



A LINE A DAY



GENUINE
LEATHER
MADE IN U. S. A.

JOHN F.

SCHIMMEL

This Diary presented
to me by Delores
Crawford, just before
I left for Military
Service in the Air-
Force. June 8, 1941

Greatly appreciated.

Total Service U.S.A.A.F.,
4 years = 3 Months = 4 Days

WARD'S

A Line A Day

TRADE MARK REG. U.S. PAT. O.

*A Condensed, Comparative Diary
for Five Years.*

"Nulla dies sine linea."
(No day without a line.)

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BY
SAMUEL WARD MFG. COMPANY
BOSTON, MASS.

2202 Maryland Ave.
Superior Wisconsin.
D.C.V. Claim # C-05-304-944

"A LINE A DAY"
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

IDENTIFICATION

Name *John A. Schimenek*
Residence Address *2202 Maryland Ave.* Phone *6381*
Business Address *541 1st St.* Phone
My Weight is *154 lbs* Height *5'7"*
Color of Hair *Dark* Color of Eyes *Brown*
In case of emergency please notify *Mr. & Mrs.*
Frank Schimenek, Sup. Wisc.
Lodges or Clubs

RECORDS

Automobile License No.
Car No. Motor No.
Valuable Papers are at
Other Records

SIZES TO REMEMBER

Gloves *9 1/2* Hat *6 3/8*
Shoes *9 1/2* Hosiery *11 1/2*
Shirt - 15 1/2 + 32 Sleeve.
Trousers - 31 waist + 31 length.

JUNE 10

1941

J. P. Schimunek is sworn
into the U. S. A. Air Corps
at Ft. Snelling Wisconsin
Ohh! what a day?

1942.

Still going strong at

Lyndall Field & Laifda
The Bible Sunday School.
Right on the Gulf of Mexico.

1943

Two more days of
School - In Freshman, England.
Still no mail from home &
so goes it!!?

1944

I sincerely hope & pray,
that I can fill in this space.
My prayers have been
continued.

1944

DECEMBER 25 1941

~~1943. My Birthday, 28 today & I
spent it at the Base, just
taking life easy.~~

~~Maybe I would see my
next one?!! Maybe!!??~~

19

1941. Dyncall Field Florida
the Gacks celebrate with fire-
works. It looks more like
the 4th of July.

~~1942. Spent in Salt Lake City
Utah. Had left Dyncall Field
Florida - so I had a long
time - no mail or anything.~~

JUNE 10 1942

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~~I. P. Schimenek is sworn
into the U. S. B. Air Corps
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Ohh! what a day?~~

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Syndell Field & Laifda
The Lixible Supper School.
Right on the Gulf of Mexico.~~

~~1943~~

~~Two more delays of
School - In Sneesham, England.
Still no mail from home &
so goes it!!!?~~

~~1944.~~

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that I can fill in this space.
My prayers have been
unheeded.~~

~~1944~~

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~~1944. Spent at Wendell Field, Florida
& the GIs celebrate with fire-
works. It looks more like
the 4th of July.~~

~~1944. Spent in Salt Lake City,
Utah. Had left Wendell Field
Florida - so I had a poor
hvac - no mail or anything.~~

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Ohh! what a day?

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^{6/17/43}
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works. It looks more like
the 4th of July.~~

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Utah. Had left Wendell Field
Florida - so I had a poor
hvac - no mail or anything.~~

JANUARY 1

1943. Salt Lake City, Utah.
Just assigned to 546th
Squadron, 384th Bomb
Group.

1943. Am working in the
Orderly-Room for "The Passes"
to town - Boy, do I get to
town alot!!!!

~~1944. Working is easy while
"sweating out" fairs make
Mississ to complete over
25 Operations here in England~~

~~19 It is awfully hard to speak
into words, how one feels at
this point in time? Time
will only tell!?? Each day
there is more "STRESS"!~~

FEBRUARY 2 - 43.

1943

Ground School —
weather bad for
flying.

1943

Look in a Movie
in the pm. Really that's
all there is to do here.

~~1944~~

~~A Halifax crashed here
tonite, 6 boys got clear & two
were burned to death. Not
a very pleasant sight to see!~~

19

FEBRUARY 3

1943. - Henderson Utah
0900 - 1200 - 3 hrs. No #4
Engine running rough.
Landed for check.
19 1500 - 1700 - 2 hrs
Local flight out of
Henderson.

~~19 The Boys hit Wilhemsheim
today, one fair fella fell out of
the ball tier at 26,000 feet.
No parachute & 2 ops down.
19 One reason I kept "my spurs" where
I could reach it! Very hard to see!!!~~

FEBRUARY 4

1943.

Still loafing at
Hendover, the crew
should be here from Boise
any-day!! Whatta-place!!

1944.

~~The Boys hit St. Bonifort
Ker. again today. A lot of the
ships picked-up fish holes.~~

19

19

19

FEBRUARY 7

19 43.

Spencer Utah
1800-2000 - 2 hrs.
Local flight.

~~19 44.~~

~~Back at the Base &
the Boys have been raising
hell with airfields in
France. Invasion soon.~~

19

19

19

FEBRUARY 9

19⁺³

Pendover Utah.

0800 - 0930 - $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.

Motor trouble - feathered
No #4 Engine.

~~19⁴⁴~~

~~Spent today, 19 for me
the high for the round!~~

~~16 for me yesterday. High score
again. Lucky me!~~

~~19~~

~~I began to wonder about the other
gunners when I watch them shoot?!!~~

19

19

FEBRUARY 11

1943. Henderson Utah

1400 - 1800 - 4 hrs

Local flight - flew
over Pillate Peak

19 at 15,000 ft. Beautiful
day for flying. The peaks
top was all covered with
snow. Odd for skiing!?

~~1944. The Group hit the airport
today & some of the Boys had
some close-shaves from the
heavy flak.~~

19

19

FEBRUARY 12

1943, Henderson, Utah.

Local flight -

1330 - 1800 - 4 hrs $\frac{1}{2}$

Altitude - 12,000 ft.

~~1944 I saw some of the
ships from yesterday's Raid
& they really took a beating.
They won't fly for awhile.~~

FEBRUARY 13

1943.

Wendover Utah.

0800 - 1200 - 4 hrs

Local flight. Ten practice
Bombs were dropped.

1944.

Making it easy, seen
two moose & heard the very
interesting lecture on tailing out
at high altitude. Very good!?

19 The best parachute instructions we
had since I started flying!??

19

19

FEBRUARY 14

1943. Henderson Field
Sketch - shooting & a Monie
100 hr inspection for the
ship were flying.

~~1944 We were alerted today,
but the weather kept us
all grounded. Getting eager
to fly again! How much longer?~~

~~19 At this point in time one just
wants to get it "over-with," one way or
the other?~~

FEBRUARY 15

1943.

Handover Utah --
"Company Gun" practice --
Bay. How these Boats
show out the lead?

~~1944~~

~~The Alert is still on &
with a late take off time,
it must be the Rockall
Pos. Re Calais Area. Just
19 across the English Channel.~~

19

19

FEBRUARY 16

19

Handover Utab. ↗
Escape procedures from
a B-17 & the use of
equipment onboard.

19 Feb.

Poor weather keeps
the 8th Air Force on the
ground. R.A.C. is after
Berlin tonight.

19

19

19

FEBRUARY 17

1943

Kendover Utah
Lectures on first aid
in case of Chasms. Really
good stuff!

1944

~~They really gave it to
Berlin back with a 500 tons
in about 30 minutes. A lot
of Bombers fly over here. We
are right on the flight path!~~

19

19

FEBRUARY 18

1943.

Spencer Utah
Nothing to bring about when
there is no place to go!?

1944.

Every thing Pass n
taking life as it is. The
weather is bound to clear
in the near future.

19

19

19

FEBRUARY 26

1943. Henderson Utah.
1500 - 1730 - 2 hrs $\frac{1}{2}$
Local flight.

~~1944. We were in the air
Nine hours & I saw the
Alps again. The flight
smiles from Munich yesterday.
19. Switzerland was, not too
far away — & it looked awful
tempting to land there!?~~

FEBRUARY 27

1943

Hendover Utah.

0800 - 1030 - 2 hrs $\frac{1}{2}$

1400 - 1600 - 2 hrs.

1630 - 1800 2 hrs $\frac{1}{2}$

1944

~~Sunday & we rest, one ship got hit by flak & they went to Hewitt Island only 60 mi away. "Guilty Bay's"! From where 19 I was their ship looked O.K. to me?!~~

19

19

FEBRUARY 28

1943 Henderson Utah.
1400 - 1800 - there.
Local flight.

~~1944 Snowing outside the
Boys took off for somewhere.
It was in France + we lost
ship, all the Boys got clear.~~

19

19

19

FEBRUARY 29

1943. Henderson Utah.
0100 - 1700 - 5 hrs
Local flight.

~~1944. Not enough Oxygen on
the Base for high altitude, so
were "staid down". The R.A.C.
is passing overhead. They fly
in the night time & are flying
the day time.~~

19

19

MARCH 1

1943 Stendover Utah
0800 - 1200 - there
Local flight

~~1944. The R.A.F. hit Stuttgart
& our ports hit Brunswick
again with no fighter opposition
It was a rufface last time~~

19

19

19

MARCH 2

1943. - Henderson Utah
0800 - 1300 - 5 hrs
Local Altitude - 25,000 ft

~~1944. We were scheduled for
Berlin & it was "scrubbed".
So they hid Frankfurt & let
us stay here at home.~~

~~19 It looks like we'll catch
the "Big City" run for our 25th
Mission. It can be rough
& that is for very sure!~~

19

19

MARCH 3

1943. Henderson Utah.

1400 - 1600 - 4 hrs.

Local flight.

~~1944 It was "Berlin", but we
never made it. Heavy clouds
up to 27,800' + 54 degrees below
zero. In turning back, two~~

~~19 groups came head on &
two ships collided. One huge
explosion & that's all there
was to it. No one got clear!~~

~~19 One of those sad situations =
One also thanks his blessings as
it could have been us!!?~~

~~Near Paris France a captured Spitfire
19 came thru the overcast - (away out
of our range from England) & shot
at him a fire & he spun into
the overcast~~

MARCH 4

1943. Henderson, Utah.

1330 - 1800 - 3 1/2 hrs
Over Salt Lake

~~1944. It had a relief to be finished! Really a feeling of relaxation & that is for every man.~~

~~19 I feel like two-huge weights have been taken off our shoulders. One had to be there to feel the way we did!!~~

~~19 We all felt like we were living on "borrowed-time"; but we didn't know just "how-much-time" we had borrowed?!!~~

19

MARCH 5

1943. ~~Handover Utah.~~
0830 - 1100 - 2 hrs.
1900 - 2200 - 3 hrs - 20,000'

~~1944. The ship we flew to
Cuxhaven on our last flight
went down to day over Tofague
the crew had 24 Missions.~~

~~19 How lucky for Crew #61?
I've been recommended for a
"Battlefield Commission" - I deserve?~~

19

19

MARCH 6

1943 - Henderson Utah.

