
Daniel Starer

Research for Writers

59 West 85th Street

New York, N.Y. 10024

212-799-1679

December 15, 1981

Mr. Ken Follett



Dear Mr. Follett:

I had some initial trouble with our Colonel Simons - there are few references to him in the usual news, biographical, and obituary indexes. The Army Library in Washington has been very helpful in tracking down the enclosed information, which may be all you require. More material is on the way. The Army's Public Affairs people are sending me copies of their clippings; The Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is sending their biographical sketch of Simons; and a data bank in St. Louis is sending his military personnel record. Some of this should arrive in a few days. Some will take more time. It may be advisable to let me know till what date I can forward the material to you at the Mustique address.

As you will see from the enclosed information, Benjamin F. Schemmer is a knowledgeable source regarding Col. Simons. My impression from talking with Schemmer is that he will be helpful only to the degree that journalists like to see the truth printed about a favorite subject. He was protective of his information, and said he would only consider helping upon receipt of a letter from the publisher or author for whom I was researching. His address is Benjamin F. Schemmer, Editor, Armed Forces Journal International, Suite 604, 1414 22nd St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

If you need further details about Simons it may be more productive to contact the Colonel's brother and children, or his fellow officers at Fort Bragg (and elsewhere), or his other friends. Let me know if there are further questions, or if you would like me to arrange telephone interviews with you personally.

Sincerely,

Daniel Starer