chris last year and he immediately recognized the captain's name.

Keith then contacted Chris, informing her of this article. Chris proceeded to call *USA Today* in Arlington, Virginia where she reached the reporter's assistant. The assistant forwarded Chris' name and phone number to Ron Schoolmeester, the *USA Today* reporter in Lillehammer who wrote the story. That afternoon Chris and Keith received a phone call from Mr. Schoolmeester in Lillehammer, seeking information on Chris' family tie to Captain Losey. A follow-up story was written for the Friday, February 25, 1994 *USA Today* edition in an article entitled *Hero's Cousin, Why Yes I Am* which mentioned Chris and Keith's names.

Since then, Chris and Keith have located Captain Losey's nephew, niece and sister here in the states. The monument to Captain Losey in Norway will be rededicated next May 8th during the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Liberation of Norway, and Chris' family and Keith have been invited to attend. Chris and Keith have bought Norwegian language tapes in hopes of learning a few important phrases of Norwegian! *Hvordan står det til?* (How do you do?) They have a half-year to practice so let's hope they can learn enough to get by.

Keith has also designed a United States postage stamp bearing an image of Captain Losey sitting in his plane (from an AP Wire Photo) which received the full endorsement of Capt. Losey's family. Keith, Chris and Chris' cousin Robert Losey Lee (Capt. Losey's nephew) have worked throughout the year eliciting endorsements for the proposal. The Losey stamp proposal has passed the initial round of rejections by the U.S. Postal Service and is now on the January 1995 agenda of the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Board awaiting their approval. If approved, the stamp would be issued in 1998 at the earliest. The American Ambassador to Norway in Oslo and the President of the Association of Graduates of West Point have endorsed the Losey stamp proposal. Chris and Keith even ventured to Capitol Hill in August where they met with Sen. John Warner and passed out stamp proposals to numerous federal officials. We will keep you informed as this progresses!

The Honorable George Bush
P O Box 79798
Houston TX 77279

March 28, 1994

Dear Mr. Bush,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Christine Albers of Lynchburg, Virginia. This past year, with the help of a good friend, genealogist Keith Thienemann, I have been researching my family history. Through this research, we have discovered my family's relationship to you. We are sixth cousins once removed (see enclosed chart). Knowing that you have many distant cousins, I am writing to you at this time because of a noteworthy turn of events this past February.

On Tuesday, February 22, 1994, Keith Thienemann, my genealogical friend, was reading the *USA Today* newspaper. In an article entitled "U.S. Soldier Honored In Small Town", he read the story of Captain Robert Moffat Losey, the first American killed in World War II (see enclosed copy). Keith was amazed to read in the article that the people of Dombås, Norway, where a monument to Captain Losey had been erected, had been looking for many years for Captain Losey's family. Keith realized that he had already had knowledge of this story for it was a part of my family history.

Keith then contacted me, informing me of this article. I proceeded to call *USA Today* in Arlington, Virginia where I reached the reporter's assistant. She forwarded my name and phone number to Ron Schoolmeester, the *USA Today* reporter in Lillehammer who wrote the story. That afternoon I received a phone call from Mr. Schoolmeester in Lillehammer, seeking information on my family tie to Captain Losey. A follow-up story was written for the Friday, February 25, 1994 *USA Today* edition (see enclosed copy).

Since then, we have located Captain Losey's niece, nephew and sister here in the states. We are making our plans to attend the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Liberation of Norway on May 8, 1995. We thought you would like to know this because you are Captain Losey's sixth cousin (see chart). Considering that you were the youngest Naval pilot in World War II (when commissioned) and that your cousin, Captain Robert Losey was the first American killed in World War II, it is historically significant that you two are related. We would like to invite you at this time to attend with his family the ceremony in Norway on May 8, 1995.

Christine B. Albers
2812 Link Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503 USA
Tel: (804) 384-2281

Page 1 Letter Dated 28 Mar 1994

It would also mean a great deal to my family if you could send a note to be included in the permanent genealogical record of my family, noting our relationship.

Please do not hesitate to call or write to me at my address listed below. The family of Captain Losey and especially the people of Dombås, Norway would be greatly honored to have you participate in some way in next year's celebration. Perhaps if you cannot attend, we could carry a message from you to be read at the memorial service.