1300 - 1600 - 3 hrs.

Over Salt Lake City:

~~1944 The Boys were handed for
Berlin today. Our Composite
Group made it out & back
okay.~~

19

19

19

MARCH 9

1943. Henderson Utah.
0800 - 1230 - 4 hrs $\frac{1}{2}$.
Local flight.

~~1944. One of our Boys back
over Berlin today, where the
Japs above dropped their
Bombs on his rail surfaces.~~

~~19 Really sad when something like
this happens! "Friendly fire" is how
they call it up?!~~

19

19

MARCH 10

1943. Henderson Utah.

1400 - 1500 - 4 hrs.

Local flight.

~~1944. No Chutes came out
of Reeder ship, so the Boys
who saw it tell me. What
a way to get checked-out?~~

19

19

19

MARCH 11

1943 - Called Jeff.

~~1944 In London & enjoying
myself per usual. & eggs
& double date with her
sister & her boy friend. It's
nice to have a home-cooked
meal at this point in time?!~~

19

19

MARCH 12

1943 Henderson Utah.
0930 - 1300 3 hrs $\frac{1}{2}$
Local flight.

~~1944. Beautiful day & I am
invited to Peggy's house
for a home cooked meal.
Luffy said hi~~

19

19

19

MARCH 13

1943 Pendower Utah
1400 - 1800 - 4 hrs.
Local flight.

~~1944. Back at Camp & the
Boys have been practicing
with the Glider Bombs again~~

19

19

19

MARCH 14

1943, Henderson Utah.

School all day - no
flying - phoney!!

~~1944. Assume here it we
are due to leave here some
time. There we go again?~~

19

19

19

MARCH 15

1943 ~~Spencer Utah~~
1530 - 1800 - 2 hrs 1/2
Local flight.

~~1944 The Boys hit Augsburg
again today & we lost 3
ships. "Jerry was over here
tonite. Hard to sleep during a
Bombing Raid by the Germans."~~

19

19

MARCH 19

19 43. Henderson Utah.
400-1730 - 3 hrs $\frac{1}{2}$
Local flight.

~~19 44. "Jerry" boy & me on visit
but it was a very small
raid. Ack-ack was heard.~~

19

19

19

MARCH 21

1945. Henderson Utah.

2000 - 2330 - 3 hrs 2.

Local night flight.

Beautiful ~~and~~ ~~for~~ flying

~~1945. Henderson, Papp & I~~
~~see at 11:00 - go dancing~~
~~at Covent Garden in H. that~~
~~a beautiful dance, till.~~

19

19

19

MARCH 23

1943.

Hendover Utah to
Pocatello, Idaho for gas
1500 - 1800 - 2 hrs ¹⁵/₂.
including return flight.

1944.

Back at the Pass &
I leave for Charley & home in
the very near future. I hope?
Just hard to believe!! 33

19

Col. Dale C. Smith our C.O.
told me that he could have made
the same decision that I made
with regards to a Battle Field Comish!

19

He flew with us on his last
mission & remarked: "How on
the hell, can one survive 35
missions!" 121

19

MARCH 24

1943 - Henderson Utah.

1 hr Calibration hop.
Listened to Radio
Compass & Chicago N.B.C.

19 4/4. Here at O Harney waiting
for orders to an embarkation
point. It looks like the
end of my diary, as we have

19 to check it in to S-2 here.

They say, "we'll get them
after the H ar." I hope they
keep this promise in Phases.

19

MARCH 26

1945 Henderson Utah.

0830 - 1200 - 3 hrs $\frac{1}{2}$

Fllew 1 hr in Co-pilots seat.
Quite an experience?

1944. I till at C. Harley just

waiting for a Book for phone
I hope it's the Queen Mary
or Elizabeth²

19 I hide the diary every
time I hear or see someone
I don't know!

19

19

MARCH 27

19th ~~13~~ Henderson Utah to
Casper Wyoming - There's
0700 - 1100 + 1300 - 1630
Full load of gas.

~~19th Beautiful day here &
we live like we're at a Rest
Home. Really not too bad
at all.~~

19

19

19

MARCH 28

1943. Henderson Utah to
Pocatello Idaho - 5 hrs
another gasoline hop.
Listened to Radio Compass

~~1944 He played ball & took
it easy like waiting for
orders to put me for a
boat for home.~~

19

19

19

MARCH 29

1943. Henderson Utah.

0900 - 1100 - 1300 - 4 hrs.

Intens. Check. These
spots are rather boring.

~~1944. If we don't catch
that boat for home pretty
soon, we'll never make
it for Easter.~~

19

19

19

MARCH 30

1943. Handover Utah to
Agden Utah - 55 minutes.
Returned same day
55 minutes.

19 Hill Field has "girls-
of-alore" working there &
the "Weather-Merchants"
run the joint.

~~1944. Some boys just come over
from the States & they say that
the Queen Mary is over there.
I hope we catch her back?~~

~~19 Rush like the Air Force -
Hurry-up & wait!??~~

MARCH 31

1943. Henderson Utah to
Bill Field, Ogden Utah
for a tire-change.

19 Took-off again for
Casper Wyoming for
gas. Took-off again
for Denver Colorado.

Stayed overnight & return
ed to Henderson next day
about 10 hrs all-tall. Sure
a treat to see Denver Colo.
& Lowery Field again.

~~1944. Still at Charley England
& I don't think we can be
home for Easter now. Just
my luck!~~

19

APRIL 1

1943: Denver Colorado to
Henderson Utah - 4 hrs.
Another beautiful flying
day: 18,000 ceiling.

~~1944: I sweating out the
book to go home - Just
like preparing to go on a Mission.
Its hard to write with no
table of any kind - I usually
sit on my bunk & try to write.
I have to sneak & watch out when
I try to make any entries!~~

19

19

APRIL 2

1943. Henderson Utah to
Panatohl, Nevada - 2 hrs. a.
13-B-17² in formation
P-39² simulated attack.

~~1944. Same boys left today
we hope to leave tomorrow.~~

19

19

19

APRIL 3

19

1943. Henderson Utah —
Everyone restricted in
preparation for shipment —
Possibly, ~~since~~ since City La.?

1944.

I guess we like it
too much here in Engl.
or something, cause we're
still hanging around.

19

19

19

APRIL 4

1943.

Spent over Utah
Left for depot + Mid-
West, here we come -
546th Sq. - 384th Bomb Group

1944.

Went to England yet.
"Singer, Matched on." What
a bit down here in this place

19

19

19

APRIL 5

1943. Henderson Utah to
Sandy City by train.
Really a change after
flying so much.

~~1944. Hoo-Ray! We leave
tomorrow for the U. S. A.
Cuff said: "Home-
Sweet Home"; after all of our
19 narrow escapes it's very
hard to believe we are going home.
We thanked God many times for
this day in my life. We had to
19 wonder: why now? "Going Home"
what a wonderful feeling
at this point in time?~~

APRIL 6

1943.

Enroute to Sioux City
beautiful 5 hrs. in Renoir.
"Golden Gate Grill". Schini
renews old acquaintances.

1944.

~~Leaving Charley at 3:15
for point of embarkation,
where I discuss. It looks
like Easter on the boat.~~

19

19

19

APRIL 7

1943. Sioux City, Iowa.

Rathskellars Bar
Adopters for Crew 61.

19 "Girard" & "Jr" spend
the eve. escorting the
feminine population of
Sioux City to their
respective homes.

19 Maxi-fare on one "deal",
"two-squaw", 1.55 straight
north - enough said.
The Battle continues!! (Ouch).

1944. Arrived at Liverpool &
boarded the Edmund B.
Alexander, formerly the
"American". What a feeling
to ¹⁹know, that one is going home!
It all seems like a dream &
that's for sure!! Yes, I still pray
to the good Lord for being here.

APRIL 8

1943.

Still ~~Leaving~~ City
No flying, ~~waiting~~ in line
for the time being. So
Crew #61 goes to the ~~Kathakellers~~.

19

Louisalette, Majewski & "Ja"
goes Roller-Skating. Ohh dear
the girls are sixteen years &
a lot younger. Last time there.

1944.

Still at Liverpool wait-
ing to leave for home.

See the food bar goal, Wow??
First white bread today. Fresh

19 about one year since we had
any white-bread!

One incident one will never
forget because the good food

19 still, as what we have been
missing!?

APRIL 9

1943. Still Saint City:
saw again with M. Jewish
were thronging & will take
off to Johnson's Cafe.

19 "We" meet "Emily" &
"Jr" see's her every mite
there - after. A Bill said
Love to come home too:

1944. The tugs are alongside
so we should pull out of
New York at any time.!!?

9:30 A.M. Easter on the Ocean.

19 It's still hard to believe that
I'm giving H-O-R-E! It's very hard
to keep the tears from flowing at
this point in time? My many
prayers have been answered
along with the prayers of others!!?

APRIL 10

1943. Still Sioux City
& Emily Sickenie bothers
"me" soooo-nice.

So I take her home or
19 better yet, she takes
"Jo" to her fine home.

This fine Dad takes me
back to the Base - "Flat tire"

~~1944 In the North Atlantic &
is it rough. Pretty soon
I'll find out if I get sick
or not.~~

19

19

APRIL 11

1943. Still Living City -
no-flying & it's them
against & "Emily" - She
gets "nicer & nicer". Very!!
~~1944. Still rolling & a lot
of Boys are sick. Me no
head & dinner yep! Ugh!
Could be tho? Hh!~~

19

19

19

APRIL 12

1943.

Leaves City & the
"folks" come & pick me.
By way meet Emily too:
My what compliments to her?

~~1944. Still racin' & racin'
& I do mean just that.
Just like a Steeler-Twiter.
or something. Not sick yet. 12/11~~

19

19

19

APRIL 13

1943.

Spent a fine day
with the "falks" in Drury
City. Walter & had both
look Grand & then some?

1944.

At hatta storm, we
lost a big life raft last
nite & I almost fell out of
my bunk more than once.

19

It's hard to try & sleep &
hang on to the bunk at the same
time!! Hard to write too! or 3 of
these tough North Atlantic storms. 19

19

19

APRIL 14

1943.

Sioux City & Emily
& I are doing okay. Her
Mom is real sweet, but
her Sis Mary ~ Ohh Real?

1944.

~~Still rocking about.
Six days on the Ocean &
after the past 48 hrs, I don't
think I'll get seasick.~~

19

19

19

APRIL 15

#23-0026

1943.

Spencer City: We
try our New Ship - prop
Boat now runs away #
No #4 is feathered again.

19

Shake from Emily + I take
in a Movie. We meet
the rest of Crew #61 there +
"Schindler" gets a fine ragging.

1944.

