

War Diary
Of
George Willis (Bill) Lewis
August 29, 1921 – December 22, 1994

The following transcript is taken from the hand written war diary of Bill Lewis. The diary does not include any of his service time from his enlistment through his training. It begins with his flight time from the United States to the European Theater of War, and ends with his return home.

Bill entered the service in April 1943 at age twenty one, and returned home in June of 1945. He served as a gunner on B-26 Marauder bombers with the 441st Bomb Squadron, 320th Bomber Group. He flew 62 Combat Missions over Italy, France and Germany. His plane was hit by flak over Italy and was ditched in the Mediterranean Sea on his twelfth mission. He received the Purple Heart for injuries suffered in that action. He also received the Air Medal with one silver and two bronze oak leaf clusters and the French Croix de Guerre. During the Battle of the Bulge, he was transferred to the 7th Army Infantry for five days due to the shortage of Infantry in that battle.

Some words and punctuation have been added for clarity.

The first entry in the diary is "Please return this to Ruth E. Lewis(mother) Box 161 Conway Springs, Kansas USA

Florida

June 29, 1944

Received our new ship...B-26 G, number 429. Boy is it a honey. Flew like a charm. Packed the ship for the trip. Weighed, etc. Show at night with Weber. Jim took off for Morrison.

June 30

This was the big day. We took off at 8:00am..arrived at Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Florida at 10:30 am. Beautiful scenery going down. Trip uneventful. Nice place here. U.S.O. show tonight. Most of the other boys are still here. Others off to Puerto Rico. Received A.P.O. number. Guess there is a war to win. Destination CasaBlanca.

July 1

Briefing for the trip till twelve. Short physical. Shortages fixed. Did pre-flight and daily on the ship. Was paid \$96. Tired tonight. All ready for take off.

July 2

Waited around all morning to be called for take off. Finally pre-flighted plane and gave up leaving. Slept all afternoon. Ate ice cream for supper. Went to bed early.

July 3

Started day off at 5:00am. Ate breakfast and went to plane. Take off time 8:00am. Beautiful morning. The islands were really pretty. Missed Cuba. Passed Nassau. Arrived Boringuen Puerto Rico at 13:00. Serviced ship and had wonderful barracks. Ate coconut from the tree. Lyons kidded me about peeling it. Had a lot of fun.

July 4

Got up at 4:30am. Had a lot of trouble with putt-putt. Took off at 6:00am. Beautiful morning. Passed through beautiful islands. Blue water. Flew two hours. Went over Trinidad. Landed at Kinso Field British Guinea at 12:00am. Had two story barracks. Mosquito netting. Jungle all around post. Natives nice. Saw Cricket game played. Pulled daily on ship. To bed 9:00pm. Saw fireworks from bed. Very Pistols.

July 5

Up at 3:00am. Breakfast...raining...took off at 5:45am. Hardy had engine trouble over jungle. He landed at Zaudre Field..emergency landing. Jungles for 500 miles. Low hanging clouds. We crossed the Equator at 9:45. Saw the Amazon River..muddy..4 or 5 outlets to the ocean. Native huts in the jungle. I slept for an hour. Landed at Belem Field, Brazil...Belem Brazil. Lots of natives. Rained like hell. Lots of bananas and trees. Lots of jungle. Drank a couple of beers and to bed at 9:30pm in kind of mosquito hut with mosquito nets.

July 6

Up a 4:00am...had ship ready and took off by 6:00am. Raining on take off, but nice weather the rest of the way. Flew for a while..slept for a while. Landed at 11:00 and serviced ship. The rest of the boys were there. Lots of natives on field. Chow was poor. Slept a while in the afternoon. Wrote letters. Nataal, Brazil.

July 7

Didn't sleep worth a darn. Up at 7:00am and pulled 25 hour inspection on ship in the morning. Ate chow. Took truck to beach. It was really nice. We all had a lot of fun diving in the breakers and fooling around with the natives selling ornaments etc. Went to show "Once upon a time" To bed.

July 8

Up early at 4:00am for the trip to Ascencion Island. Checked ship over good. Taxied out and run up...back to the tanks to top off. Had 1,472 gallons of fuel aboard. Took off at 6:00am.. we were the lead plane. Climbed to 7,000 feet and headed out to the Atlantic Ocean. It was wonderful. The ocean was so blue. It seemed like a long trip. When 12:40 came along we started looking for the island. Our ETA was 13:00. We spotted it at 12:58. Boy was it a welcome sight. Landed, checked in and looked the island over. One palm tree on the beach. Few trees and grass. Green mountains. We were in good spirits. Cold night.

July 9

Just another day. Up at 5:00. Ate breakfast and checked ship. Took off at 7:00. The cloud formations were beautiful and puffy. We could see the ocean all of the trip. ETA (estimated time of arrival) was 11:40. We came down to 1,000 feet at 11:30. I had my first glimpse of Africa. It was beautiful and green. Roberts Field was ten miles inland up a lazy river. Came in on instruments. Goops (native boys) took care of gassing up the plane. Checked in at operations and had good chow. They also had good beds..malaria was prevalent. Saw good show...to bed. French West Africa.

July 10

Rained all night and field was closed so we just fooled around with the ship. Watchley, Harris and other boys came in for the first instrument landings...well done, but I was glad to be watching from the ground. Good chow..to bed early..heard natives chanting in the jungle...funny birds too.

July 11

Up at 6:00..chow...checked ship and ran it up. Take off time 8:00.. I saw a Firestone plantation and rubber trees. Never saw much of ground..mostly tall trees and swamps. Bad weather most of flight..passed over Freetown and Portugese Guinea. Saw Stronghold in Bay at Bakar and a sunken tanker. After landing, we went swimming in surf..lots of fun.. chow and briefing. To bed at 9:00.

July 12

Rained like the devil. Had to get up at 5:00 and shake the rain off. Chow and check plane. Take off at 9:00. Headed out for the Sahara. God it was hot. Nothing but sand and hills. Passed a few oasis and lots of hills. Passed through a pass at 14,000 feet and landed in Marrakach, French Morroco. Gassed plane, had chow and peanut beer..potent stuff. Candle lit the tent.

July 13

Up at 6:00 and on our way at 9:00. We gave an Arab village a good buzz job. The Arabs scattered in the houses or straw covered huts. Goats jumped and ran everywhere. We passed Oran and on to Tunis. Landed at 2:30. Saw lots of wrecked planes and ships. Bullet holes all over the place. Got a pass to town and what a town. Arabs, French, Italians etc..To bed at 11:00

Tunis, French West Africa

July 14

Orders to leave for Sardinia. Took off at 8:00 and landed at Atar, a wrecked air field near Cagliari. Cleaned plane out and hated to leave number 4249..she was a honey of a plane. We moved in with our outfit...441st Bomb Squadron, 320th Bomber Group. It looks OK. Slept on the floor of a tent in an olive grove with a cactus fence. To show at night. The plane had sixty hours and 25 minutes..all ours too.

Sardinia

July 15

Sat up late and fooled around. We were supposed to have Air/Sea rescue drill but didn't. Met five real nice boys..C.W.Michelson, Illinois, L.G. Hill, Bristol, Conn, EE Jones, Stowington, Conn, J.E. Booth, Farmerville, La also in our tent. To bed early.