Sincerely yours,

Christine B. Albers

Office of George Bush

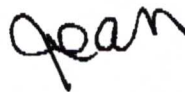
June 3, 1994

Dear Mrs. Albers:

On behalf of President Bush, thank you for your wonderful letter about Captain Robert Moffat Losey and for inviting President and Mrs. Bush to join you in Dombas, Norway to celebrate the 50th anniversary celebration of the Liberation of Norway on May 8, 1995. Unfortunately, President Bush's schedule is extremely busy during that time, and I regret that his attendance cannot be arranged. With so many demands on his time these days, he must often miss special opportunities such as this one. I hope you understand.

President Bush asked that I send you and everyone involved in this special event his warmest best wishes for a wonderful celebration.

Sincerely,



Jean Becker
Chief of Staff

Mrs. Christine B. Albers
2812 Link Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 900, Houston, Texas 77024

Office of George Bush

June 21, 1994

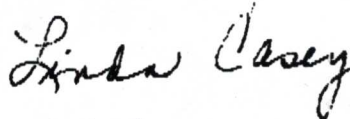
Dear Mrs Albers:

Thank you for your interest in the family history of President Bush.

There are no resources here to do in-depth genealogical research. However, enclosed is a Bush patrilineal table covering nine generations that was prepared by Gary Boyd Roberts for his book, "Ancestors of American Presidents." Gary is with the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the oldest such group in the United States.

President Bush appreciates your invitation to attend the 50th anniversary celebration of the liberation of Norway next May. It is unlikely he will be able to join you, but he sends best wishes for a happy gathering.

Sincerely,



Linda Casey
Director of Correspondence

Mrs. Christine B. Albers
2812 Link Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 900, Houston, Texas 77024

The Honorable George Bush
P O Box 79798
Houston TX 77279

May 27, 1994

Dear Mr. Bush,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to you on March 28, 1994. In case my first letter was lost in transit, I am sending all of the enclosures as well.

Since I wrote to you in March, I have received the formal itinerary of the festivities celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Norway (copies enclosed). Johan Solli, Head of the Culture and Education Sector of the Dovre Municipality, is planning an intensive historical salute in the memory of those who served the Allied effort. Our cousin, Captain Robert Moffat Losey, who was the first American killed in World War II, will be especially remembered when the city of Dombås rededicates the monument erected in his memory.

I would again like to cordially invite you and Mrs. Bush to join us in Dombås, Norway on May 8th 1995 when a number of Captain Losey's relatives will be present for this memorable celebration. If you cannot attend, we would be honored to carry a message from you which could be read at the dedication. We are also bringing with us an updated genealogical book of Captain Losey's family. Since you are Captain Losey's most noted cousin, it would be particularly meaningful to have a message from you included in this work.

I can be reached at the following address and phone number:

Mrs. Christine B. Albers
2812 Link Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503
(804) 384-2281

Sincerely yours,

Christine B. Albers

Christine B. Albers
2812 Link Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503 USA
Tel: (804) 384-2281
Page 1 Letter Dated 27 May 1994

Mr. Bob Lee
285 North Valley Road
Barrington, IL 60010

July 25, 1994

Dear Bob,

It was a pleasure to speak with you last week. I'm glad Ambassador Ruppe passed my name and number on to you. It sounds like you have made good connections both in Norway and the US and I'm sure you, your mother and the rest of your party will have a great time in Norway.

Dombaas (my laptop doesn't speak Norwegian so "aa" is really an "a" w/ a circle over it pronounced like a long "o") is a beautiful little village about 5-6 hours by car or train from Oslo. The train is probably the easiest way to get there. It is of course the railroad that made Dombaas important in 1940. There is a branch railroad leading to Andenes on the Norwegian Coast from Dombaas that the German's were attempting to close.

As I recall, there is only one Hotel in town, a good place to stay as it is central to any anniversary ceremonies. It is just a short walk to the church and the memorial to Capt. Loosey. There are three markers at the memorial. In addition to the one for your uncle, there is one for the Norwegian Military members killed on 8 May and a third stone recognizing the civilians from the Dombaas area that lost their lives during the five years of occupation. I think the Dombaas area was used as a major rest and recreation area during the war. Now the Norwegian military has a major Home Guard training command in Dombaas.

I'm glad you found a copy of Mrs. Harriman's book describing the events in 1940. As I recall her numbers regarding German forces and losses were not very accurate but she obviously thought very highly of Captain Loosey.

As I mentioned, it was my understanding that the Attache' Hall of Fame was established fairly recently, perhaps in the 70's or 80's to recognize the contributions of attache's serving above and beyond the call of duty. You may recall that we lost several attache's in the 80's due to international terrorism.