Just 90 miles from the
Azores, we tried to go around
the storm, but no go. It is
letting up for the moment

19

Submarine alert when a
torpedo went between us +
the tanker behind us.?? Large
Seaplanes are protecting us

19

while the 32 ship Convoy
refuels after the storm. Chitney

APRIL 16

19

43. Ship City of Ruthskiller.
Bar. Our ^{all} Engineer meets
his future wife - yep
his a gone!!

19

44. I go to see Emily -
Gordon is going steady
with his future wife.
Majewski + I, still "Bachelors".

19

44. A beautiful day, still
rolling + with sunshine. I take
off my shirt + enjoy the sun.
Hatta life, Horn 2!!

19

I took us all day to refuel
all of the convey. Quite a sight
to see!! 32 ships!
The Commodore B. Alexander
was our troop-ship!

APRIL 17

1943.

Still Sioux City &
Schimney & Emily are
doing okay - still.
Her dad has "Choice Liquors"

19

She shows me the family
Album & the snaps are
really swell. Especially
the ones of Emily "Dickens"

1944.

A rather nice sailing, but
it's becoming tiresome. Getting
windy again, so it should
get rougher again.

19

19

APRIL 18

19

~~Leaving City of St. Louis
Emily & I take in the
K. C. dance - fun & how?
A swell party had by all.~~

19 4th.

~~Just few more days
& we hit New York. The
storm really held us up.
Getting rougher & rougher.~~

19

~~17 Days getting home =
11 hrs + 45" going over!
to leave on 10:45 am due
to icing conditions at~~

19

~~25,000 feet, we broke out
into the clear! Lucky again!~~

19

APRIL 19

19

Living City supposed
to fly on the 1st of Nov.
He's still in S. City.
He both hate to park.

1944.

~~Rolling again & all
well. That's late aren't too
far off now?~~

19

19

19

APRIL 20

1943. Saint City & 1 hr $\frac{1}{2}$
Calibration mission
Johannes Cafe in the town
Out to family's house & nice

~~1944. Just sailing along.
Enjoyed some of the show today.
No mention of any German
Subs up to this part of the
19 Convoy to New York~~

To San Francisco!

APRIL 21

1943. Sioux City - folks
left for home - we leave
for West Coast. & we to
Tonopah Nevada, gased-up
1943 hrs later, Salinas Calif.
We flew over Salt Lake City
& Henderson - 30 B-17s in
a spread formation.

~~1944. It looks like we will
dock tomorrow, just off the
Statue of Liberty. Hark Mos!
"Home" - it is very hard to be-
lieve!?~~

APRIL 22

1943

Salinas California.
Beautiful weather. Flew
to San Francisco & put
up in Golden Gate Bridge.

19

Coastal Patrol Boat
400 to 500 miles to sea.
Saw a whale - quite a
sight! 1330 - 1830 - 5 hrs.

1944

Worked at Station Isle
N.Y. & headed for Fort Hamilton.
They say we can take in the
Big town tonight.

19

Just hard to realize we
made it "by the Grace of God!"

19

APRIL 23

1943. Still Salinas Calif.
No flying & I met Ed
Golispaki from Superior.
Whatta surprise for "us".

~~1944. N York City is quite the
place. He had quite the
tower? Cook in the Cafe Rouge
& then Grey at "The Penn".~~

19

19

19

APRIL 24

1943 - Salinas Calif. 945-
1500. - Information to Prieco
picked up 100 or more planes
of flew in Prieco vicinity.

~~1944. On my way to Chicago
& Port Sheridan. I had a
furlough at home. Gueza?
Called to see in Chicago~~

19

19

19

APRIL 25

1943

Easter Sunday. From
Salinas Calif. to officiating
City - 0645 Wash Coast time
to 1800 Central time. 12 hrs.

19

I fly for two - hrs, while
the ~~flight~~ goes back to the
Radio - room to eat & take
a ~~fix~~. Really ok.

19

~~the closer to home one gets
over "home sickness" seems to
fade away.~~

19

19

APRIL 26

1943.

San Francisco City & Family
Just like coming back
home. Ohh - swell & more.
She said she missed me.

1944

I see Ernie and Tina for
a short visit & I'm eager to
head North & H.O.M.E.

19

After going through what
we went through & being
on the way home in one piece
again one wonders = "why?"

19

19

APRIL 27

1943. Living City & still "me";
Emily & I enjoy each other's
company. The folks are tops.
The food fixed eats for us.

~~1944 The diary may be come-
crash neglected from here on?
All that tension & stress has
come to an end - Thanks to God!~~

19

19

19

APRIL 28

19

¹⁴⁵ Sioux City - Still
seeing Emily - Miller &
Berndt are talking marriage.
Look like it for the

19

19

19

19

APRIL 29

1943. Still Sioux City &
rumors say we are to
leave too damn soon
phoney, - from Crew #61

19

19

19

19

APRIL 30

1943. Spring City - 0130

0830 - 4 hrs. A.T.C. E.

Check at 25000 ft. We
leave a trail thru the clouds.

19

19

19

19

MEMORANDA

The battle of "Lions
City" rapidly draws to
a close & phooey again.
I've fallen for Emily - Bad!
~~Something~~ Emily just
don't know how to take
me & that is quite-cute.
She's still "tappi"-yes, sure.

MEMORANDA

1943 - While flying along the route of the Convoys to Russia all we did see was one large-whale - No Submarine-activity while we were on duty.

We were going to fly under the Golden Gate Bridge, but a Navy Battleship was coming toward us & we chickened-out?

MAY 1

1943

Frank Seaco opens
up home - surely not
there to enjoy it. But
Allen writes & reminds me.

19

Oh God Memory at this
point is time! John Olson
has the Bride all to himself?!

19

19

19

MAY 2

1945.

The Spine City Girls
have Errow & Miller - Clare
"Emily" as usual. Party at
Martin Hotel for 546th & the
19th fest of the 584th Group.
Emily goes in formal
attire. Perhapp "beautiful
piece of femininity I recall"
19th on that last Eve. in town.
They were lovely - (periods).
Errow & Miller got hitched.
"Emily" say we should wait!

MAY 3

1943

Restricted at the
Base in preparation to
leaving Saint City.

"JW" better to leave!!

19

Take off at 0130 for
Hearney Nebraska.

1 hr & a half.

Ship is heavily loaded.

19

19

19

MAY 4

1945. At Kearney Nebraska
+ being processed.

Refracted as usual!!!

I met Bill Meyers from home
in the mess hall here
in Kearney Nebraska.

Another surprise for both
of us! We went to Cathedral.

19

19

MAY 5

19

43. Kearney Nebraska.
L. D. M. Check. 4 hrs.
Still restricted,
Possible furloughs? ? ? ?

19

19

19

19

MAY 6

1943.

Hearney Nebraska
+ all set for a 6 day
festival. "Hock May".
It won't be long now!

19

19

19

19

MAY 7

19

Left Kearney for home
Rain all the way &
traffic was terrific.
We stood up to Omaha.

19

19

19

19

MAY 8

19

Superior Wisc., 1800
Cough said: saw
it's home & did I
surprise the folks. Wow?

19

19

19

19

MAY 9

1943. Still on furlough
at home.

~~It's not quite the same.~~
Johnny Olson is the!!

19 John's letter from "Home" was
always appreciated. We grew up
to gather in Bulling's Park! What of
Companionship while we grew up?
19 Wonderfull memories!?

19

19

MAY 10

"Liff home" "Mami Ray."

19 43 I told home Mami Ray.
Betty Nelson comes from
Mills. & it's sure smell
of her. ~~With my present job~~

19 in the town garden of south
gun to wonder what she is in store
for the bath of us?

19

19

19

MAY 11

19 43. Left 1:30 on Lgo Line
for N.Y. & Kearney.
Really no fun.
Uneventful train ride.

19

19

19

19

MAY 12

1941

Kearney Nebraska
Photo of what have you
0830 to 1100 - 2 hrs
Kearney to Omaha & the

19

Glenn L. Martin B-26 plant
We also flew over Father
L. L. Martin "Bay's Town"
Truly a sight to see!

19

The Bays are all air
waving at us as we
fly really low & Buzz them!

19

19

MAY 13

1943

Leaving New. & we get
some make G.I. clothes
for flying. Rather nice stuff
We sleep all afternoon.

19

19

19

19

MAY 14

1943. Still Kearney Nebraska
& we have an Officers
Briefing for the flight "Over
there". Officers of the Air
Transport Command gave us
some fine "dope" on our future
travels, we have a lot of
air miles ahead of us!

19 There are no passes or
leaves for us now, as we
have too much information
on where we're going!

MAY 15

19

Still Kearney & we
are all set to go - "Hither
& Yon". Everyone restless
as we're still lying around.
Another lecture this pm &
everything looks like one
big adventure. The Affiches
just came back from England.

19

19

19

MAY 16

1943. Still at Kearney Nebr.
Got up at 1000 A.M. Just
taking life easy - took in a
movie - what a life !!!

1943. I got a swell letter from
Emily today. She says, "I need
not worry, as she'll be there
when I come back". Hm.

1943. Paid \$78.00 flying pay.
to very body in a paper
game. I should last til
the well small hrs. !!!

19

19

MAY 17

1943. Kearney Nebraska is
Heather has closed - in
& our ship is not finished.
Everything all set!!

19 I sure hope we leave
this place & soon!! The
food is terrible. I've lived
on P.K. Sandwiches for 5 days.

19

19

19

MAY 18

1943

Still Kearney Nebraska
Just waiting favorable weather
for our take-off to Selfridge
Field Michigan or Bangor Me.

19

I called Betty Mahoni & told her
we would be over Milwaukee at 11:00 am the
following day - a rather surprise, when
a maid voice told me to "get lost"!

19

I experienced that feeling that
I had lost a very "Dear Friend".
I guess all is fair in "Love & War"?!!
No more "home-town" Sweetheart, from
the looks of a Big-City Romantic -
Affair at that time of day!?

MAY 19

1943. Journey Nbr. to Bangor Me.
06:20 to 16:00 - Eastern time.

10 hrs. Over Hills. to Saginaw Mich.
to St Lawrence River, to Montreal, Quebec

19
to Bangor Maine. One ship
cracked up when his brakes
wouldn't hold. Quite bad. No one
hurt & the ship a complete wreck.

19

19

19

MAY 20

1943

Still at Bangor Maine.
Ship being serviced, so we
have a day in Camp. Attended
a Radio show & dance.

19

Ships are about 200 -
W.A.A.C.s here & from what
he seen & heard these girls
do work & hard too?

