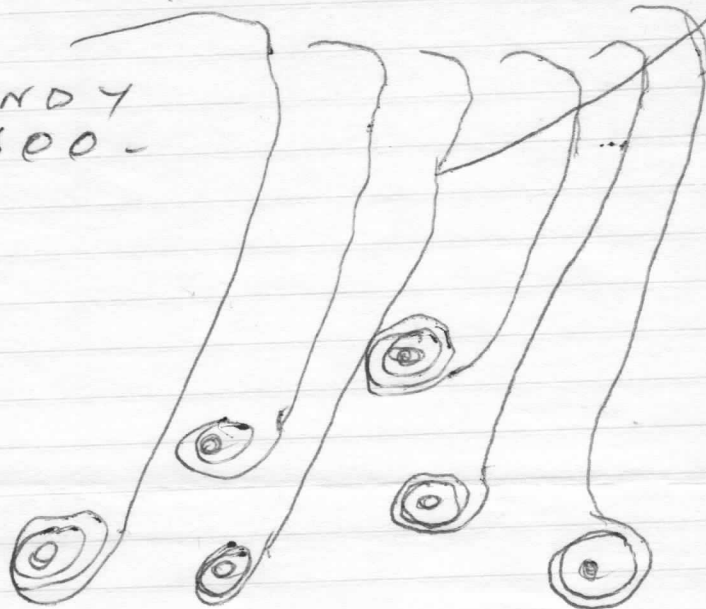


Timed beacon
departure to a line
Running south from West of
"The Wash"

ETA - NORMANDY
Beaches @ 600 -



later wave - ETA 1000
NORMANDY - LEAD - CAPT. AUGER CREW
329th Bomb Sq -

2 U.S. NAVAL FLEETS IN THE
CHANNEL - SO MANY SHIPS THAT IT
WOULD SEEM (FROM 20,000') ONE
COULD STEP FROM ONE SHIP TO
ANOTHER WITHOUT PUTTING A FOOT
IN THE WATER -

BY MOVING IN THE SAME
DIRECTION AS GUNFIRE FROM NAVY
16 IN. GUNS, THE SHELLS WERE
VISIBLE PASSING BELOW US AT THE
HEIGHT OF THEIR TRAJECTORY. (A 16 IN.
GUN HAS A RANGE OF ABOUT 20 MC -

AS VIEWED FROM 20,000', IT IS
NOT POSSIBLE TO IMAGINE THE HEEL
THAT WAS GOING ON BELOW - IN AERIAL
WARFARE THERE IS A RELATIVELY SHORT
TIME OF REALIZATION OF EXISTING
DANGER, AT WHICH TIME YOU ARE TOO
BUSY TO DWELL ON IT. THE HARD
TIME IS BETWEEN MISSIONS WHEN

YOU HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT.

BEFORE D-DAY IT HAD BEEN EXPECTED THAT THE LUFTWAFFE WOULD PUT UP A MAXIMUM DEFENSE. TO THE CONTRARY THERE WERE NO GERMAN PLANES TO BE SEEN ON D-DAY. COASTAL DEFENSES HAD BEEN BUILT STURDILY FOR SOME TIME - WITH ALL OF THE FIREPOWER SUPPORTING THE INVASION, THERE WAS THE TERRIBLE REALITY THAT MEN ON THE GROUND HAD TO FACE TREMENDOUS ODDS AND LOSSES IN ORDER TO GAIN EVERY FOOT OF GROUND - THE MAJORITY OF THESE MEN WERE RELATIVELY UNTRAINED AND FACING ONE OF THE MOST FURMIDABLE MILITARY FORCES IN HISTORY. MANY WERE 18 Y - OLDS OR VERY EARLY 20'S. THE COUNTRY HAD COME FROM PRACTICALLY A NON EXISTENT ARMY TO A TOTAL ARMED FORCES OF ABOUT 15 MILLION. IN 1937, IT WAS PROPOSED TO CONGRESS THAT 15 B-17'S BE PROCURED - THE RESPONSE WAS THAT THIS WOULD BANKRUPT THE COUNTRY. AT THAT TIME A B-17 COST ABOUT 150,000. IN WW II THE COUNTRY HAD TIME - TODAY THERE IS NO SUCH LUXURY - ALSO THERE WAS ONE SIMPLE MISSION THAT EVERYONE UNDERSTOOD -