After attending the ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the attack on 8 May 1940, I nominated Captain Loosey to be included. A few months later I was informed that he was formally inducted into the Attache' Hall of Fame. I suspect that the Defense Intelligence Agency has designated a special area in the Pentagon or one of the DIA buildings to assemble photos and citations recognizing the contributions of the inductees.

You should be able to write directly to the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency and ask for more information regarding the Hall of Fame. The Director's office is in the Pentagon but most of the various directorates are two other office buildings in the Washington area.

I encourage you to write directly to my successor in Norway, Capt. Dick Vidosic, USN, US Defense and Naval Attache and let him know your plans to attend next years ceremony. The

contacts you have made in Dombaas will undoubtedly rollout the carpet for you next year. I suspect that there will be a dozen or so attending that were also standing in the railroad tunnel 55 years ago.

While you are in Norway, I would also encourage you to visit the Resistance Museum in Oslo and cap off your visit with a trip called *Norway in a Nutshell*.

The Resistance Museum is located in an old fortress in the center of Oslo called Akershus. It was established by Norwegian patriots living through the five long years of occupation to ensure that succeeding generations of Norwegians do not forget. The museum is full of symbolism with many powerful lessons. Ask for a guided tour to get the most out of it, but all displays are captioned in both Norwegian and English.

At the entrance to the display area there is a bramble of barbed wire representing occupation with both green and brown leaves of vines of freedom growing and escaping through the barbed wire. The brown leaves recognize that some must die in order for others to live.

The opening display is one of Newspaper headlines showing Europe at war in 1939-40. On the opposite wall is a sketch of a tall, fair haired Norwegian enjoying nature and oblivious to the events in Europe. Around the corner the lights are dimmed and hundreds of German rifles w/ bayonets capture the shock of occupation on the 9th of April.

As you leave the museum, there are two powerful messages for future generations. The first is that Norway regained their freedom through the efforts of the Allies "in the skies over London and the beaches of Normandy". Finally, the last statement says "never again". I have perhaps visited this museum more than 20 times and find something new each time.

Norway in a Nutshell is a wonderful trip through central Norway that is described and promoted in many travel brochures. It can be taken in several different ways but generally involves something like this. Fly from Oslo to Bergen on the west coast. Purchase a Fjord Pass to get some savings on hotel rates. Visit the picturesque waterfront area in Bergen and especially the world famous open air market every morning except Sunday. Bergen has many nice hotels (some w/ very competitive rates) and many great sea food restaurants.

After an early morning visit to the open air market, take the 10 o'clock train from Bergen about two hours towards Oslo to Myrdal, a small community above the tree line near the highest point on the track between Oslo and Bergen. At Myrdal you walk across the train platform and board a special train (with five separate braking systems) which takes you down the mountainside past spectacular waterfalls to Flaam located at the end of one of the most beautiful Fjords in Norway.

At Flaam, you board a ferry for a two hour cruise to Gudvangen at the end of an adjacent fjord. May is one of the best times for this trip as there will be lots of snow in the mountains, dozens of waterfalls and green fields and flowers along the fjords. Stay at either the Gudvangen hotel or take the bus to the Stalheim hotel located up in the mountains near by. After a great Norwegian breakfast take bus(stops at the hotel) to Voss (home of Knut Rockne) and board the train back to

Oslo. The train ride takes several hours and nicely rounds out the trip with some of the nicest scenery in Norway.

We have taken the entire trip for about \$300 per person, including air fare, trainfare and two nights in a hotel. This is generally cheaper than staying in a hotel in Oslo for two days.

I don't have any experience in getting a commemorative stamp issued. My only recommendation is to write both the Norwegian Embassy in Washington and the U.S. Ambassador in Oslo. They could be very instrumental in helping you in your efforts.

Please let me know if there is any thing else I can do to assist you and your family. Call me at any time

Sincerely,


D.D. Naha

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C-0-P-4

Paul W. Thompson
2917 South Atlantic Avenue, Apt #304
Daytona Beach Shores, Florida 32118

2 December 1994

904-322-2056
756-0851

Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee,
c/o Stamp Management,
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 5301,
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Members of the Committee:

I write as President of the Class of 1929 of the United States Military Academy at West Point. A Member of our Class, Captain Robert Moffat LOSEY, was "the first American Serviceman in uniform killed (by the enemy) in World War II". I understand that there is a proposal that a United States postage stamp be issued to commemorate Captain Losey's death.