19

19

19

MAY 21

1943 Left Bangor Me. at 15:25
landed at ~~Bender~~ Lake, New
foundland at 2030 - 5 hrs.
Very desolate country.

19 That is the last we'll
see of "The States" for now.
Approx. 800 miles from Bangor
4. 1250 from New York City.

19 Leaving the States one feels like
he is leaving a very dear friend behind.

19

19

MAY 22

1943 Still at Gender Lake
Newfoundland. Very cold here
& Mr. Pershing come in right
ahead of our ship.

19 The Canadians here are
a little distant toward us.
They drive on the left side of
the street here - Quite cute!!

19

19

19

MAY 23

1943 Looks like we'll leave
Spander Lake this pm for
England - a flight of 12 hrs.
This is really the "itici"!!

19 The native people here
look very Eskimo-like &
they have their teeth & hair.
Tuberculosis is quite prominent.

19

19

19

MAY 24

1943 We need a 20 mile per hour tail wind, so were still at Gander Lake Newfoundland. "Gards & d.a.guns" are all over.

19 The food at Banger Mts. was fine & at this place it is tops - we had chicken last Sunday. Ohh! nice?

19

19

19

MAY 25

1943 The weather looks good
this A.M. we're liable to
leave around six in the eve.
I take my turn to guard the ship.

19 We have a "Sleeping-bag"
& it's put in the tail of
the ship, so "Guard-duty"
here is quite cozy.

19 Saw Winata, Harold & Anthony
Eden across the runway from the
ship. They were walking for exercise.

19

19

MAY 26

1942. Still here at Sandusky Lake
I took in the A. A. C. is
swimming pool last pm
& had a fine time.

19 The weather is still
unfavorable, so we still
wait!! They say, none of our mail
leaves here till we do - phooey!!
'19

19

19

MAY 27

1973. Leaving Tender Lake
"If all goes well we will be
over Durmacross, in the
New Hebrides Islands in
19 11 hrs. From there to
Dreawicke Scotland - where
were to land. The weather
not too favorable - gotta use Oxygen
19

19

19

MAY 28

1943. From Sanger Lake Newfoundland
to Preswick Scotland - 11 hrs &
45 minutes. 6 hrs of Oxy-gen - other-
wise very tiresome flight!

19 We flew over Ireland & then
into Scotland - It is very beautiful
here. Were quartered here on some
estate - flowers - birds - very springlike

19 I never thought I
would ever fly across an ocean!

19

19

MAY 29

1943. From Prestatall or rather
Preswick Scotland - 2 hrs $\frac{1}{2}$ to new
base just outside of Northampton
England. Unloaded new ship with
19 my shirt off as it was very
warm. Bombers are flying to
Germany tonight & some ones in
for a blasting & then some!!
19

19

19

MAY 30

1943. Our field is Grafton -
Underwood + we left it today
for a 10 day Summer school
located on "The Wash" wherever
19 that is? All of the brothers
have been in Gombak, from
what they say, we have a good
chance to get back? We'll see!

19

19

19

MAY 31

1943. At School & it's the same
old stuff!! I hear we are 12 miles
from where Clark Gable is. ~~That?~~
The Bombers are off to Germany
again. This pm. They sure
are far site-to-see. We hear no
news here at all. Every thing
seems so-backward. Wow!!

19

19

19

1943.

MEMORANDA

The people treat us fine, but the different coins & paper money sure has us confused for the time being.

Automobiles are very few & the majority travel by "bike". They cost like the devil - 10th about \$40.30 American Money.

So I shall have one soon? I've been so - busy, I haven't written to a single one back home. Facilities are very poor.

Runners fly fast & furious in this "joint," so in the near future I hope to enter some fine experiences.

We should be out on a "raid" ourselves in a week or so - so Crew 61 wait for our first day over Germany!!!!

JUNE 1

1943 The School is right across
from Norway — as I hear? One
of the fellows got shot in the
hand last Dec. & they don't
19 know where it come from?
Planes flew over today & they
were so high, that they
left a long trail of vapor.
19

19

19

JUNE 2

1943.

Four more days of Sombak
School left & then back to
our field for the "real stuff."
I had afternoon tea today - Hm!

19

19

19

19

JUNE 3

1942. Rain & more rain -
We live in tents here, so
you can imagine the fine
time we are having? Phooey.

19

19

19

19

JUNE 4

1943

Still at "The Wash";

The "Stories" get "ruffier" &
"rougher". Sometimes it acts
a guy to wondering? Much.

19

19

19

19

JUNE 5

1943 Got the highest score in
sketch today. (Lucky)? Beautiful
day, just like summer in the
good old U. S. A. . . Ohh! me?

19

19

19

19

JUNE 6

19 Crew 61 went to "Kings
Lind" today & what a quaint
place it is? Seen a
place where two Bombs fell.

19

19

19

JUNE 7

1943. Majewski & I take a
Sun-bath in a plum-orchard.
We watch *Spitzfires* & *Hur-*
ricanes "dog-fight". *Himim?*

19

19

19

19

JUNE 8

1943. Took in another town
+ whatta place!! We had
fun, when we found a piano
player - yes a live.
19

19

19

19

JUNE 9

1943. Majewski & I continue
our Sunbathing in the
Plum-orchard. "Goofin'-off"
as usual? Whatta War?

19

19

19

19

JUNE 10

1941

J. P. Schimunek is sworn
into the U. S. A. Air Corps
at Ft. Seward Wisconsin
Ohh! what a day?

1942

Still going strong at
Syndell Field & Linda
Lexible Elementary School.
Right on the Gulf of Mexico.

1943

Two more delays of
School - In Sneesham, England.
Still no-mail from home &
so goes it !!!?

1944

I sincerely hope & pray,
that I can fill in this space.
My prayers have been
answered.

1944

JUNE 11

1943. Starting on the last
year of my enlistment &
from all indications, it
is to be the hardest one.

19 One of the planes in our
Squadron Crashed today & killed
all the Boys. "Blaize" the
Radio man came from Wise.

19 An accident that "hurt"
because it was not from
Combat!

19

19

Norwich JUNE 12 England.

1943. Last night "Jerry" cut-
loose just twenty-five miles
from us here —, we could
hear the Explosions & A.A. fire.

19

19

19

19

JUNE 13

1943. Everyone talks about
"Coming-Back", from all
indications, some of us
won't!! I received today's Sun.

19 Mass is very important
Being Catholic, one in "harmer =
way" will be administered the
Last Rights of the Catholic Church.

19

19

19

JUNE 14

1943, "They" raided Bremen & Kiel
again, 26 of our planes failed
to return. I'm sure some of
the stories we hear are true?

19

19

19

19

JUNE 15

1943. Last night the R.A.C.
"carried the mail" to Hitler.
They passed here for two - two
straight. They kept us awake!

19 Mail today! the first since
I arrived in England. My
morale is up 100% - "Emily's"
mail & "Moms" - ohh! subell.

19 No mail from "Betty Nelson". I guess
the ~~grace~~ that told me to "get - back" while
phoning from Sac City has her attention!!
The start of a Big-City Romantic Life Style

19

19

JUNE 16

1943. Another day at School
+ it looks like we'll never
leave this here place.
Really the Dorkies!!!

19

19

19

19

JUNE 17

1943 Back at Grafton Underwood

& were scheduled for a morning hop. It feels just like coming home? Whatta home?

19

19

19

19

JUNE 18

1943 *1st* New today 0930-1100

1 hr & half - It sure felt fine
after the lay-off. *Structure*
formation - Cornberg.

19

19

19

19

JUNE 19 2 hrs.

19 43. ~~Go~~ leave again - 24.000

30 below zero - we flew over
London. It should be the
real thing any day now?

19

19

19

19

St. Athel's Day.

Heard Mass JUNE 20 at 4:30 p.m.

1943. Upstairs again 25,000

we flew with two other
Groups. 1000 to 1400 - 4 hrs
It really gets cold up there

19

19

19

19

JUNE 21

1943. Up at 2:30 A.M. for our
first mission, but some-
thing went haywire? We
expect her for sure, tomorrow.

19 Before a session we
reviewed Communism & the legal
rights of the Catholic Church.

19

19

19

#1 Mission 3 hrs 55 mins
JUNE 22 Lahn

1945 He hit Antwerp Belg.
& the General Motors Plant
there. We had a 30 minute
running battle with Me109.

1946 & Lake-Wulfes. I saw
one ship (B-17) burn & dis-
integrate in the air, while
another crashed from 24,000 ft.

19 I fired about 100 rounds
as all my ship's were too
far away. It's really rough
that it was sure!!

19 We had no Combat briefing:
learning the hard way!!

We only get credit for a
Combat-Mission when fired on?

19 We flew in Aircraft: 026
B-17-F (No-NOSE-GUNSTAFFET)
The 546th Squadron was the
one I flew in. That Air Division?!

#2 Mission "Scrubbed"
JUNE 23 4 hrs

1943. We went as far as
the French Coast & we
were called back. I could
see Le-Harne France.

19 The target was "Berning"
Garrison's plk airfield. It
would have been some
bottle & that's for sure!!!

19 Our ship had holes in
the Bombay, flak hit us
in yesterday's scrap. "We"
like to fight another day.

19 We denied fighter escort

JUNE 24

1943

Bad weather - Yesterday
we flew all around London
+ that sure is some place?
Early - hop in the barn.

19

Price, the waistgunner
who was hit above the hip
with a 30 Cal. steel slug, is
doing fine & will live.

19

19

19

JUNE 25

3 hrs.

1943 Up at 1 a.m.: - "Hamburg" was the target. Our cockpit filled with smoke & we turned back - home.

19 With 10, five-hundred-pound Bombs aboard - Himmler - We were 80 miles out in the North Sea.

19 2 of our ships failed to return. Over 200 fighters were seen & engaged over the target area. (Ouch)

19 Our Wendell-wiper motor started out, hence the fire & smoke

Mission

JUNE 26

Quite buff!!

1943 - 10:30 A.M. "Bring over",

more if we come back in back
to very thankful! Crew #62 &
three other ships never returned

19 I seen two more burn &
a few of the "Boys" parachuted
into a very empty barracks
tonight. This "Palo-raid"

19 will not be forgotten
for along, long time. I
don't think that 25 flights
are or is possible!! No

19 fighter escort but the German
we need fighter protection -
Bombing groups cannot survive
by themselves - time will tell??

19 It gets harder & harder to get
into our airplane for the next
missions from what I've seen!!
Rec'd the last night of C. Chas.

JUNE 27

19 42.

I went to Hadd.
again - I hope I can
make Hadd again
next Sunday?

19

Yesterday's target box at
Villacoublay just outside
of Paris - We could see
"Paris". Ooo La, La!! Also

19

the Eiffel Tower & the Champ de
Mars.

19

19

Missions 3

JUNE 28

1943. Were off again - some

of us worth being back -
The sure plastered "Beau-
mont Roger" - we never

19 fired a shot, as the

"Spitfires"; 100 strong took
us home in fine style.
They sure were nice to see.

19 They have a critical gas

problem & can't fly too far into
France as escort!?

19

19

JUNE 29

1943 We have a reef &
it sure felt good. I took
in a movie & done
some cycling in Kettering

19 Any change of pace is a
welcome change & that's for sure.
Too much stress!

19

19

19

JUNE 30

1943. I took in London
with a 48 hour. pass.
The House of Parliament
& No 10 Downing St. High
19. Quite impressive from
a historical point of view.

19

19

19

MEMORANDA

Places we visited in
London:

Lord Nelson Statue.

St Pauls Cathedral

London Bridge*

Tower of London

House of Lords & Commons

Richmond Palace.*

Longleat Wink.

Admiralty House.

Birdcage Street.

Chick Street.

Piccadilly Circus.*

The Lord Mayor's House.