July 16

Up late again. Nothing much doing..boys on mission. Developed a few pictures. Lyons and Cole were over. Chow and to movie. Back to club and to bed.

July 17

On transition. Sweat out a mission. No one went. Went to movie "Gaslight". Very good. Cool at night.

July 18

Up late for a Prisoner of War lecture. Wrote letter and sacked out.. To bed early.

July 19

Up at 7:00. Scheduled for courier duty. Left at 8:45 to Elmas Field, picked up papers and left for Borogo in northern Corsica. Passed close to the Island of Elba and Monte Christo. Landed OM Field and ate chow. Picked up papers and a couple of British. Landed at Elmas and back. Guard Duty till 11:00 Lyons and Cole on first mission.

July 20

Up at 7:00 for chow. Signed for per diem \$91.00. Still sweating out first mission. Went swimming at the beach at Caglori. It was very nice. Had ice cream. The water was very blue and breakers were high . Went on practice bombing mission to Medri Di Ventri Island. Back at 9:00..to bed.

July 21

Still no schedule for a mission. Lyons and Cole woke me up at 8:30 and got mattress from Frankie (Bat Boy). Chow and transition from 12:00 till 2:00. Lyons and Cole had four beers, two cokes and four candy bars for the week's rations. More than usual. To training film at night.

July 22

Up at 11:00 tired as hell. To chow. Checked mail..no letters yet. Went to the line in the afternoon. Fly at 8:15. Lt. Hipple made 6 landings. To bed at 1:00. 4 hours flying time.

July 23

Up for breakfast...came back and bathed in a steel helmet and to chow. C. W. Michelson got the Purple Heart and Air medal. Made bed. Looks like a dinner table but good and soft. Letters came at night. Hardy visited me. To bed at 11:00

July 24

Just another day...nothing special..still sweating out my first mission. The boys are kidding me about being the Transition Kid. Cole checked out in the left seat today. I will start keeping my flying time. Three hours today. Dance at the Club. WAP girls, Mamas, sisters, Papas and Bambinos. Had a big time. The girls were worse than bad. Hitler got time bombed. Too bad it didn't kill him.

July 25

Up to Air/ Sea lecture..not bad. Weather still good. First Mission..no bombs dropped. Clark came over to see me. Down to the line to fly. Ship cut out. To shows at Elmas.. ten miles. Back and to bed.

July 26

Up in time for chow. French toast, coffee, oat meal and oranges. To group for movie on interrogation. Back to chow. Still no mail.. Flight 2 hours. Crew Lt Herron and Bowes. Letter writing. I saw a boy catch fire from gas. Had to run him down to put it out.

July 27

Up for chow. Weather good. Missed transition. Played Poker. Worried about first Combat Mission. Lost \$8.75 in Poker game.

July 28

Up a 3:30 for a mission. Bad weather. Turned out to be a weather mission. Back at 7:00. 3 hours 30 minutes combat time. Went north of Corsica. Still no mail. Movie "Cover Girl".

July 29

Laid around all day..Bought rations for the week..5 beers, 4 candy bars, 2 cokes, 13 packs of cigarettes, 2 cigars and 2 packs of gum. Visited Hardy and Clark..To line for single engine test hop. 50 minutes time..Lt Peske and Herren.

July 30

The boys up for a mission. Laid around till 3:00..Poker in the afternoon. Flew transition at 8:30. Pilots not worth a darn. 3 hours flying time.

July 31

Pay day for most but not me. Nice Day. Flew transition from 1-4..3 hours. Robinson, Torongo, and Trunk. We flew between two smokestacks with 6 feet on each side to spare. Movie "Tampico". First letter.

August 1

Up early..fooled around. Had two hour lecture on guns and four hour guard duty from 7-11. Chilly. On board for first Combat Mission.

August 2

Slept good. Up at 5:00. Briefing at 6:00. Take off at 7:45. Up Sardinia to Corsica. Picked up escorts. Target France near Nice. No flak..no fighters. A few bombs on bridge not out. Back to take shower. Saw Alps for the first time. To bed late. Four hours Combat time.

August 3

Had transition flight with Lyons and Cole. 1 hour 30 minutes. Got letter from Mom.

August 4

No flying today. Laid around reading. Saw Corzine and Hardy..saw movie "Lady Courageous". To bed at 12:00

August 5

Up at 7:30 for flight. Two hours. Fooled around and buzzed the natives. To show and saw Corzine and Beal

August 6

Up at 3:30 for join up flight. Lt Dinwiddie. One hour..Played cards, shower, wrote letters, to bed.

August 7

Nothing doing..slept, read, played cards, sewed up pants. Weather hot. Letter from Leila (sister). Had ice cream for supper. To dance. Drank Muscatel and danced with WAP gals. Talked sign language. To bed.

August 8

Five letters from home today. Pancakes for breakfast. Alerted for early mission. Possible invasion of southern France. Wrote letters and to bed. No schedule for next mission as yet.

August 9

Bad weather ..no flights...sleep in.

August 10

Bad weather..no flights...sleep in.

August 11

Early mission, but on as a spare. One ship fell out so we took her place. Took off at 10:45. Five hours Combat Time. Target..Island off France. Good hits on Naval installation. No flak ..no fighters..

August 12

Up at 5:00. Briefing at 5:45..take off at 8:45..landed at 12:15. Four hours Combat Time. Dinwiddie Pilot...spare again, but we got in. Target the tip of Southern France... gun placements. Good hits...no fighters...no flak.

August 13

“Well, today was” IT” Up at 2:30..take off at 4:45..target Toulon Harbor, France.. gun positions...we hit flak from the French coast on in to the target so thick they were like clouds. Number 20 ship went down in flames..Hipple and Allen...three chutes went out the waist gunners door. Flak hole in the Plexiglas hit me in the face. We had a hole in the ship’s nose and the horizontal fin and also in the engine cowling. Three ME 109’s (fighters). Damn glad to get back to the ground. Four hours 30 min Combat Time.

August 14

Up at 4:45. Take off at 7:50. Target, gun emplacements west of Nice, France. The whole shore was being dive bombed and strafed. Good bomb pattern (1,000 pounders). No flak..no fighters. Six subs were in the harbor. 3 hours 30 min. Combat Time. Back and briefed for the invasion of Southern France. To bed early.

August 15

Invasion Day. Up early at 3:00. Plane blew up on the ramp. Taxied out at 4:45. Take off at the end of the ramp..hellish flames and explosions. Rendevous north east of Sardinia..over target at 7:30. Two runs on the target which was at the south end of the invasion beach head. Flat tops(carriers), cruisers, destroyers, speed boats, barrage balloons, P-47’s, C-49’s, B-24’s, B-26’s, B-17’s, P-38’s. F-4F’s, F-6F’s,B-25’s, A-20’s etc. Tore the hell out of the beach. 1400 C-47’s and 400 gliders. What a day. One of our ships went down into a mountain killing Captain Bouchard, Lt. True, Taunhouser, Barrow etc. Tough Luck. Bomb blew up under our plane and put a hole in the bomb bay door and left Natracelle.

August 16

Up at 10:30 ..No missions for 441. Funeral for eight men in the crash. Nice cemetery at Cagliari. Back to movie “Submarine Base”...to bed at 11:30.

August 17

Transition practice bombing..Dinwiddie and Cornelious..3 hours...Transition with Lyons and Cole...one hour and 45 min.