Speaking for the living Classmates of Roert Moffat Losey, I strongly endorse the proposal to commemorate his untimely death through issue of the postage stamp. In that spirit, I therefore take the liberty of enclosing copy of a letter I have this date addressed to the Postmaster General.

Any consideration you may give to the commemoration proposal will be, I think, uniquely appropriate and will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Paul W. Thompson
President, Class of 1929, -United
States Military Academy

COPY

Paul W. Thompson
2917 South Atlantic Avenue, Apt #304
Daytona Beach Shores, Florida 32118

2 December 1994

The Honorable Marvin Runyon,
Postmaster General of the United States,
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 10022,
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Postmaster General:

I write as President of the Class of 1929 of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our Class graduated 299 strong (34 still living). Our Class Historian has found that 29 of our Classmates died in direct pursuit of Duty. One of those who so died was Robert Moffat LOSEY.

On 21 April 1940 Captain Losey's duties (he was a Military Attache) had taken him to the small town of Dombas in Norway. A Nazi bombing raid was in progress. Captain Losey was struck and killed instantaneously by a fragment of a bomb. Captain Losey thus became the "first American Serviceman in uniform to be killed (by the enemy) in World War II".

I know that it has been proposed that a United States Postage Stamp be issued in commemoration of the death of Captain Losey. As President of the Class of 1929 at West Point, and speaking for all of the living members of the Class, I wish strongly to endorse this proposal to honor our Classmate, Robert Moffat Losey.

The consideration you give to the proposal will be, I think, uniquely appropriate and will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Paul W. Thompson
President, Class of 1929, United
States Military Academy

(I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee).

2 December 94

Mr Keith G Thienemann,
205 Cornwallis Drive,
Lynchburg, VA 24502-2732

Dear Mr Thienemann:

Pursuant to your letter (with enclosures) of 23 November 94, and with heartfelt pleasure and approval, I have addressed letters respectively to: the Postmaster General, and the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. Copies of the letters are enclosed.

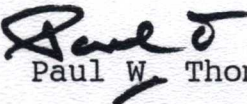
I have thought of sending the documents enclosed with your letter to the heads of the Association of (West Point) Graduates, asking that that organization get behind the movement to commemorate Bob Losey's death under those extraordinary circumstances. Before doing so, it occurs to me I should ask if you have taken steps in that direction. (I want to help all I can, but do not want to cross wires). Please let me know if you think I should proceed.

As Cadets, Bob Losey and I had much in common. He was from Iowa and I from Nebraska. He became Editor of "Bugle Notes", I of "The Pointer". I regret that, in our Army careers, our paths never crossed.

If the Stamp proposal materializes, I would propose that the Class buy a sheet of the Stamps and together with Bob's photo and a good explanation, frame the Exhibit and install it on the wall of the Class of '29's "Remembrance Room" in Eisenhower Hall.

Let me know if I, or the Class of 1929, or the Association of Graduates, can do anything further to help with this noble project.

Sincerely yours,


Paul W. Thompson



Association of Graduates
of the
United States Military Academy

28 November 1994

Dear Mr. Postmaster General:

I am writing to you to express my enthusiastic support and endorsement of a proposal to create a United States postage stamp commemorating Captain Robert Moffat Losey, the first American killed in World War II. Captain Losey was a graduate of the United States Military Academy, Class of 1929.

Since the kingdom of Norway has already paid tribute to this brave West Point graduate with a monument to his memory, it seems only fitting that the United States, the country for whom Captain Losey sacrificed his life, remember him in an honorable and enduring way. Your approval of this proposal will provide the United States with a lasting tribute to this fallen American.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

SETH F. HUDGINS, JR.
Colonel, USA (Retired)
President

The Honorable Marvin Runyon
Postmaster General of the United States
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 10022
Washington, D. C. 20260-0010



Association of Graduates
of the
United States Military Academy

28 November 1994

Gentlemen:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth F. Hudgins, Jr.' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SETH F. HUDGINS, JR.
Colonel, USA (Retired)
President

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Management
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 5301
Washington, D. C. 20260-2420



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OSLO

THE AMBASSADOR

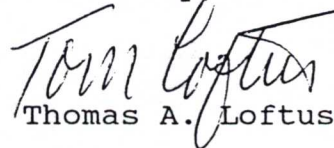
October 17, 1994

Marvin Runyon, Postmaster General
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 10022
Washington, D.C. 20260-0001

Dear Mr. Runyon,

I have written to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend their endorsement of a postage stamp commemorating Captain Robert Moffat Losey, the first American serviceman killed in World War II. I wanted you to have this copy of my letter to them. I hope that if they recommend issuance of the stamp, you will approve.