Westminster Abbey &

the Cathedral.*

"Big Ben".*

Shames Exhibits & all

of Bombed London.

Madame Tussauds Wax Museum

MEMORANDA

We expect to hear some news any day now, from some of the "Boys" who had the "bail-bank" in France. Villacoublay, just outside of Paris is where we were jumped by about 30 Fw. 190's & one 109's. Our altitude was 28,000 feet & it was near 30 below zero. That sure does get cold with the waist windows open. Our heated suits worked fine, but one's fingers get cold quick. I figured Beaumont-Rogers would be tough, but with fighter spirit it's a nice trip - flak was very inaccurate.

JULY 1

19 Took our rest period
in London & this is just
what we needed. I take
in a rather movie.

19 Madame Tussauds Wax-
Museum was very interesting.
A very interesting place!

19

19

19

JULY 2

1943. We were Briefed for
a Mission & it was called
off while we were taxiing
on the Perimeter. The

19 weather is another hazard
while flying over here! Mid-air
collisions are too common from
what I have seen & heard. It

19 is very hard on Morale

19

19

JULY 3

1943. Paid in "pounds" for
the first time & got £36.
About \$145.00 in American
money. Ohh London - Hm?

19

19

19

19

Mission #4

JULY "4"

*

19

The big fireworks & then
some. ~~Lantern~~ France is
what we hit & with 100

19

Bombers - we really "basted"
that place good & proper.
One 17 exploded in mid-
air in our 45 minute battle.
I had two fair shots. "!!?"

19

No Credit unless the lighter
explodes or one sees him crash
on the ground. "?? Just damaged."

19

19

JULY 5

19

A few with our replacement crews & they almost "got us", with a collision in mid-air.

19

From the way it looks to finish 25 missions is just impossible!!! We need to have fighter escort real soon to have any chance to survive.

19

19

JULY 6

1943. No flying, so "we" go to
London, which is only 75
miles from our Base here
at Fettering.

19

19

19

19

JULY 7

1943. Another day of rest, as the new replacements are getting in practice. We lost four crews at Villacoublay.

19 It's hard to loose "Crews" one has flown with to this point in time.!!! Empty bunkers in the Barracks is hard to take?

19

19

19

JULY 8

1943 Another day of rest &
Crew #61 takes off again
for London. The ship is
a fine place to relax.

19

19

19

19

JULY 9

1945 School of French & es-
cape procedure from France &
Germany. Paid May's flying
pay 29-17-2 - 37.00.
19

19

19

19

Mission #5

JULY 10

1943. We hit Abbeyville & the Field of "Lairing Yellow Noses". P-47s escorted us & we only warmed up our guns. "Flak" was

19. fairly accurate & all our ships returned. This is the 2nd time I never saw at least one ship go down!?

19

19

19

JULY 11

1942. Poor weather - so we got to
School & catch up on our
sleep. Just 2.5 more Missions
& were thru - so they say?!!!!?

19

19

19

19

JULY 12

1943. Poor weather, so I go to
town & get my Cycle - "That
bad" - I ride myself to dent
now, instead of walking?

19

19

19

19

Mission #6

JULY 13

1943 "Villacoublay" again,
just outside of Paris. It
loaded good & the "flak" was
terrific - 13 holes in our ship.

19 I saw the "Eiffel Tower"
& Paris in General. A few
boys were hurt - "Crew 61" is
still full of fight!!?? Our

19 luck still favors us & we
sure need all the luck we can
get!!?

19

19

JULY 14

1943 June "Flying pay". \$52.24

The rest again but it looks
like there is a "Big Deal" in
the near future.

19

19

19

19

JULY 15

19 Free day again, so I get
a pass a go cycling in the
town of "Kettling" & I sure
had my exercise today - 6 mi.

19

19

19

JULY 16

19 London bound - there
need be no more to say
One. certainly can have
a fine time there !!! So
19 many things to see, that one
has read about in School?

19

19

19

JULY 17

19 A few practise formation
with our new crews -
They fly very well! Time
will tell: ??? It is a lot of
19 difference, when we get shot
at by German Fighters & flak!

19

19

19

JULY 18

1943. *Slappy weather*
we sleep till eleven
o'clock & take life
easy!!! Ah! me?

19

19

19

19

JULY 19

1943. I see a U. S. O. Show
7 that's about all - the
weather still keeps us
here on the ground.

19

19

19

19

JULY 20

1943. I checked our guns today & just loafed the rest of the time. Very poor flying weather - cold.

19 All of us Boys are rarin' to go some more, I guess we are all rested & eager - funny, but its true.

19 I guess it's to get it over with - one way or the other. H.H.?

19

19

JULY 21

1943. The weather is clearing here, so we are liable to get out on a mission in the morning. Yes, since

19

19

19

19

JULY 22

1943. Still taking "Life Easy".
No mail for three days
now to show I do look
for mail from home?

19 All of the Bay's are
restless, one can hardly
believe it, after the past
six trips out?

19 It's something one has to
experience to feel the way one
feels at this moment here?

19

19

JULY 23

1943 Joe really covered all of England after today's flight - a baring to the aloft & that's for sure!!!

19. These kind of flights are hard for the fifties. Our lack of excitement is sure getting us down.

19

19

19

JULY 24

1943. I took-in Fettering
with my "trusty-bike".
It was a beautiful
spring day. Everything
19 looked like a "big-
show" in the morning
16-200 lb incendiary
on board. Germany here we come
19

19

19

Mission # 7.

JULY 25

1943. "Hamburg" Germany -

It really looked bad as
we were "tail-end-Charlie's"

100 fighters all the way
19 ~~into~~ the target & 70 miles
to sea. I seen 3, B-17's g.

plum - 2 into the sea
Majewski gets two today.

19 I got in a good burst
but I couldn't follow him
down, as we were too-too
busy. 1,000 mi round trip

19 ~~but~~ will sleep good here
tomorrow !!! All shipped out!
1 ME 109 damaged

July 25 - 1943

Hamburg, Germany.

Seventh Mission

3 - B17's go down

2 - into the Sea

"Ralph Lavoie" went
down today

JULY 26

1943. We were after Hamburg again, but something went wrong?? 80 miles from our target - 3 holes yesterday!!

19 Our Group lost seven ships over Hamburg. That was terrific + I feel much better than "taking life easy."

19 All the Boys feel the very same? One B-17 was hit, knocking off the left stabilizer, it actually looped going down.

19 Just like at a movie only more realistic.

JULY 27

1943. Rested up somewhere
500 pounds are aboard &
I hit the hay early for
"tomorrow-show". The
19 weather is perfect - so some-
body's going to get a pick
in the bitches & that's
for sure!! All-a-board!
19

19

19

Mission #8.

JULY 28

1943. We took a "beating-
today" going for Kassel. ~~Some~~
One of our best crews got
it today. Were off again
19 in the morning. I
don't think our truck
will hold out much
longer? Time will tell??!!

19 Grew almost got it in
the fanny today - a bullet
came right thru the radio
room & out the doorway.

• 19 But for the Grace of God
Miller or I could have been
killed!! Just too close to talk
about? We'll not make 25 from

• 19 what we went thru today!?
It does not get any easier, when
we get into our airplane before
take-off time?!

JULY 29

19⁴³. They gave us a ~~piece~~
& I tried to find a ~~spool~~
for a switch, but no-
soap. These streets!!!

19 Our Boys took too-
much yesterday, so they
gave us a chance to
relax.

19 Our Moral was at a very
low point here today.²¹

19

19

Mission #9.

JULY 30

1945. He plastered Kassel
Germany today - all of our
ships returned; I saw 2
17's afire, one exploded!!

19 I almost "got it" from
a piece of flak. It just
missed my left side.
My luck still holds out?

19 You one hell pray while
you're "up there"!!

19

19

JULY 31

1943. 48 hr pass & I am
off to London for a
tour of recreation &
etc.!!!

19 Reed & five of his crew
are doing fine, poor guys,
on two-rides & they got shot
up bad both times. Over
"back" still "held out"!!! We
can't help wondering if it
will be our turn next!!!

19

19

MEMORANDA

He made 6 Missions
in July, from what he
seen "out-there"; again I
have to say: that it
seems impossible to have
three twenty-five mission
Crew #61 left one of the
three Old-Crews left!

The raid on Hamburg
is the roughest one yet.
He fired 9,000 rounds &
could have used more.

25 Pöcke-Wulfer & Me 109s
were downed. It looked
like a "Battle" scene in
the movies, only alot
more real! I just wonder
what experience are in
store for us during
August?!!?

AUGUST 1

1943. I layed in the
park all day & just
forgot that there was
a star on.

19 "Home" is so far away! 122! I
don't think I'll ever see "Home"
again!! 112 Memories are co-
important & precious at this
19 critical point in time for
the whole crew!! you have
tears in my eyes!!

19

19

AUGUST 2

1943. They gave us the
"Air-Medal" today for five
trips over enemy held ter-
ritory. "Time Marches On"

19 Six men from one crew
shot down at Villacoublay
have returned, some more
are on the way out.

19

19

19

AUGUST 3

1943. I write this before a
raid, 16 three hundred
pounders aboard, so some-
one will catch hell ??

19. The Raid was called
off for some particular
reason, I believe it was
the weather over Germany?

19

19

19

AUGUST 4

1943.

No Raid scheduled
so we are off to cycle
around England - surely
it's fine exercise !!!

19

19

19

19

AUGUST 5

1943. It is a beautiful
raining day out, so we
write letters & listen
to our "priceless-radios."

19 ~~And Sally & Lard~~ How How
sure find us all the Bull!
they can, then - they play ~~And~~
~~ideas~~ music. Haver Calling!

19

19

19

AUGUST 6

1943. Just taking life
easy again as the
weather won't let us
"upstairs". Poor Reed
will be in the hospital
for nine months with
his compound fracture
of the leg. A 205m. hit him.

19

19

AUGUST 7

19 ⁴³⁰ classes today & lectures
from Boys, who got out
of France — they sure
had some experiences.

19 Price, the first boy
wounded is doing fine
he got it over Antwerp on
his first Raid.

19

19

19

AUGUST 8

1943. I went to Mass &
Communion this Sunday.
The weather still keeps
us here on the ground.

19. ~~Some one must be praying~~
real hard for me to be here
at this point in time. (??)

19

19

19

AUGUST 9

1942. He flew practice again
it felt fine after the rest
we had - the weather is
clearing - It won't be long now?
19

19

19

19

AUGUST 10

1943

We were "Briefed" for a "Lulu" today, this one, when it does "come-off", it will make aerial-history. I

19

can't make an entry here, as regards to this particular mission, but I hope to later on??

19

I'm not supposed to keep a diary - so I have to watch & write carefully! It is kinda hard to write in a blackout!?

19

19

AUGUST 11

1943. The guns are aboard
so it's "up to 'em" bright
& early tomorrow morning
he are loaded with "fire-bombs".

19 From the German
broadcasts that we hear,
they call these incendiary's
inhuman & alot of other things.

19

19

19

Mission 10 (30,000)
Silsenhausen
AUGUST 12
Western Germany.