August 18

Up at 5:45..briefing at 6:45..Take off at 9:00..Target Toulon Harbor, France. Rough! On target at 11:00..good hits...flak heavy all the way in and out on the break. Scared as the devil. Articles of war meeting at 3:45. 3 hour 30 minutes Combat Time.

August 19

Up at 10:00..Transition flight with Pratt and Cole..2:00 to 4:20..Back to Shave, France gets burned..Beal comes over..Physical exam. Cactus Beer.

August 20

Up at 11:00..wrote letters..fooled around and played cards..Flew with Captain Bergy and Col. Flet...Bergy dropped bombs and flew co-pilot to Col...2 hours combat time.

August 21

Up at 6:00 for mission. Number 24 with Dinwiddie and regular crew. On as a spare but made it in. Back in time for the movie "Nickerbockers Holiday"

August 22

Up early for mission. Take off at 8:30. Dinwiddie, Torongo, Murray, Debeau, Dalton and I. Just as we had bombs away, a flak burst hit the right engine. Both wings had large holes in them. We feathered the right engine. (We knocked out a bridge at Vergato, Italy) The flak stopped and our other engine was doing good. We started throwing out ammo, flak suits, helmets etc to gain altitude. The flak starts again and more holes start appearing..some big enough to throw footballs through. We take evasive action on a single engine when our other engine is hit. Oil starts coming out over La Spezia, Italy. Flak stops and we continue on course to Corsica. Spitfires and B-26's followed us as we prepared for ditching off Corisica..slowly losing altitude. Dinwiddie feathers the other engine and levels out from 900 feet. As we hit the water, the nose and tail sections broke off. Debeau and I went out the co-pilots door together and all the others appeared just as number 24 took its last dive. Dinwiddie still had his sunglasses on. We were picked up by French fisherman who gave us strong drink and transferred us to a British Air/Sea rescue boat and taken to Bestie, Corsica where we were treated for our wounds. We flew home. It was a good feeling to be alive.

August 23

Didn't sleep good...too sore. Up for breakfast...first meal since morning before. Rested till noon. Had our pictures taken. Rested till chow and to showers. Galet was shot down and bailed out.

August 24

Up at 11:00..still sore as board and sore all over. More ships lost in 441st. Really rough missions now. They put the entire crew in for a Purple Heart and Air Medal. Dinwiddie was put in for the D.F.C...I hope he gets it. He really deserves it. Received a letter announcing the future arrival of a baby from Leila and Lawrence Bennett (sister and her husband). I sure was happy.

August 25

Up early for a trip to Rome. DeBeau, Dalton and I landed at Marcagliana Airport. Went to Rome and rented a room. To chow and back to our room. Met a 5th Army boy.

August 26

Had to get up early because of market in the street below. Sounded like Magpies. Looked the town over, bought souvenirs and ate good. Italian food and Vino.

August 27

Up early and went to Vatican City. The most impressive place I was ever in. Drank lemonade, ate watermelon, took pictures and walked along the Tiber. Ate chow and back to room. Big day in my life.

August 28

Went to Coliseum. Really something to see and hear about. Took off after eating. Back home safe. Bocu letters.

August 29

Up late and fooled around till chow. Nothing much doing. I don't feel much older (twenty third birthday). Wrote letters and thought a lot about home. Went to Cagliari with Hardy and Lamtmn. Saw all the sights.

August 30

Got up early to go to sick call. The Doctor said my rib was cracked. Back to chow. Transition flight for two hours 30 min. Slow time..Co-Pilot did take off and landing.

August 31

Wrote letters..slept awhile..to bed early

September 1

Fooled around and had one hour 45 min transition flight in the afternoon. Black, Lyons and I flew close formations.

September 2

Hardy came over on a bicycle. Had stand by mission. Close order formation to receive French Citation.

September 3

Pancakes for breakfast. Church with Hardy. Did a lot of thinking about the sermon. Spam for chow. Spare on mission..cancelled..to drill. Hardy and I rode bicycles to Villasor and went to the Red Cross. Early mission for tomorrow.

September 4

Up at 3:15. We are on spare..Torongo,Pratt, Dalton. Take off at 7:00 Target bridge near Milan, Italy. Two hours 45 min Combat Time. Returned via Malta Pyote. Guard from 7-11.

September 5

Up at 4:30. Target road bridge near Milan. Target time 10:30. Heading 352 at 9060 feet. 55 bursts of 88mm flak. Accurate . Quick break. No holes. Dinwiddie and Dalton. I drilled for French presentation. Plenty scared of flak. Better next time.

September 6

Fooled around most of the day. Rode to Elmas in a jeep to get number 15. 45 min flying time back. Movie "Canterberry Ghost".

September 7

Up early to Elmas to shoot skeet. I Got 18 out of 25 birds. Back to gas drill. Clark and Coley over.

September 8

Rained all night. Up early for slow time on number 4...stand by...still raining.

September 9

Started packing...pretty wet all around...dismissed bat boy Francisco Avis.

September 10

Laid in bed till 10:00..Hardy and Clark over. Flew spare two hours 30 min flying time.

September 11

Up early for Frag mission 35 minutes east of Florence. Moderate and inaccurate flak. Good hits..had a talk about Allen, Hipple and others escapees..to show "Three men in White"

September 12

Never did much till noon. Dinwiddie and Bernortz and I flew to Corsica two and one half hours to bring number 22 back. Dinwiddie and I brought number 11 back.. I flew halfway back.

September 13

Up early for mission 35 miles NE of Florence. Hit target good. Bombs went off under ship..tied together 100 pound bombs...milk run..Dinwiddie...4 hours (number 7)

September 14

Up at 5:00 to briefing. Same Target. Take off at 9:10..Kaufman, number 15. 14 bombs (250 pounds). Good pattern and good hits. Spits(Spitfires), P-47's, P-40's, B-25's, and Bocu B-26's. Sixty B-26's from the 320th. Probably about the same from the 17th, 319th, and French. War starting to slowly come to an end. Four hours Combat Time.

September 15

Up at 5:00. Take off at 8:30. MacGregor, Wetzel, O'Connell, Hughs and I. Target Rimmini, Italy. Weather bad..flew in clouds..we sweated it out. B-26's from Corsica flew over target and couldn't see it. Returned with no ships lost. A true miracle. Five hours Combat Time. Still waiting to move. Rained. Guard Duty till 11:00.

September 16

Awful tired..slept until 11:00. Mission with Merrill, Wilhelm, Polkow, and O'Connell. Twelve bombs. Back at 4:30. Three hours and 30 minutes Combat Time. Hardy and Clark came over. Mail poor.

September 17

Up at 5:30 for mission. Dinwiddie, Evans, Murray, Dalton and I. Take off at 8:40. Target Veghero, Italy north of Genoa 25 miles. Road and railway bridge. 100% hit.

Went to the show "Up in Mabel's Room. Good. Four hours Combat Time.

September 18

Up late on clean up detail. Visited Tankersley in the evening.

September 19

Practice mission from 9:00 till 11:00. Moe Louis and Stier. OK. Rained like the devil. Played cards.

September 20

Up for transition flight. Two hours. Sherrwood and Wetzel.

September 21

Woke early and prepared to move. Packed and flew to Alto and Back. Picked up another load and moved into a tent with Dalton, Tankersley, Wyatt, Blue and Booth. Four hours flying time.