Sincerely,


Thomas A. Loftus



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OSLO

THE AMBASSADOR

October 17, 1994

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service Headquarters
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-6753

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for and endorsement of a proposal to create a United States postage stamp commemorating Captain Robert Moffat Losey, the first American serviceman killed in World War II. In April of 1940, Captain Losey, then attache' in Sweden, was following the movements of the Norwegian King and government as they moved north to evade capture by the invading German forces. In addition, he was gathering information on the attacking force's composition, tactics, and operations. During one of his reconnaissance efforts in Dombås, Norway, he lost his life as he observed an air attack on this strategic railroad junction.

Since the early 1980's, the Embassy has been involved with the Kingdom of Norway in commemorating this brave serviceman, the culmination of the efforts being the erection of a monument to Captain Losey in Dombås in 1987. The Dombås monument not only pays tribute to a brave American, but also symbolizes the close friendship Norway and the United States share in peace and in war.

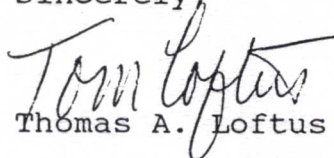
1995 marks the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II, and it offers us several opportunities. We can be thankful for 50 years of peace; we can remember those who gave their lives in the search for this peace and freedom; we can recognize our allies who continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us in support of these ideals.

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
October 17, 1994
Page 2

Captain Losey was our first military casualty of World War II, a full 19 months before the United States entered the war. Norway continues to be one of our staunchest allies. The proposed stamp commemorating Captain Losey ties these elements together and would be an honorable and enduring way to remember the sacrifices of Captain Losey and other servicemen during World War II while recognizing the close ties between Norway and the United States.

I fully support the Losey commemorative stamp and urge that you approve issuing it in May 1995 as part of our national commemoration of World War II's end.

Sincerely,


Thomas A. Loftus

Mr. Bob Lee
285 North Valley Road
Barrington, Il 60010

July 25, 1994

Dear Bob,

It was a pleasure to speak with you last week. I'm glad Ambassador Ruppe passed my name and number on to you. It sounds like you have made good connections both in Norway and the US and I'm sure you, your mother and the rest of your party will have a great time in Norway.

Dombaas (my laptop doesn't speak Norwegian so "aa" is really an "a" w/ a circle over it pronounced like a long "o") is a beautiful little village about 5-6 hours by car or train from Oslo. The train is probably the easiest way to get there. It is of course the railroad that made Dombaas important in 1940. There is a branch railroad leading to Andenes on the Norwegian Coast from Dombaas that the German's were attempting to close.

As I recall, there is only one Hotel in town, a good place to stay as it is central to any anniversary ceremonies. It is just a short walk to the church and the memorial to Capt. Loosey. There are three markers at the memorial. In addition to the one for your uncle, there is one for the Norwegian Military members killed on 8 May and a third stone recognizing the civilians from the Dombaas area that lost their lives during the five years of occupation. I think the Dombaas area was used as a major rest and recreation area during the war. Now the Norwegian military has a major Home Guard training command in Dombaas.

I'm glad you found a copy of Mrs. Harriman's book describing the events in 1940. As I recall her numbers regarding German forces and losses were not very accurate but she obviously thought very highly of Captain Loosey.

As I mentioned, it was my understanding that the Attache' Hall of Fame was established fairly recently, perhaps in the 70's or 80's to recognize the contributions of attache's serving above and beyond the call of duty. You may recall that we lost several attache's in the 80's due to international terrorism.

After attending the ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the attack on 8 May 1940, I nominated Captain Loosey to be included. A few months later I was informed that he was formally inducted into the Attache' Hall of Fame. I suspect that the Defense Intelligence Agency has designated a special area in the Pentagon or one of the DIA buildings to assemble photos and citations recognizing the contributions of the inductees.

You should be able to write directly to the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency and ask for more information regarding the Hall of Fame. The Director's office is in the Pentagon but most of the various directorates are two other office buildings in the Washington area.

I encourage you to write directly to my successor in Norway, Capt. Dick Vidosic, USN, US Defense and Naval Attache and let him know your plans to attend next years ceremony. The

contacts you have made in Dombaas will undoubtedly rollout the carpet for you next year. I suspect that there will be a dozen or so attending that were also standing in the railroad tunnel 55 years ago.