1943. "Battlewagon" is layed up with holes galore - two hits pierced our main wing apart on the right wing.

19 One flat burst took the whole nose off a 17 & she went down. ~~more~~ more from our group, "Lucky" Crew #61.

19 I don't believe we can be this lucky in the future. The stress is hard to deal with at this point in time!?

19

19

AUGUST 13

1943.

Today we take it easy.
He hit ~~Gelsen-Kirschen~~
yesterday at ~~thereabouts~~ ²².

U. S. G. A. S. lost 25 Bombers.

19

The temperature hit
40° to zero up there at 30,000'.
Our vapor trails were
sure a sight to see! It

19

is very hard to describe the
intense cold at this altitude.
It just does not get any easier
from day to day! It is cold

19

will that be here today!

AUGUST 14

1943. Five of the Boys who
were shot down at Villa-
cañal are back & in very
fine shape.

19

19

19

19

Mission # 11.

AUGUST 15

1943 He hit "Poix", France
of another Air-field at
"Amiens" - one nice flat
hole in our Horizontal tail wing.
19 Just over M. Rajewski's
head. We are stuck lucky!

19

19

19

AUGUST 16

1948 He flew out for a
new ship today and it looks
like a "show" again in
the morning. All board

19

'We'll Never Forget,' RAF Tells Arnold

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21—"The U.S. Eighth Air Force has earned for itself during the past weeks a reputation that the Royal Air Force will never forget."

With those words, Britain's Air Marshal Sir Charles Portal conveyed his "sincerest congratulations" to Gen. Henry H. Arnold, Army Air Forces commander, on the American heavy bomber attack on the Schweinfurt ball and roller bearing plants Oct. 14, in which 60 U.S. Flying Fortresses were shot down.

"The Schweinfurt raid," Portal said, "may well go down in history as one of the decisive air actions of this war, and it may prove to have saved countless lives by depriving the enemy of a great part of his means of resistance."

19

19

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AUGUST 16

1948 He flew out for a
new ship today but he
like a "shaw" again in
the morning. All board

19

19

19

* * *

Add decorations: Silver Star to S/Sgt.
Loring C. Miller, B17 waist gunner from
Stockton, Cal., for refusing to quit his
post after a shell fragment punctured his
lung. Former district circulation
manager for a Stockton newspaper, the
30-year-old gunner also refused first aid
until his pilot ordered him to submit to
it.

* * *

19

Mission #12. (60 planes lost)

AUGUST 17

- 1943, Schweinfurt Germany.
100 some odd "bombs". They
were going down all over
the place, Nazis fighters too.
- 19 Miller got hit pretty bad
in the back, while I took
a scratch on the arm. A
do. m. m. come thru the radio room.
- 19 For a moment I thought
I lost my left arm! I felt
like I was hit with a ball-bat.
It turned me half sideways!
- 19 Maglewski & I got in 3 good
hits & damaged 2 ME 109's
We need fighter support
very bad!
- 19

Missouri # 12
Schmiedt Germany.
60:17:2 lost

Miller & I get him &
qualify for the Purple
Heart.

AUGUST 18

1945. Miller is doing fine.
one of his lungs was
punctured - we kept & take
it easy. We kept him alive.

19 Keith & Pygare 193. When
Miller went down, I took over
his gun & mine. He never
got back to his gun position.

19 Bomber formations cannot
take and the German fighters
to combine with their limited
numbers. We stand our
fighters support very bad!

AUGUST 19

1943. The last five ships
at Schweinfurt "The"
are the only Model Crew
left!! And luck is getting
19 thinner & thinner! 122
The stress is hard to take
~~especially with more to fly.~~

19

19

19

AUGUST 20

1948. He finally got a
48 hr pass, so Crew 61
taken off for London &
vicinity.

19

19

19

19

AUGUST 21

1943. Bad weather, so we
"swap" comments on our
missions & some of the
things we saw "up there".

19 Most of them will never
be forgotten - never!!?

19

19

19

AUGUST 22

1943. "Battlewagon" is back
in commission, Miller is
doing fine & everyone feels
fine too.

19

19

17

19

AUGUST 23

1943. He flew last night & it looks like night flights in the future. It looks like a mission in the morn

19 Too many spies look down to see fighter support on the deep penetration into the middle of Germany. 8th

19 Bomber Command is hard to convince?!

19

19

AUGUST 24

1943. A seven hour diversion
run for the boy's today &
we went to the hospital to
see Miller & he's okay.

19

19

19

19

AUGUST 25

1943. Millers then flying with
two pieces in line & he is
to be shipped back to the
States soon. Al! Board!!

19

19

19

19

AUGUST 26

1943. I write this before a
"Raid," the R.R. has been
out all night. Rained out
but we'll be out after im soon

19

19

19

19

('Rest Home')

AUGUST 27

1943. Everyone happy, as we
are off for a ⁽¹⁰⁾ seven-day rest
up at "Southport England".
Everyone is feeling too much
19 pressure at this time?!

Rest Home or Rest & Rehab?!
requested by Flight Surgeon Capt H.
H. Stroud, Dr. Station 106 U.K.

19 Kettering England. "Combat =
Fatigue" symptoms per Doc.
Stroud also Flight Surgeon.

Out of 30-Original Crews that
19 left the States, only three of us
are left at this point in time?!

AUGUST 28

1943. He take life easy &
that is for sure. Everyone
comes & goes as he pleases

19

19

19

19

AUGUST 29

1943. It's rained every day so far, so we are sure to get a rest. It's the Old Palace Hotel here & it's swell.

19 South Park England where over that is!!! It is compared to Atlantic City in the U.S.A. Golf tournaments play here when scheduled

19

19

AUGUST 30

1943. I played 9 holes of
golf today & it sure felt
fine. We couldn't finish
the other 9 - "Not enough Ball"

19

19

19

19

AUGUST 31

1943. Still taking life easy
+ the news of our Raid at
"Schwienfurt" comes from home.
That must have been news?

19 They seem to keep the news
from us for Moral-Reasons!?
Censorship Control by the
Officers to cover-up mistakes.

19 This goes right up the ladder
to the High Command too! It
is Classified as "Battle-Damage"
+ Censorship.

19

19

MEMORANDA

Three times out in Aug. & they were all: "Deep in the Heart of Germany". Sorry just two to Germany & one in France. Schwenfurt seems to be the toughest deal yet. Fighters & Flap was really good. Too close!

Two chiefs come back from France & one from a forced landing in the North Sea.

The "Mission" I mentioned Aug 10th, as a "Lulu" was the big show at Schwenfurt & "Regensburg" 60 of our aircraft failed to return! 10 men to each plane! Really hard to take here in the Barracks! Many friends gone!?

SEPTEMBER 1

1943. I go for a horseback-
ride in the A.M. & for a
swim in the p.m. Ohh!
my poor family tomorrow?
19

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 2

1943. Rain again, so we
sleep just about all the
day. Back to work in
the morning.

19

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 3

1943. Back at the Base & with
500 lbs aboard, it looks
like #Crew 61 is on "the
prowl" again in the morn.
19

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 4

1943. We were grounded, as
the weather was very bad.
So I got a pass & take a
cycle ride to town.
19

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 5

1943 I got an "Oak Leaf
Cluster" yesterday for ten Raids
over enemy territory. We
fly tomorrow, weather permitting?

19 It's very hard to anticip-
ate what is going to happen!!
Nothing happens the way
one expects it to!! Every time

19 we go on a raid, something
happens that is out of the way
from what one expects!! Very
unpredictable...?

19

Assignment #12.

SEPTEMBER 6

1943. We were to Bomb Stuttgart Germany & we would have, if the weather was clearer. We threw out guns & ammunition

19 & just made it back to the first field here in England. A lot of the Boys never made it back, (out of Gas) 36 lost.

* 19 General Travis run us over the target & threw the heavy flak four times. & as a result we all were nearly out of Gas.

19 We had to support this kind of an individual whether we liked it or not! No Common sense! A regular Military Blooper!?

Covered-up by Censorship.

SEPTEMBER 7

1943. 12 five hundred pounders
for tomorrow's haul." He
had to "abort", as No #3 Engine
just wouldn't run.?!
19

It was a perfect "raid"
& we hated to pull out of
formation. All of our ships
returned safely.

19 These kind of missions are
the ones we would like to com-
plete !??. They call them "Milk-runs".

19

19

SEPTEMBER 8

1948. At Stuttgart, I flew right over the homes of my Grandparents. Lerpheimberg & Saarbrücken. The

19 Alps was on our right & we were 40 miles from Switzerland. They were a site to see. Beautiful.

19

19.

19

Mission #14 "Virtue (or Virtue)"
SEPTEMBER 9

1943. He hit another Airfield
inside France & it was "The
Proverbial Milk-Run".
All of our ships returned -
19 one attack by fighters.
The Invasion from here
is not too far away. Two-
Raids scheduled, one completed.

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 10

1943. We were briefed for another "long-haul" today & were still on call to take off any time. Bad weather has kept us from getting away. 10-500 pounds are aboard & it's 1600 hundred miles round trip. All-Board! 19. Oxygen masks will be worn about 6 hours today at least! It is not very pleasant - too far?!

19

19

SEPTEMBER 11

1943. They're loading "Bomb-
Bay" tanks, so that Mission
will come off in the very
near future. I shot a sheet
19 today + got "19" out of 25.
I was lucky + beat the
rest of our crew. The first
sheet since we left the States.

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 12

1943. Bad weather keeps us grounded, all the Bomb
are on board, so she
won't be long now?

19

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 13

1943. A beautiful day here &
the trip was cancelled.
I take myself a Sun-
bath & sleep. Ruff H. ar.?

~~1945 Honorable Discharge =
Discharged ab Comp =
McCay Wife. H. itek liked
home to Superior Wisc.~~

~~19 Total Service = U. S. A. A. W.
4 years = 3 Months - 4 Days
Claim No = A-5304944
Records No = V-713-4718~~

19

19

SEPTEMBER 14

1943. It looks like another
"Milk Run" tomorrow, as
we have a passenger
scheduled. He'll see?

19 Tap-Brass Lbr, Cal 'a & etc. -
make sure they get in on
the "Milk Run".

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 15

1943. We were briefed for another Mission altogether this pm. External Bomb Rack for the first time.

19

19

19

19

Mission #15.

SEPTEMBER 16

1943. "Nantes" France today &
we did a fine job. Huge
explosions on the water
front. (40 fighters) - 2 B17's lost.