September 22

Up early and dug a trench around our tent. Fixed bed and went swimming. Really nice. Cold as hell.

September 23

Up early for 6:45 briefing. Dinwiddie, Bednarz, Dalton, Murray and I. Target Borgoforte, Italy. Flak moderate and accurate. One hole in ship. Swim in Mt. Swimm. Three hours 15 minutes Combat Time.

September 24

Up for chow. Built on to tent. Went to church. Swim in pool. Shoveled dirt for the parachute shop.

September 25

Up early. Mission cancelled. Worked on tent all day. Mighty tired today.

September 26

Up early. Boys up for a mission. 129 guns, 60 105mm's, 69 88mm's. Every ship collected holes today. Finished up the sides of the tent and rode up hills on Dalton's bicycle. Boy was the water cold. Beautiful scenery. Hope I can go hunting soon.

September 27

Not much doing today. Tankersley and I fixed up tent and slept for a while. Went up for a practice mission. Thirty minutes.

September 28

Weather bad. Mission up but cancelled. Practice mission cancelled. Rained like the dickens. Went to the PX..good for two weeks. Drank beer and talked. Had midnight lunch.

September 29

Up early. Rained all night. Still raining. Read Swamp Water. Poor chow. Wrote letters.

September 30

Mission up. Briefing at 7:30. Dinwiddie, Torongo, Murray, Dalton and I. Take off 11:00. Target time 12:45. Cromona, Italy fuel dump. 100% on target. No flak..no fighters. Movie "Mrs Skffington"

October 1

Nice day. Other boys on mission. Dalton and I went to the hills on a motorcycle. Fished but never caught anything. Picked English Walnuts. Beautiful scenery. Back to chow.

October 2

Policed up the area. Rained. Finally Wyatt, Bernstein and I hitchhiked to Bastia to look the town over. Pretty town with narrow streets built on a hill overlooking a nice harbor. Ships sunk in the harbor. Cemetary was bombed. We drank Cape Corse wine. Hitching was poor coming back. I saw Johnny Gahns.

October 3

Foiled around all morning. Briefing at 12:30. Target Verona, Italy railroad. Made three runs. 36 bursts of flak from Verona..never dropped bombs. Letter from Leila mailed September 7. Saw Alps from very close..really snow covered. Like to froze to death.

October 4

Mission up. Lyons, Lamke, Weber, Geronimo and I. Cancelled at briefing. Up again in the afternoon and cancelled again. Collected wood for fire. Never slept good.

October 5

Oats for breakfast. Raining and no mission or practice. Wrote letters and took a shower. Tent is nice now.

October 6

Up for chow a usual. Read a book. Had jitters all day. Rained like hell. Slept.

October 7

Fried eggs for breakfast. Fixed floor in tent some more. Practice mission. Dinwiddie, Schrantz and I. Two hours

October 8

Bad weather. Over to see Hardy and Corzine.

October 9

Up early. Foiled around waiting for mission. No Bombs.

October 10

Waited for mission. We got to the plane and it was cancelled. Went to Bastia to scoop cement. Really bad.

October 11

Mission up. Changed at briefing. Take off at 12:30. Target Bologna, Italy. Target time 2:15. Bombs 500 pounds..munitions factory in the heart of Bologna. Flak for five minutes..105's, 155's, 88's and 44mm's. We took Bocu evasive action. Sure was scared. Holes in plexiglass nose. Dinwiddie, Stier, Dalton and I.

October 12

Other boys on a mission. Dalton and I worked on bike. Showered and went up to crossroads. Movie "The Big Moment"

October 13

Mission up. Number 7. Dinwiddie, Scott, Murray, Dalton and I. We were the first B-26 to take off to the south on this field with a full bomb load and gas. Target railroad bridge in Padua, Italy. Too cloudy..no flak..no fighters. Didn't drop bombs. Three hours 30 minutes flying time. Rained...Mark's birthday(brother). Three packages tonight. Hope Mark had as good a luck as I did.

October 14

Cut cork for fire wood. Hardy and Clark over. Show "Double Indemnity"..good show.

October 15

Briefing at 7:30..Take off at 10:00. Target Padua, Italy. Road bridge. Target time 11:40. Made three runs..never dropped bombs..Flak on each run..88mm's..30 bursts..four hours 30 minutes.

October 16

Slept late..up for detail...Drilled for Presidential Citation. Went to the beach and fired 45 pistol.

October 17

Up at 7:00..pancakes for chow.. Drilled for Presidential Citation..took shots for tetanus and typhoid. Wrote another letter. Show "Butler's Sister".

October 18

Detail around area . Several letters came in. Played hearts and took in show in the afternoon. Rode down on bicycle to watch the boys come in. Show "Kansas City Kitty"

October 19

Winds blowing like the devil. Mission up. Dinwiddie, Steir, Murray, Dalton and I . Target Montova, Italy. Take off time 12:30..Target time 13:45. Seven bursts of 88mm's ..landed three hours..lost three ships in 319th Group by fighters. Movie "Bride by

Mistake". The country is really pretty in the Po Valley..farmers are ploughing and wheat green.

October 20

Other boys were on a mission. Lt. Francis called us out for detail..marched for receiving Presidential Citation presented by General Connon. Quite a deal. Formation looked pretty good. Coley and Clark over.

October 21

Up early for cross country to Marcenes, Italy. Dinwiddie and Torongo and I. Landed at 11:45. Ate at 19th replacement. Went to Casserta and saw Kings Summer Palace (240 rooms) and flew back to field. Corisica was closed so we went to Naples..saw Vesuvius and most of the town..it was off limits but we didn't know till morning.

October 22

Didn't sleep well. Up early and met Dinwiddie and fooled around. Started to field at 12:00..took off at 2:00 with 6 new boys..landed in rain..to chow and show.

October 23

Up for detail. Shoveled gravel all morning and mixed cement in afternoon..chow and letters.

October 24

Pancakes for breakfast. Dalton and I rode to Champlain and around through hills. Had a good time. Slept for a while. Cut wood. Show "Coney Island"

October 25

Rained all day and night. What a place. Played cards. Rations \$12.50.

October 26

Rained all day. Bought radio and fixed it up. To bed early.

October 27

Weather. No bombs.. Went down to Bastia. Drank Cognac, ate and fooled around. Lots of boys drunk on truck back. 11:00 to bed.

October 28

Cleaned up tent and straightened up. Lecture on sighting in afternoon. Clark and Hardy over. Took bath..letters..to bed.

October 29

Up as usual. Not much to do. Lots of letters. Flew with Lyons and Wiggins on number 7...2 hours 20 minutes.

October 30

Policed area. More mail today. To show "Around the world". Lights out..no bombs.

October 31

Got paid \$71.80..Blue paid me \$10.00 for his part of the radio. Still collecting back mail. Chicken for supper. Really good. "Secret Command" show good. Wrote letters.

November 1

Up for mission..cancelled because of weather...back to sack.

November 2

Up for breakfast. Helped put window in back of tent. Scooped dirt around sides and to show "Hairy Ape". Saw Hardy. Rumor of a move to France.

November 3

Up late fooling around. Went over to pick up my Purple Heart. Capt. Smith pinned it on. Took our picture. New commander put in...Col. Woolrich..Col. Fletcher is to leave.

