



THE DEENETHORPE DIARY

BY

VIC MASLEN

PART No. 16

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B-17 Nickname ..... "HELL'S ANGELS" later "HELL'S ANGELS  
OUT OF CHUTE 13"

Squadron ..... 612th.  
Code Letters ..... SC-C  
Serial Number ..... 42-39993

Crew .....	Lt.	G.F. Bingham	Pilot
	Lt.	F.W. Hoad	Co-pilot
	Lt.	H.G. Tomlinson	Navigator
	Lt.	E.F. Lott	Bombardier
	S/Sgt.	D.G. Brandt	Radio
	Sgt.	J.K. Dunn	Eng/Top T.
	Sgt.	L.K. Yeatts	Ball Turret
	Sgt.	C.W. Johns	Tail Gunner
	Sgt.	E.B. Pinilis	L. Waist Gunner
	Sgt.	H.F. Magruger	R. Waist Gunner

#### Missions:

Only two are known:-

11    Kiel                    14    Oscherslaben

#### Notes:

This Fortress was delivered to Deenethorpe on 1st. Jan., 1944, and eventually flew 118 missions, the second highest number of the Group. On 7th. May, 1945, while landing at Deenethorpe, it nosed over and became a "write-off", a sad ending for a great lady. The RAF were known to have broken her up for scrap late on in 1945.

On 11th. January, 1944, on the mission to Oscherslaben, eleven members of this aircraft bailed out over Germany for an unknown reason. Lt. Bingham flew the plane back to Deenethorpe without further incident. With the number of men involved it would appear that a number of observers were also on board on this mission.

B-17 Nickname ..... "DER GROSSARCHVOGEL"  
 Squadron ..... 613th.  
 Code Letters ..... IN-M  
 Serial Number ..... 43-39125

Crew .....	Lt.	A.J. Bradley	Pilot
	Lt.	K.F. Carey	Co-pilot
	Lt.	M. Peterson	Navigator
	Sgt.	W.K. Benson	K.I.A. Togglier
	Sgt.	E. Cowgill	K.I.A. Eng/Top t.
	Sgt.	F. Toombs	K.I.A. Radio
	Sgt.	W.T. Vaughn Jr.	Ball Turret
	S/Sgt.	F.C. Nachtigal	Waist Gunner
	S/Sgt.	W.J. McKee	K.I.A. Tail Gunner
	T/Sgt.	A. Massa	K.I.A. Extra Radio

#### Missions:

172 Merseburg	190 Hermulhein	215 Munich
173 Misburg	200 Cologne	221 Chemnitz
176 Kassel	202 Ludwigshaven	225 Hagen
177 Berlin	204 Geissen	233 Hopsten
178 Merseburg	205 Litzkendorf	236 Rhein
179 Frankfurt	206 Dulmen	238 Berlin
180 Merseburg	209 Gelsenkirchen	239 Bremen
182 Schleiden	211 Nuremburg	240 Weimer
184 Gerolstein	212 Ludwigslust	242 Ingolstadt
185 Rheinbach	213 Ottingen	254 Brandenburg
186 Bingen		

#### Notes:

This was the last B-17 and crew to be lost by the 401st., on 20th. April, 1945. The plane lost a wing and broke up before the crew could bail out, throwing some clear and taking five of the crew to their deaths.

B-17 Nickname .....  
 Squadron ..... 615th.  
 Code Letters ..... IY-G  
 Serial Number ..... 42-37809

Crew .....	Lt.	H.J. Chapman		Pilot
	Lt.	J.L. Peck		Co-pilot
	Lt.	H.J. Hurlburt		Navigator
	Lt.	D.G. Wallis	K.I.A.	Bombardier
	S/Sgt.	H.W. Chaffin	K.I.A.	Radio
	Sgt.	C.S. Badura		Eng/Top T.
	S/Sgt.	N.J. Fix	K.I.A.	Ball Turret
	Sgt.	F.L. Reed	K.I.A.	Tail Gunner
	Sgt.	A.P. Marshall	K.I.A.	Waist Gunner L.
	Sgt.	D.D. Johnson		Waist Gunner R.

#### Missions:

Not known - Shot down on 11th. January, 1944, on the mission to Oscherslaben.

#### Notes:

Just after coming off the target at about 12:00 noon they were attacked by two ME109's. The nose of the plane was smashed and the Bombardier, Lt. Wallis, was killed instantly by being hit in the chest by a number of 20mm shells. The Navigator, Lt. Hurlburt, was also wounded in the leg. The plane was now almost completely out of control, having lost an engine and suffered damage to all control surfaces in wing and tail. As the plane went into a dive Lt. Chapman gave the order to bail out, and Sgt. Johnson left the ship at between 500 and 1000 feet, landing only 60 yards from the ship itself.

He found the body of Lt. Wallis lying near the fuselage, having been thrown clear, and saw the bodies of Sgt. Marshall and S/Sgt. Fix inside the ship. As the plane had crash-landed itself Sgt. Johnson thought that someone else might have survived the crash so he tried to enter the fuselage to search it, but a number of Germans had by this time arrived on the scene and he was held back.

Sgt. Badura and Sgt. Johnson spent the remainder of the war at Stalag 17 B, Eremes, Austria.