19 I got in a fine burst &
knocked the covering for
the pilot off a Focke-Wulf
190. Stuff flew all over the place.

19 I did not see him hit the
ground - so no credit!!

19

19

SEPTEMBER 17

1943. They briefed us for
another "flat one". But it
was cancelled at the
last moment. 10-500 lbs

19

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 18

1942. Just like yesterday,
another "dress-rehearsal".
It would have been
"a pretty good show".

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 19

1943. He either fly lead
or deputy. lead from here
on out. It's the best place
to fly in, on a Raid.

19 Recommended for another
promotion which never came.

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 20

1943 Poor weather so we
have another "dress rehearsal". This is getting rather
monotonous.

19

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 21

1943 He got in the Air at
4:30 A.M., flying lead in
the whole Wing, with our
new Colonel as pilot.

19 He hit the English
Channel at dawn & we
were ordered to return to
our Base by Wing, pronto!

19 Why - we never was told?!

19

19

SEPTEMBER 22

1943. No flying. but for the
replacements. Was it ever
get cold over here, Wow?
Our first frost this A.M.

19

19

19

19

Mission # 16

SEPTEMBER 23

1943. "Nantes" again in France.
One of our ships lost,
but the Boys all para-
chuted then the ship Exploded

19 I flew the Ball Turret
today & it was quite the
place, especially with the
"Lab" all over the place!

19 No more flying in the Ball
Turret - too confined

19

19

SEPTEMBER 24

1943 Briefed for another
"buff show" but it was
cancelled at the last
minute before take-off

19 Cancellations are hard to
take & that's for sure! It's
hard to explain one's feelings
under such pressure!!

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 25

1943. Col. Lacey flew with us
again to-day on a photo-
mission of our Group
practice bombing.

19

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 26

1945. He lead a Mission
* lay off the next one. As
the oldest crew, we have
it pretty nice now.

19 He take our turn when
it comes up & don't volunteer
for any others!?

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 27

1943. One of the Boys on today's
Bombing Raid hit the Sea &
we went out to look for them
but failed to find them.

19 Air Sea Rescue-work. We
fly about 200 ft over the North Sea.
Half-days & wheels down - sitting-
ducks for German fighters! ~~Yes~~
19 Credit for these missions.

19

19

SEPTEMBER 28

19

We were all set to go
out after a German (Pog)
at Battle ships, but the
weather kept us grounded

19

Scharnhorst & the
Gneisenau (sp)!! They
are Pocket-Battleships

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 29

1943. Poor weather, I catch
up on my correspondence.
It'll be "up & at em," when
the weather clears.

19

19

19

19

SEPTEMBER 30

1943. Rain & more rain &
it really does just that
"Over-There." It's a place
for ducks?

19

19

19

19

Sept 6th - Mission to Ber.

MEMORANDA

At Stuttgart there were too many clouds, we flew thru the ⁽⁴⁾flak ~~distance~~ over the target. One 17 went down. I seen one of their Aerial Bombs, it just missed us. On the way home we were all running low on gas. Our warning lights came on just opposite Paris. We threw Ammo. + guns over board to lighten the ship. 16 B17's had to ditch in the Channel. I caught both of my thumbs in the back door while preparing to ditch. (Ouch). One B7 hit the water close to shore + kept right on going down. Didn't see anyone get clear. Just tough luck with no gas!

OCTOBER 1

1943. Our first 48 hr pass
since we come back from
the rest home up at South
port. London for us again.

19

19

19

19

OCTOBER 2

1943. The Boys went to London
to day and we stayed home
like good little boys. We're
all happy tho.

19

19

19

19

19

OCTOBER 3

1943. "Jerry" is painting his ⁵Mc 109
like Spitfires & his F.W. 190's
like old P.47's. They're very
hard to tell upstairs!

19 Our fighter escort has been
ordered - Don't point a nose at
the 384th or me fire!!??

19

19

19

Mission #17.

OCTOBER 4

1943. Frankfurt in Germany
a perfect Raid. Over 100, 17's
& I didn't see a one go down.
We were attacked by Me 109's

19 F.W. 190's, Me 110's & 210's.

They shot Rocket guns at us;
they're something to see? I say
died from lack of Oxygen. ~~The~~
~~was a very close call. I was~~
~~shot in the back of the head.~~

19

19

OCTOBER 5

1943. Another "Wing" caught hell
yesterday. 15 parts lost, so
says "The Stars & Stripes". He
had it very easy! All returned.

19

19

19

19

OCTOBER 6

1943. Poor weather, so we
take life easy. Just 8 more
missions & Crew #61 really
will take 'er easy. After

19 seeing so many ships go down
one has to wonder if it is our turn
next?!!

19

19

19

OCTOBER 7

1943. Another 48 hr pass for
Crew #61 in the morning, so
we begin to have it pretty
damn swell. London here we come.

19

19

19

19

OCTOBER 8

1943. "Jerry" hit London last
night. very little damage.
but we sure hated to
miss the show.

19

19

19

19

OCTOBER 9

1943. "Jerry" gave us alert
while in London, but they
disappointed us & just
reached the outskirts.

19

19

19

19

OCTOBER 10

1943. Back at the Base &
the Boys have been into
Germany three times. Quite
some battles as they say?

19

19

19

19

OCTOBER 11

1943. It's a Beautiful fall evening here tonight, full moon & all. It was ~~surprised~~ ^{surprised} by a heavy fog this A.M.
19 The Brits would call it a "Bombing-Moon"!

19

19

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OCTOBER 12

1918

We were all set for
another "show" today but
this English fog kept
us here on the ground.

19

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OCTOBER 13

1943 We were out in the
"Soup" & they finally called
us back. Poor visibility
& it was hard to assemble.

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Mission #18.

OCTOBER 14

1943. "Schwienfurt" again: it was just like the last time, 17's & fighters falling everywhere. Whatta day?

19 The 20 m.m. that hit us in the tail, punctured our tail wheel & scared Majewski & I something awful.

19 "Battlewagon" knocks down five Nazis. Majewski & I got good hits but we couldn't follow them down.

19 One only got credit, if they exploded when hit or saw them hit the ground!!!

2 ME-109's damaged

19

OCTOBER 15

1943. The Radio says we lost
60 planes yesterday & I believe
them. He were the ^{only} ones
back here to our Base. Some

19 of the other seven had to
parachute, when they ran
out of gasoline over England
the lost 7 ships all tall.

19 Letting down thru the soup,
we come out over the roof-tops of
Leicester & flew the tree-tops
back to our base. (Close again).

19

19

OCTOBER 16

1943. The news of Schweinfurt
still comes in & they say it
is the biggest thing over
here yet. I believe it!

19

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OCTOBER 17

1943. The pictures prove that
we (Schwiebelfurt), put the
place out of commission
for quite sometime to come.

19

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OCTOBER 18

1943. I got another Oak Leaf Cluster today. I just hope that I can collect the next one & then the R. & C.

19 It's awfully hard to look ahead & that's for sure! We lost too many ships & crews up to this point in time! Alot of poor judgement from the 8th Bomber Command Hd'quarters.

19

19

OCTOBER 19

1943. We flew practice bombing today + after that we flew over + "buzzed" a P-38 field + we really did just that!

19 Two B-17's flew formation over their Base - (P-38's field)

19

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OCTOBER 20

1943. We were "stood-down" to
day & the Boys had a tuff
time with the weather.
All ships returned.

19

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OCTOBER 21

1943. He took off for "Paris"
but the weather forced
us back. Rainy alone
up at 10,000 feet.

19

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OCTOBER 22

1943. School for us today
"Escape procedures". We
will be out in the morn
by the looks of the weather.

19

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OCTOBER 23

1943. False Alarm! I meet
another fella from Superior.
Bill Pramow. He is in our
Adm. He is full of questions
19 that are hard to answer?!

19

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OCTOBER 24

19 The whole thing we
operate with has been
"stood-down", so they
must have a good reason?

19

19

19

19

OCTOBER 25

1943. Glider Bombs must be
the reason, as I heard
& seen them for the first
time today. Citty little Devils.
19 Code name = Grape fruits.
Any wind will blow them
off target!

19

19

19

OCTOBER 26

1943. These Fogs are terrific,
one of the first real ones
we've had & it's hard to
see 5 ft & that's for very sure.

19

19

19

19

OCTOBER 27

1943. He saw a Movie on
"Glider-Bombs" today & they
sure take the proverbial
cake! Its hard to believe.?

19 I don't see how they can
compensate for Wind-Drift!!

19

19

19

OCTOBER 28

1943. Another lovely-fog, so
we hear some of the
lectures on Combat tactics
& enemy shipping facilities

19

19

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19

OCTOBER 29

1943. They still have us here
just to fly lead. He have
it pretty darn swell.
Behave has left us.

19

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OCTOBER 30

1943. Scrow was transferred
to another crew, when a
message came thru last
hop & he never had it decoded.
1943. Makay is our new radio-
operator.¹²

19

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OCTOBER 31

1943. Two Raids for us this month & it looks like we will be here for quite awhile before we get three.

19

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19

MEMORANDA

"Schwienfurt" & they can't come any tougher. One boy jumped & his chute ~~was~~ afire, another got caught in the Bon Day & went down with his ship. One Me 109 crashed into a 17 in mid-air. Two Boys got out. One 17 exploded near our ship & three Boys got clear. 20 mm's & rockets were bursting all around us & we were hit four times. Mac got two fighters from the nose & Wolf in the tail got two more. Mike & I got Phil's but were too busy to follow them down. Target picture showed we hit it perfect.

NOVEMBER 1

1943 Rain Galore & we still haven't tried any new "Glider Bombs" - I'm anxious to see them in action.¹²

1943 - I don't think they are practical, because there is no correction for "wind drift" enroute to the target.¹³ The Bombs are released from 5 miles high.¹⁴ 19 are supposed to glide to the target.¹⁵

NOVEMBER 2

19¹³ It looks like a "Big Show" tomorrow. The weather has cleared off & Bombs are a' board.

19

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19

Mission #19.

NOVEMBER 3

1943 Wilhelmshaven Germany
+ I seen the greatest dog-fight
today that was first like
a movie scene. P-38's +

19 P-47's versus Me 109's
+ F.W. 190's. I had a ring-
side seat as we led the
group for the fourth time.

19 No more bear-and-flying
for Crew #61 - "us"!?
Lead-ship, but no-promotion
in rank!

19

19

NOVEMBER 4

1943. Just beautiful and
fog & more fog. So we
catch up on our sleep.
Looks possible for the A.M.

19

19

19

19

NOVEMBER 5

1943. The "Boys" went to
Gilsen-Kirchen & we are
held back to fly lead. So
we "sweat-out" & how?

19

19

19

19

NOVEMBER 6

19/13. He flew practice Alt. today & then we "Buzzed" the P-38 field again & then landed there for a chat."

19 We "Buzzed" them on the way out & it was a "class-act" with 2- B17's, flying fighter formation."

19 Our new radio-operator asked; "Do you guys fly like this all the time?!"

19

19

NOVEMBER 7

1943. He flew practice "Slide Bombing" today out over the "Isle of Man", between Ireland & the British Isles. Phooey!

19

19

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NOVEMBER 8

1943. "Grapefruit-Practise"
again, I hate what we
call these new type
Books.

19

19

19

19

NOVEMBER 9

1943. The same as yesterday
& it won't be too long now,
before we shower them
with our "Grapefruit".

19

19

19

19

NOVEMBER 10

1943.

More "Grapefruit" practice
The dive is thousand feet
before they are released.
Dive Bombers now. My, My!