November 4

Up at 6:00 for mission. Take off 9:30. Ship number 21. Target Lake Garda, Italy. Flak for 6 minutes on first run. Made second run. Three hours 20 minutes.

Second mission...Dinwiddie, Kaiser, new bombardier, Dalton and I. Ship number 2. Target near Milan. Bocu flak.. over 1,000 bursts more or less. Three hours 20 minutes..really sweated it out. Got back and heard that Corzine and Hathaway were killed on take off. Really made me feel bad. Really tired.

November 5

Up for briefing for a milk run near Garda. Take off 9:45. We were jumped by fighters. Twelve or fifteen ME-109's and LW-190's. Head on attack. Cole and I knocked one down. Then number 86, Logsdon, Kelley and Deluca (84 boys) had to bail out over Corsica. We followed them from the Po Valley and dropped life boats. They were picked up by Air/Sea rescue. 5 hours and 15 minutes with Dinwiddie, Wilson, Murray, Dalton, Thompson and I. Dalton said he saw me knock down an ME-109. Col. Woolrich gave us a talk..we probably knocked down 4 or 5 enemy fighters.

November 6

Up for 9:30 briefing. It was confirmed that we knocked down five fighters (ME-109's) and two probables. Target today near Garda. Take off 10:45. Really alert for fighters. Guns in good condition. We had eight ME-140's and P-47's as escorts. They took care of the enemy. Dinwiddie, Schramm, Murray, Dalton, Thompson and I. Three hours 30 minutes..nineteen good bombs..good pattern..back to chow. Officer came around with a little relaxer for anti-flak. Took bath and to bed. Good music on radio.

November 7

Up for mission. Target bridge near Venice, Italy. Dinwiddie, new co-pilot, Murray, Dalton, Thompson and I. Missed and hit approach to target. Adriatic was pretty. Milk run. Coley, Hardy and Clark over. Rations for two weeks.

November 8

Roosevelt elected President again.

November 9

Took off with Capt. Smith and Wyatt, Blue and Peterson for Naples to pick up photo lab stuff. Weather bad over Italy..came back for breakfast, took shower, wrote letters

November 10

Up for chow...sweat out for the boys...they were jumped by 30 or 40 ME's and FW's.. Lyons, Tankersly had an emergency landing with hydraulics shot out.

November 11

Wyatt went to Naples for ten days to transport planes. Briefing 8:40. Target railroad at Dolce, Italy...south end of Brenner Pass. Four fighters jumped us and 35 to 40 bursts of flak..flak real accurate..one hole in leading edge of wing. Three hours ten minutes. Dinwiddie, Domke, Murray, Dalton, Thompson and I. Sweat out fighters.

November 12

Mission up. Briefing 8:40. Cancelled...to church. Nice sermon and to chow. P-47 buzzing the field..chopped wood and wrote letters. Raining.

November 13

Up early to chow. French toast. Briefing at 8:40. Target Dolce, Italy. Take off 10:00. Dinwiddie, Dickey, Murray, Dalton, Thompson and I. Weather bad over Moneglia so we took alternate route to go by Rimini and Venice. Weather so bad we had to turn back. 105's shot at us going in and coming out..40 bursts...real close...Bocu other too..other boys took off for new field at Dijon, France. Sweat mission out..one ship was hit and forced to land in Italy. Steaks in tent and bottle of Champagne from Murray.

November 14

Slept late..weather bad..Bocu snow on mountains. Mission cancelled. 44th ship taking eight men to new field crashed. Clark's pilot killed. Over to see Hardy and Clark. Cleaned up around tent and shaved. Lyons promoted to Flight Leader..good deal. To good show with Ann Sheridan..wrote letters..tent nice tonight.

November 15

Slept till 10:00. Tankersly brought me French Toast and coffee. No mission..weather bad. Out for detail..filled in ditches around tents..to chow..laid around tent all afternoon. Letter from Woody Baker..bath in helmet. More letters..Still sweating out Po Valley and Lake Garda.

November 16

Up at 5:00. Briefing at 6:00. Wilson, New, Murray, Williams, Dunn and me in 14 ship. Target two thirds up the Brenner Pass. Railroad Viaduct.. Missed target. Alps really beautiful and snow all over. P-47 escorts were really good. Four hours ten minutes time.

200 flak bursts from 80mm and 40mm..real accurate. Coley and Clark over. Back to the line and then to chow. Lyons made 1st Lt. Bath and bed.

November 17

6:00 chow and 7:30 briefing. Take off 9:05. By was of Venice..8 P-47 escorts..very nice to target but Jerries had bridge smoked over. Alps beautiful..Dropped bombs on bridge southeast of Milan. Good hits. Dinwiddie, Black, Murray, Gulliver, Thompson and I in number 7. four hours 20 minutes time. Wyatt and Booth back from emergency in Pisa. Very tired and to bed.

November 18

I forget

November 19

Worked on line all day helping Coley on number 2. Took bath in helmet.

November 20

Up early for mission. Briefing at 10:30. Target Rovoretto rail bridge near Lake Garda. Take off 11:30. Really cloudy. Passed over Venice and was shot at by our own AA on return trip. Four hours 10 minutes. Dinwiddie, Lamke, Murray, Dalton, Thompson and I in number 19. Didn't think we would get a mission but we did.

November 21

Called at 6:00 by Hill. Went to the line to help Joe Allen run his ship up. Mission cancelled. Last mission in Po Valley..Detail in pm and moved into mess hall.

November 22

Up on latrine detail. Afternoon same thing. Not very exciting. Boy this AA Lt. Really thinks he is back there again. Played cards and to bed.

November 23

Thanksgiving and everything is messed up round here..no details..no playing cards...no turkey...no nothing. I thought a lot about home. Really felt crabby and down in the dumps..somebody should trim me down.

November 24

Up as usual and still not in a good mood. Wish we could go ahead and move up with the other boys. Dalton, Bernie and I to the creek to take a bath. About froze to death. Built a fire to thaw out. Read and to bed. I'm going to kill that dog if he is under my bed again.

November 25

Really good pancakes for breakfast. Rain and glad of it. Hope they put off moving for a while...bull sessions..etc.

November 26

Laid around and slept. Enjoying the peace of mind and rest. Bull sessions and rain.

November 27

Laid in bed after breakfast. Just waiting for transportation to France. Played cards and stayed out of the rain. Finally PX rations came. Drank beer and ate toast around stove. Really a bull session.

November 28

Still no planes to move. On detail to clean mess hall where we are sleeping. Chopped wood, played cards. Chicken for supper.

November 29

Never slept good at all..too much rest. Helped Mac preflight number 16..played bridge. Chicken for supper. Tankersley, Dalton and I went to Bastia. More bridge and music. More bull sessions around stove and to bed.

November 30

Up as usual and helped Mac with his plane. He really gave us a buzz job. More bridge.

December 1

Breakfast in bed...what a deal..never had it so good. What a life. It couldn't last much longer. We took our laundry out to stretch our luck. Booth learning to play bridge

December 2

Up as usual. Ships came in..numbers 17, 20 and 2. We packed and loaded 20 for Marsailles France. Landed and visited ATC canteen. Bocu pretty French girls (snooty) , registered and went into town. Marsailles is pretty from the air. Drank beer and fooled around with Bernstein and Falk. Back to sack.

