

October 15, 1999

Dr. William Oldson, Director  
The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience  
History Department  
429 Bellamy Bldg.  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2200

Dear Professor Oldson:

My father, Donald James Tolle, kept a diary during his service overseas in World War II. In 1987 he transcribed that diary and made it available to the men in his outfit.

My good friend Gene Walton recently told me about your Institute and asked whether I'd be willing to donate a copy of Dad's diary. I told him I would.

Florida State University seems an especially appropriate place to archive the diary, given my family's long association with Tallahassee and FSU. My mother, Mary Alice McNeill, was born and raised in Tallahassee (and had ancestors living there over 150 years ago). She has Proctor and McNeill cousins still living there. She got her bachelor's degree at Florida State College for Women (now FSU). Her paternal grandfather, Jerome Fee McNeill, was a biology professor there early in this century. And my father got his Ed.D. there in 1957.

I enclose the following items:

- World War II Diary of Donald J. Tolle (transcribed by him, May 1987)
- Addendum to Appendix of World War II Diary of Donald J. Tolle (prepared by him, October 1988)
- Notes from the 1987 WWII Reunion of the 47<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Light) in Long Beach California, by Dave Tolle (transcribed and revised, October 1999)
- An Informal Narrative History of the 47<sup>th</sup> Bombers (Prepared for the Bomb. Group Reunion at Dayton, Ohio 1979, by Frederick Terrell)
- 97<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (1) Army Air Forces A.P.O. Statement, dated 18 July 1944
- A Brief Chronology of the Life of Donald James Tolle (prepared by me, October 1999)
- Obituary of Donald James Tolle from the *Southern Illinoisan* newspaper, August 11, 1993
- Eulogy for Donald James Tolle, written and delivered by his good friend Jack Graham, August 12, 1993

I trust that these will be a useful and interesting addition to your Institute's archives. My mother has some photographs of Dad's that were taken overseas during the war. I will see what we might be able to send, if you're interested.

Sincerely,

Dave Tolle