19

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NOVEMBER 11

1943. Poor weather, but the
Boys were out on schedule.
I don't think it will last
for another Armistice Day.

19

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NOVEMBER 12

1943. "Grapefruit" hop again
some one of these days
were going to have
the real thing.

19 One of our Group exploded
yesterday, 9 boys failed to get clear.
2 other 17's collided + 18 boys
were killed. Puff weather.

19 Too many aircraft trying to
get into formation at one time.
Assembly-areas are too close to-
gether for this operation.

NOVEMBER 13

1943. Another practice run
but poor weather forced
us back. I listen to State-
home - Northwestern game.

19

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NOVEMBER 14

1943. Snowing out side
for the first time, since
I arrived here in the
E. A. O. Ohh for sloppy out.

19

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NOVEMBER 15

1943. The weather is fair
we fly practise as usual
They leave us pretty much
to ourselves.

19

19

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NOVEMBER 16

1943 Our first 48 in quite
some time, so Majewski
& I take off for London

19

19

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19

NOVEMBER 17

1943. London & we first
Run around the town, we
send Gablegrams to our folks
back home.

19

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NOVEMBER 18

1943. "Jerry" gave us an alert while in London. it's quite a feeling to hear the Air Raid Sirens in full blast.

19 - The "Bobbies" escort us to the swastika Air-raid Shelter!

19

19

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NOVEMBER 19

1943. Back to the Base & we
find that all 48 hrs passes
are cancelled til further
notice. Phooey.

19

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NOVEMBER 20

1943. There's a big air offensive in the offering & it looks like we'll be in on the "Big Show".

19

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NOVEMBER 21

1943. Poor weather + our Base
has more B-17s than ever
before. One thing is certain
they can't beat us there.

19

19

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NOVEMBER 22

1943.

The next mission
makes 254 "lines" for Capt'n
Kelly's Crew, we fly their
right wing - Deputy lead.

19

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NOVEMBER 23

1943. The R.A.F. plastered
Berlin, we were briefed
but it was called off.
(#61 was stood down again)

19

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NOVEMBER 24

19 43. The Berlin Raid will
come off one of these days
& we'll liable to be shot
in the head? Rough!
19 Wotta guess!!!

19

19

19

NOVEMBER 25

1943,

Cokey Day in England.
The R.A.F. has plastered
Berlin real heavy 5,000 tons.
Another Hamburg no doubt?

19

19

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NOVEMBER 26

1943. Berlin sure must
be a good place to be from
all of the histories we hear
are sure rough.

19

19

19

19

NOVEMBER 27

1943. The R.A.F. is out after
them & we go on Air Sea
Rescue. We find no one &
just sneak into an R.A.F. Base.
19 Hoodridge is the field &
we were looking for R.A.F.
Boys who ditched in the sea
coming back from Berlin.

19

19

19

NOVEMBER 28

1943. That was a close
squeeze for "61" yesterday as
the fog caught us out
in the North Sea. The

19 hit Hoodridge at tree-
top height & after two-passes
at the field we finally made
it. One of our Boats crashed, ok.

19

19

19

20th Mission

NOVEMBER 29 - 43

19 "Bremen" in Germany the cold was intense, 58° below zero & every thing was froze or frosted. One of the Boys died on Bill Bram and Crew, two others with frost bites. Pretty bad, especially for their first Mission!

19

19

19

NOVEMBER 30

1945. He made it to the Coast
+ another R. A. G. field.
He stayed two days
and ship had to be inspected.

19 One engine - a fire + smoke
ing badly! Just very lucky
and didn't blow-up!?? Yes we
do pray when we are a fire!??

19

19

MEMORANDA

Two to Germany this Mo. "Bremer" was the toughest because of the intense cold.

One boy died & there were several cases of severe frost-bite. 27,000 ft.

Our ship was hit four times & one of our gas tanks was punctured.

We had to land at the first base we came to for gas. That was just outside of Norfolk.

Everything froze. Our nose floated up & on the nose attacks the boys could not see anything. Tail guns were frozen solid. One gun in the Ball turret was also frozen.

MEMORANDA

Our Bombs failed to release, they hit every release handle up front & even the pilots Salvo release. No Bombs went away. So we brö't into home.

The right side Oxygen system broke loose & Mike had to use my side til we hit 10,000 ft.

I had some fine shots at a Me 110, but the haze was so many "Con" trails it was very hard to see the results.

Rockets burst real close to us again & they were too close for comfort. All of our ships returned. Our prayers are answered!!

DECEMBER 1

1943. Back to our Base & it was another "sneak-jab" as our field was closed-in. We ran off the hard surface runway & hit a fire spot-marker & sent it flying. We scared everyone as we come-in just over the tree-tops again.

19 Scared everyone in & around the Mess-hall area!! Me too!! It was one of our worst landings I went up against my Gun Mount. Hail-Mary-time again!

DECEMBER 2

1943. I've seen some pictures
of high altitude frostbite &
it really is a very unpleasant
sight to see. Rugged!
19 It is nothing but severe
freezing under Bitter cold.

19

19

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DECEMBER 3

1943. The R.A.F. Lib. Berlin
again & I'm afraid it won't
be long before we take-
off for the same place.
19

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19

DECEMBER 4

1943. He finally dropped our
"Grapefruit" & they really
fly right on to the target.
Quite a sight to see.

19

19

19

19

DECEMBER 5

19 43 I saw the smoke & explosion from a ship that blew up in mid-air. It shook our Brks. All bailed-out.

19 Mafuraki was snoozing & when the explosion knocked his canteen off the wall he got up & in a hurry! Me too!

19

19

19

DECEMBER 6

1943. Capt. Kellys Crew finished
25 Raids, the first boys thru
in our system & are they ever
a happy bunch of boys?

19

19

19

19

DECEMBER 7

1942 War declared after the
Japs Bomb Pearl Harbor.
Tyndall Florida & everyone
is up in the air.

1943. In the C.O.D. it's
a poor day for flying. We
take life easy.

19

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19

DECEMBER 8

1943. After twenty Raids they
ask, "what we'd like to do?"
In quite undecided. Gen
nry Officer looks good!
19 Battle field Commission!?

19

19

19

DECEMBER 9

1943. Poor weather, so we take
it easy. The Radio News
has every thing coming out
okay. Time Marches On.

19

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DECEMBER 10

1943. The Boys flew practice today while we have a class in gunnery + spend the rest of the day easy-like

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DECEMBER 11

1943. The Boys hit Camden today & it looks like we're all set for a "Big Show" in the morning - All board!

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DECEMBER 12

1943. The "Big-Show" is still
in the offering, 40 ships are
all set for take-off. The
R.A.F. is out tonight.

19

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DECEMBER 13

1943. The Lage blasted
Germans & the Big Show
looks like Berlin in
the very near future.

19

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DECEMBER 14

1973 An unexpected 68 hr
pass, so we take off for
London & some relaxation.
Poor weather again.

19

19

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19

DECEMBER 15

1943

In London & we take
in Madame Tassand's
Wax-Museum. Whatta
place it is! Really good!

19 A much to see if one ever
goes to London.^{12?}

19

19

19

DECEMBER 16

1943. In London & taking life easy. He ate in an Indian Restaurant & it sure was a treat. A beautiful place.
- 19 Located just off of the celebrated Piccadilly Circus.?

19

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19

DECEMBER 17

1943.

Back at the Base &
Kornera Grow our first
Radio operator finished his
25 Mission yesterday.

19

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DECEMBER 18

1943. Gerow is one happy guy
& has the laugh on us. He
leaves tomorrow for home &
we have five more to go.

19

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DECEMBER 19

1943. "Battlewagon" is coming back in commission tomorrow with a new wing section & gas tank. Test hop in the AM.

19 The factory reps here could not figure out why the plane didn't explode. How Lucerne are?

19

19

19

DECEMBER 20

1943. The Boys plastered
Bremen again to-day. One
of our ships failed to
return. She stay home.

19 We fly when the 1st Air
Division tells us to!?

We don't volunteer for any
missions! No extra Orders!

19

19

19

DECEMBER 21

1943. The R.A.F. is out again
tonite. "Jerry" came over tonite
& I heard guns firing & pursuit
ships roaring up & down.

19

19

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19

DECEMBER 22

1943 The Boy's went to "Osnabruck"
Germany today. The crew in our
barracks saw a "17" low control,
3 men parachuted as it dove down.

19 A Halifax crashed close here
today & three shuttles came out.
Two ⁽³⁾R. A. G. boys didn't get
clear. One huge explosion & fire.

19 It is very sad when some-
thing like this happens!?

19

19

DECEMBER 23

1943 "Battlewagon" test hopped to
30,800 ft + it was 47¹⁰ below! I
got the "bends" in my left arm, I
guess this altitude is getting me;
19 It really gets one's attention
+ that's for sure!??

19

19

19

Mission #21

DECEMBER 24

1943

Craisette to France:

"William Deluge" + heris hoping
we have four more just like
it. The first time we went.

19

in" & nobody fired at us.

fighter escort was A-1. Capt
Map took us over the target twice.

We were after Rocket Gun Batteries.

19

They protected the Buzz
Bomb launching ramps!

19

19

DECEMBER 25

1943. My Birthday, 28 today + I spent it at the Base, just taking life easy.

Maybe I would see my
19 next one ?!! Maybe !!??

19

~~1941. Cyndall Field to Linda
+ the kids celebrate with fire-
works. It looks more like
the 4th of July.~~

~~1942. Spent in Salt Lake City
Utah. Had left Cyndall Field
to Linda - so I had a few
more - no mail or anything.~~

DECEMBER 26

1943. No flying, so our Boys
don't do much of anything.
A beautiful day here, &
our new crews fly practice

19

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19

DECEMBER 27

1948. Lovely day, no flying for
some reason or other. I was
waiting for "the" Eisenhower &
Gen. Spaatz to say "Go".

19

19

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19

DECEMBER 28

1943 A few practice Bombing
today. Battlemorg's Bomb releases
are getting old, as they failed
to release again. So is the ship
19 So are we!!??

19

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DECEMBER 29

1943. R.C.G. passing over head
early tonite. Dicklin will
take another peaking & that
is for very sure! ✓

19

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DECEMBER 30

1943. Our ship went to Ludick-
haven - Manheim & come
back with one engine feathered
I stayed home, phooey!

19

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DECEMBER 31

1943. New Year's Eve. spent here
on the Base. Most of the Boys
have left for town to get tilled.
Time Marches On to 1944
19 Do hope 1944 will be generous. ¹²

19

19

19

MEMORANDA

One Mission for November
 & December. If it's fair
 more to go, it looks like
 we will be here for quite
 sometime yet?

Bomber Command tells us
 when to fly & that is only
 when we lead the Heavy
 group or Air-Division (1st)

This takes place when
 your have Combat-Experience
 "Experience" is the name of it.
 not being Lead-Ship!?

But no boost in Rank?
 We were good enough to Lead
 the 1st Division, but no
 promotion that was never
 explained!?