December 3

Up at 6:00..like to froze to death..Mabel(dog) crawled in and warmed my feet. Breakfast at Margane Field. Took off at 10:00 and headed for Dijon. Really hilly and flooded. Bombed towns and bridges..beautiful Chateau's. Landed at Dijon airfield. What a sloppy, muddy field..all bombed to hell. All kinds of German ships and all the 320th and 17th ships. Wyatt had a tent for us. Snow and rain. Put a floor in part of the tent. Really good to be settled again.

December 4

Slept good. Really good to be in my old bed again. Wyatt up for mission and cancelled. Finished floor in tent and squared it up. Still plenty sloppy out. Teams of sorrel work horses tandem style pulling wagons...mostly beets. Pretty chilly. Wrote letters.

December 5

Went to the line on trucks and got wood off wrecked hangars. Came back and sawed wood. Shaved and went to show in Dijon..”Junior Miss”. Came back on 442nd truck. Saw a good looking WAC.

December 6

Up at 10:00 and started making a door for the tent. We did a pretty fair job. Bathed and went to Marsailles with Dinwiddie.

December 7

Up at 6:00 for take off. Took off at 9:00 with Dinwiddie and Dickey. Nice trip and landed with a carburetor for number 16. Wash and I went to Marsailles and had a good time and slept in town.

December 8

Up at 6:00 and back for chow. Really good. After noon chow we started back for Dijon. Things pretty well dried out. Good to be back in my own bed.

December 9

Up at 10:00. I have a pretty bad cold. Wyatt and Booth on a mission. Bocu letters. On practice mission in the afternoon. Kaufman, another guy and I. Ears hurt really bad. Popped corn and went to bed. Happy birthday Mom..I thought about you and wished you well and a happy day.

December 10

Some boys and Dinwiddie’s orders to go home. Really glad for him. Wish I were going home too. Sawed wood and fooled around tent. Turkey for chow..letters and to bed.

December 11

Didn’t sleep well and went on sick call. Bad cold. Raining and bed. Wyatt and Tankersley brought wood back for fire. Gunnery meeting. Rain and snow. Feel bad.

December 12

Up at 8:30 and dressed for Air Medal award but cancelled. On sick call. Dinwiddie left for home. Glad and sorry to see him go. Three packages from Dad, Mom, Leila and Lawrence. Feel better now.

December 13

Another day, another dollar. Still grounded but I feel better. Other boys on mission. Bought bread in Lounge Court, France. Real good. Ship blew up on runway..bombs really blew. Tankersley off to Gay Paree R & R camp. Wrote letters.

December 14

Up with a head ache. Felt bum..other boys up for mission..lots of ice. Chow and to line to get wood from under old hangars. Really torn up. Really cold.

December 15

Up at 10:00. Really cold. Blue coughed all night and I had a headache. Really glad to hear that Lloyd came out all right (Lloyd Bennett, brother of Bill's brother in law, survived air crash in New Mexico). Boys received medals. The way they give these medals out gives me a pain. Red lined for pay..don't care much. Warmer this evening. Bocu mail and letter from Pauline Lay, Mom and Ida and card from Leila.

December 16

Up for chow and back for rest. Still on ground and sinuses bothering me. Cut wood and raining. Saddle soaped leather jacket and helped tar paper sides of tent.

December 17

Tankersley back from Paris..really had a good time. On sick call and assigned to quarters because of sinus. Package from Mom. Hope Carol(sister) had a good birthday.

December 18

Up at 9:00 and on sick call ..same old stuff. Raining like the devil. Really enjoying packages..worked on lights..no news..so long.

December 19

Took off ground status..ready to fly and feeling better..laid around and slept and argued with Blue. Danner over with white lightning. Boy what potent stuff. More packages.

December 20

Up for breakfast..chow not so good. Loafed around..wrote and sawed wood. Guard duty

December 21

Up late and made my own dinner. Chopped wood and saw "Two Yanks Abroad"..letters and apple sauce.

December 22

Up as usual..nothing much doing. Foggy. Got a pass to Dijon at 2:30. Dalton and I went to the Red Cross and got a haircut and shave. Nice town. Nice churches and shows. To GI Joe's for chow. Really tasted good. Red Cross theatre to see "Mrs. Parkington" Home at midnight..relaxing day.

December 23

First mission over Germany. Up at 7:00 for briefing. A rough target. 41 heavy guns at Bridge near Neuadst, Germany. Had decoys and chaff. Take off 12:05. Leveling, Wiggins, Chelluci, Couzonotta, Williams, Gibson and I. Visibility poor over target. Target time 2:12 . Number 8 blown up in midair over target. 1,000 or more flak bursts..20 to 30 holes in our ship..number 11. Too close for comfort. Interrogated and really tired. Home for chow and Christmas party for the kids of Louge Court. I was really scared but felt better after we got on our way. Hadn't flown for so long. Three hours time.

December 24

Up early for briefing 8:20. Bad ground haze. Lemke, Barrett, Chelluci, Bush, Blue and I. Target four miles from Swiss border. Nice milk run..hope I get 33 more just like it. Four hours time. Thompson was killed by a drunk driver on Christmas eve. Really ruined my Christmas. Some Four Roses and eggs and to bed at 12:00. Wish I was home. The 17th lost three ships and had four wounded on returning ships.

December 25

Up for briefing...Merry Christmas..Supposed to fly on 16, but right engine cutting out bad so we came back. Good milk run. Tough luck. Probably wish I had it in the future. Good Xmas chow, but sure wish I was home, but maybe next year..Cold as the devil.

December 26

Up for chow..everything froze. Briefing at 12:30 in Castle. Black, Cudworth, Chelluci, Wyatt, Hill, Moyer and I. Flew a ship from the 444th..number 78. Take off at 12:15 for Rastatt, Germany. 24 P-47's for escort. 41 guns at the bridge..we carried frags and chaff. Four ME 263's came through to us on the break. P-47's chased them off. Landed at 3:30. Interrogated and to chow. Meeting at 6:00 to 8:00..Letters and bed.

December 27

Up for mission but heavy fog..got truck for wood and sawed some for night..show & bed.

December 28

Up for mission. Briefing at 10:20. Cancelled by bad weather and fog..back to chow. Cleaned up for 441st party. Trucks to Dijon. What a time. Nice place to have a party. Palace of the Dukes of Burgundy. The wine was good.. ham, French pastry, coffee etc. WAC's and some French girls.

December 29

Tired as the devil but mission up. Briefing at 9:20. Cudworth, Black, Smith, Chelluci, Bush and I. Number 18. Take off at 11:15. Weather bad and haze. Kaiserstaad.. thirty five guns and 150 bursts of 88mm flak. Landed at 4:30. Not too bad. Rations today.

December 30

Up for eggs and bacon. Briefing at 9:20..same target as yesterday. Take off at 11:20 in 18. Wetzell, Kaiser, Tacco, Hart, Tothaumer and I. Target covered over. Really pretty contrails..lots of B-17's above P-47 escorts. Dropped on primary target..small town, barracks, warehouses. Landed at 15:40 Threw out chaff or tinfoil to throw off radar guns. No flak..no fighters.

December 31

Last day of the year. Up for a mission. Briefing at 9:20. Same mission but it was still snowing and raining. Mission cancelled just after we ran the engine up. Bernstein and I paid \$24.00. Then we went to town. We bought a bottle of 1928 Champagne and went to the show and raised Cain in general. Back to camp and celebrated new year. A lot of boys shot 45's.