While you are in Norway, I would also encourage you to visit the Resistance Museum in Oslo and cap off your visit with a trip called *Norway in a Nutshell*.

The Resistance Museum is located in an old fortress in the center of Oslo called Akershus. It was established by Norwegian patriots living through the five long years of occupation to ensure that succeeding generations of Norwegians do not forget. The museum is full of symbolism with many powerful lessons. Ask for a guided tour to get the most out of it, but all displays are captioned in both Norwegian and English.

At the entrance to the display area there is a bramble of barbed wire representing occupation with both green and brown leaves of vines of freedom growing and escaping through the barbed wire. The brown leaves recognize that some must die in order for others to live.

The opening display is one of Newspaper headlines showing Europe at war in 1939-40. On the opposite wall is a sketch of a tall, fair haired Norwegian enjoying nature and oblivious to the events in Europe. Around the corner the lights are dimmed and hundreds of German rifles w/ bayonets capture the shock of occupation on the 9th of April.

As you leave the museum, there are two powerful messages for future generations. The first is that Norway regained their freedom through the efforts of the Allies "in the skies over London and the beaches of Normandy". Finally, the last statement says " never again" . I have perhaps visited this museum more than 20 times and find something new each time.

Norway in a Nutshell is a wonderful trip through central Norway that is described and promoted in many travel brochures. It can be taken in several different ways but generally involves something like this. Fly from Oslo to Bergen on the west coast. Purchase a Fjord Pass to get some savings on hotel rates. Visit the picturesque waterfront area in Bergen and especially the world famous open air market every morning except Sunday. Bergen has many nice hotels (some w/ very competitive rates) and many great sea food restaurants.

After an early morning visit to the open air market, take the 10 o'clock train from Bergen about two hours towards Oslo to Myrdal, a small community above the tree line near the highest point on the track between Oslo and Bergen. At Myrdal you walk across the train platform and board a special train (with five separate braking systems) which takes you down the mountainside past spectacular waterfalls to Flaam located at the end of one of the most beautiful Fjords in Norway.

At Flaam, you board a ferry for a two hour cruise to Gudvangen at the end of an adjacent fjord. May is one of the best times for this trip as there will be lots of snow in the mountains, dozens of waterfalls and green fields and flowers along the fjords. Stay at either the Gudvangen hotel or take the bus to the Stalheim hotel located up in the mountains near by. After a great Norwegian breakfast take bus(stops at the hotel) to Voss (home of Knut Rockne) and board the train back to

Oslo. The train ride takes several hours and nicely rounds out the trip with some of the nicest scenery in Norway.

We have taken the entire trip for about \$300 per person, including air fare, trainfare and two nights in a hotel. This is generally cheaper than staying in a hotel in Oslo for two days.

I don't have any experience in getting a commemorative stamp issued. My only recommendation is to write both the Norwegian Embassy in Washington and the U.S. Ambassador in Oslo. They could be very instrumental in helping you in your efforts.

Please let me know if there is any thing else I can do to assist you and your family. Call me at any time.

Sincerely,


D.D. Baha

LESTER SKENE BORK
6 WILLOW OAK ROAD
SEA PINES, PLANTATION
HILTON HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA 29928

20 Sept., 1994

The Hon. Marvin Runyon,
Postmaster General of The U.S.,
United States Postal Service,
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 10022
Washington, D.C. 20260-0010

I am the V.P., Scty., Treas. & Scribe for the United States Military Academy Class of 1929 and wish to express the enthusiastic support and endorsement of the proposal to create a U.S. postage stamp commemorating Captain Robert Moffat Losey, U.S. Air Corps, the 1st American killed in WW II, our classmate.

Each member of our class supports this request. The President of the USMA Class of 1929 - General Paul W. Thompson - received the award as the USMA outstanding graduate on 23 May, 1994 and he joins me in speaking for all USMA graduates and officers of the army in requesting that Capt. Robert M. Losey be so honored.

Since The Kingdom of Norway has already paid tribute to Captain Bob Losey with a monument to his memory, it is very important to the military that the United States remember him in an honorable and enduring way through this proposed Commemorative Stamp.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Lester S. Bork,
V.P. & Scty. - USMA Cl. of 1929

LESTER SKENE BORK
6 WILLOW OAK ROAD
SEA PINES, PLANTATION
HILTON HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA 29928

20 Sept., 1994

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,
c/o Stamp Management, U.S. Postal Service,
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 5301,
Washington, D.C. 20260-2420

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