January 1, 1945

Happy New Year. Really tired for mission. Briefing at 8:30. Target Kaiserslauten, Germany. Number 16..Lamke, Black, Hill, Smith, Tufte and I. Take off at 1:00. Six decoy ships dropped on IP. Chaff on in. We got about 300 to 500 bursts of flak..88mm fire. Really good bomb pattern on town and warehouses. We dropped eight 500 pound composition bombs. Turkey for chow and too tired to write letters.

January 2

Boy was it cold last night and my covers came off so I wired them on. I sawed wood and had a detail to help with a malfunctioning 50 caliber. What a farce..we were putting it in an old test pit of the Germans. Combat meeting and news forum.

January 3

Up at 7:00..eggs for breakfast. To briefing..bad weather. Mission cancelled after briefing. I got letters from Mom and felt really bad that they hadn't heard from me for a long time. Meeting for all combat men. They just hadn't better raise the missions over sixty six.

January 4

Overslept so I missed chow. Briefing but weather so bad no mission. Sure would like to have some weather clear up so we could drop those bombs on the front lines and help those boys out up there(this was the middle of the Battle of the Bulge). Transition time with O'Brien and Walden on number 11. Engine cut out after one and one half hour. Two packages from Mom..ate most of it. Had champagne and wrote a letter to Blanche.

January 5

Still same mission. To the line and mission was cancelled. Sawed wood and sat around fire. Too cold to do much of anything... slept and wrote letters.

January 6

Up for briefing. Would sure like to help those boys on the front lines. Got a pass and to town in the snow. Went up to see Nikkie and Janette. Barged in on French Commandants meeting but made date for 7:00. To GI Joe's for chow and met the girls for a couple of beers and home. Nice girls. Cold ride home (16km).

January 7

Up for a mission. Really foggy and looks like snow. Mission cancelled. Ready to go to town. Bernstein, Tankersley and I drank wine and met Nikkie and Janette. Fooled around and drank different French wine and talked until 7:00. To dinner in a very nice restaurant and walked the girls home. A good time was had by all.

January 8

Up for chow and briefing. Mission was cancelled just at take off time. Still snowing. Took a bath in helmet..really tired ..took a blood test.

January 9

Up late but mission up. Briefing. Snowed quite a bit in night and still snowing. Things are really pretty. Mission cancelled after briefing. Sawed what wood I could and to meeting in the evening..more about raising the number of missions and tough luck stories about the 7th Army.

January 10

Up and made fire..mission cancelled at the line. Missed truck so I ate chow down there and came back on line truck. Really snowing now. Had a snow ball fight. Got truck to go get wood...had to pay \$3.00 for it. To a combat meeting about shortages of flying equipment.

January 11

Up for breakfast..not so good. Really cold..mission cancelled after breakfast..snowing more. Cut most of wood and stacked it. Dinner C rations. To a meeting of enlisted combat men. To fire fighting meeting. Pork chops for chow. Read and wrote letters. Clear and cold tonight..

January 12

Up to breakfast and briefing and to line. Went to woods and bought wood. Darn tired.

January 13

Briefing. Sure wish we could get this over with and get home. Really tired of it all.

January 14

Briefing as usual. Cancelled mission..same old deal.

January 15

Up late missed breakfast. Mission cancelled. Meeting on Anti Aircraft fire. Bath.. bed.

January 16

To briefing at 10:30. Target Rastatt, Germany. Take off 12:35..16 ship. Black, Lampke, Martinson, Hill, Cook, Blue and I. Thirty five ship escorts..Spits and P-47's. Target time 14:59. Good bomb hits. 30 bursts of 88mm flak. Landed at 16:35. Hazy as the devil over the field. Never felt so good to have mission over..Booth is back.

January 17

Not on mission so I sawed wood with Dalton. Mission cancelled due to heavy fog. Cleaned tent. Tankersley and Booth got a half truck load of wood so we got a French man with a circle saw to saw it up. Really a nice pile of wood. At last letters telling me they know I am OK..great relief.

January 18

Just another day. Slept good in my new made sack. Up at 10:00..weather foggy and bad. Poor chow. Shots for tetanus and vac for smallpox. Up for transition but cancelled. Finished roof and roast beef chow...really blowing. Wrote letters..tent comfortable.

January 19

Fateful day. I talked to Lyons about getting on crew. Mission off. Number 8 was supposed to have all boys bail out, but at 8:30 they found the ship with all men on board. Engines cut out and the ship cartwheeled. McCurdy, Cudworth, Hill(Toggle Man), Rahl, Bentas and Thamer. Guess they were all ready to go but it really put a gloom over all of us to see such a good bunch of boys go so needlessly.

January 20

Sat up late and talked and cleaned the tent up and shaved. Snowing like it used to at home. Blowing too. Bernstein, Tank and I went to Dijon. Hitchhiked and made a date with Nikkie and Janette. Got hair cuts and ate at GI Joe's. Had a few drinks and to a French show...no good. Really cold.

January 21

Up for chow..other boys to briefing. Cleaned tent and fooled around all day. Should go to town. Bocu visitors in the evening.

January 22

Chow 7:20..Dalton and Wyatt to briefing. Nice morning. Laundry back. Took bath and cleaned up. Flew in 02 with Lyons and Scott for a funeral buzz. One hour 45 minutes.

January 23

Mission up. Supposed to fly with Lyons but cancelled. Snowing.

January 24

Mission still up but cancelled. Bernstein and I to town. Snowing..Met Nikkie and Janette. One hour 30 minutes transition flight with O'Brien and Zierk. Still snowing.

January 25

No mission..went to town..heard rumors..to show and steak at GI Joe's. show "The Prince and the Pirate" with Bob Hope.

January 26

Briefing cancelled..Dalton and I walked about 4 miles in the snow up and down the channel. Snow 14 inches deep but weather clear and boys on transition took good pictures.

January 27

Up for chow and briefing. Mission cancelled. Snowing. Went to town with Bernstein. Rode to town in water truck. Made a date and drank Vin Rouge with Harris, Arnold, Greco, Friel, Seilet and Marshall. Sure glad to see that many boys out of a class of nineteen still alive. Met girls and ate the cake they made. Good. Went to French show and to bed at 12:00

January 28

Really slept good. Tankersley brought my breakfast to me in bed. Mission cancelled. Starting to snow again. Chow not so good. Fifty boys up for physical to go with the infantry. Rough deal.(shortage of Infantry due to losses from the Battle of the Bulge caused a number of men to be transferred temporarily to the Infantry) I wish this would be over soon. Sure sweating it out. Letters.

January 29

Mission up. Take off at 12:00. Zeirk, Torongo, Socco, Tankersley Teitz and I. Number 11. No flak..no fighters. My kind of mission. Dropped bombs through clouds and landed at 4:30. 35 P-47's for escorts. Chow and open forum. Bath and Bed.

January 30

Mission up. Just as well get it over with. Shaved and ready to go. To town meeting at 4:00 about taking sulfa for colds. Weather really bad but we went to town anyway. Ice froze on windshield. Met Nikkie and Janette. They went to theatre so we came back.

January 31

Pay day. Got paid 57 Francs or \$104.00. Weather bad..mission cancelled. Guard duty from 16:00 till 21:00. Nothing exciting happened.

February 1

Mission up but foggy and cancelled. Got passes early and rode bomb truck to field. Took truck to Red Cross. Met girls and bars were closed. Met Hardy..to show.

February 2

Up early..heavy fog. Just as we were about to leave the field it cleared up. Mission with Black, Levering, Bush, Van Dyke, Mullis and I..number 16. No flak..no fighters..8 P-47's for escorts. Bombed Kattlsbach, Germany. 100% mission..to runs on target and returned late at 5:00. Tired and to bed.

February 3

Early mission cancelled. Bernstein went to town to make dates. Dalton, Tankersley and I went in later. Drank some good wine and ate at GI Joe's and met Berny and girls. Had a very good evening and girls gave us wristwatches..back at 12:00.

February 4

Up for breakfast with slight hangover. Guess I shouldn't have drank so much of that stuff. Mission cancelled. Raining. Starting to catch a cold..so chow and to bed at 8:30. Fata, Breznak and Arnsdorf left for home. Wish I was going along.

February 5

Mission up but cancelled. Don't feel so good. Slept and fooled around. Raining. Snow nearly gone. Forum and to bed.

February 6

Mission up but cancelled. Slept and didn't feel good. Flew 2 hours 45 minutes with Forsythe and Barret. 442nd lost a ship..number 26..all killed. McCurdey was engineer.

February 7

Mission up but cancelled. Raining and thawing out. Cleaned Tankersley's jacket and saw a very good show "Saratogo Trunk".

February 8

Weather didn't look good but mission up. Briefing at 9:30 and take off at 12:40 in brand new ship..number three. Really nice and Bocu power. Black, Torongo, Bush, Gardner, Profos and I. Target Hornberg, Germany near Stuttgart. Twenty bursts of 88mm flak and two bursts of red flak..the first I ever saw. Landed at 4:30. P-47's escorts. Hits no good..we missed the target.

February 9

Mission up. To line and took off. Sweat it out worse than any take off ever before. We nearly ended up in a canal. Lamke, Maj Sharp, Bush, Tufte, Rasche and I. Clouds bad nearer to enemy territory. Three hours and 30 minutes. Really thankful to be alive. Should have been my 42nd mission but no credit.

February 10

Mission the same but cancelled. Chow no good. Weather clearing like spring. Shaved and wrote letters. Letter from Mom dated January 18.

February 11

Just another day. Briefing at 7:00. New target..weather bad. Lamke, Sharp, Bush Tufte, Rasche and I. Number 2..made a dry run on take off..engines only 2400 RPM. Second take off OK. Too many clouds. Chow..raining and blowing..wrote letters.

February 12

Up for mission but cancelled. Caught another mouse. Wyatt had a big laugh. Weather bad. Fooled around and slept..to bed.

February 13

Up for mission. Weather bad. 9:30 take off. Lampke, Sharp, Bush, Rasche and I on number 2. Got off good...stooaged around and flew over Saarbruch, Germany..it's a wonder we didn't get our butts fraged off.

February 14

Up for breakfast...pancakes. Briefing at 9:30..take off at 12:30. Black, Colter, Biddle, Knight, Hiler, Aten and I . Number 20..new ship and good. Liebeck, Germany. Good mission..maybe 100%.

February 15

Up for briefing but cancelled. Booth packing to go home. Wish I were going with him. Slept and wrote letters.

February 16

Up early and to the line..really sweating it out. Afraid we wouldn't have time to pack. Shower and ready to leave. Ate dinner and met at the orderly room at 7:15. Met Clark and Booth at the train. Train was what would be a cattle train in peace time. Received a letter telling about the arrival of young Billy Bennett(sister's new son..me).

Paris

February 17

What a ride on that cattle train. Nearly froze to death. Saw Booth off and rode to Landau. Got my first ride on a subway..what a crowd. Enrolled at hotel, cleanup up and took off with Dalton and Wyatt to shop. Bought a lot of stuff and came back to make a night of it. Started off at Can Can and ended up at the Chantilly Club with chorus girls.

February 18

Woke up in a strange room with a hangover. I really underestimated that Champagne. Went to Grand Central Terminal Hotel. Got haircut and shave. People kidded me about skinned eye. Really felt self conscious. Took a tour of Paris. Saw all the important points of interest and back for chow. To Follies Bregere. What a show..to room and bed.

February 19

Up early to breakfast and to main part of town to get perfume. Went to see Tankersley's Dad. Paraded up the Champs Elysees and the rest of the town. Back to dinner and bought more souvenirs and got ready to leave. Met men at American Express and rode subway..what a fight to get on and off. Waited until 8:40 to leave..better compartment.

February 20

Rode all night on the French train. Never slept very good. Arrived at Dijon at 9:00 and rode back on open truck. Really was kidded about face being skinned. Made bed and took shower..Tired and lots of letters.

February 21

Up for breakfast and back to bed. Called out for detail unloading a load of gravel. Heard Streamy, Kirkland and eight officers to go home after sixty three missions. Packed a box to send home. It must contain \$150.00 worth of stuff. Cleaned tent & wrote letters.

February 22

Up for mission..briefing at 8:00..take off at 11:30. Black, McBurnett, McCurdy, Nellas, Goering, Aton and I ...number 20. Nice mission..Bombed a small marshalling yard. Made two runs on target. Good hits. Saw lots of airplanes in the air. B-17's, B-24's, P-47's, and B-26's. Largest force ever sent over the Reich. 8,000 ships. Hardy was up to

see me in the evening to tell me he would call or write when he gets home. 8 bursts of 88mm flak.

February 23

Really slept good..up for briefing at 8:30. Take off at 10:30..Lamke, Jones, Bittle, Wright, Aton and I..number 16 ship. Another small bridge..good hits..no flak..no fighters. 20 P-47's for escorts. Landed 2:00. Interrogated and slept till chow.. beef, pineapple and coffee..best in a long time.

February 24

My morning to build the fire...cold. Briefing at 10:30..take off at 12:45..Black, McBurnett, Biddle,??, and I..number 16. Good mission..marshalling yards..two runs on target. Barrage balloons over target..I shot about 100 rounds at them...a lot of fun. Landed at 4:25..prop wash was very bad. We are going to the 7th Army front in the morning. Tankersley and Dalton to squad party.

Time in the Infantry

February 25

What a time Dalton and Tankersley had..they kept us awake...up at 6:00..to the 317th and got a truck. C-rations and first apples since coming overseas. Long dirty ride. Country pretty..rolling hills and farm land. Quite a few burned out tanks..long road. Vittl, France is a pretty resort town with lots of rank up there. Met 15th Army Group trucks at Looney Villed to Coobs. Slept in Hitler College...Ha! Ha!.

February 26

Slept good in Adolph Hitler Schule. Briefed for our days in the infantry. Ate dinner and took off for 63rd Division 255 Infantry...Cook.. Murray, Wyatt and I were at the 63rd Division at Humback in Alsace Lorraine and the people spoke Dutch. Saw how the Army works. Lots of shell holes, mine fields and burned out tanks.

February 27

Up at 7:30 for chow..weather bad..Got into a weapons carrier and went through Surrgamund. Towns all torn up..went to 255th Regiment at Sarresmien and on to Felperweiler about 2,000 yards from Germany. Guns firing from behind and in front of us. I looked over mortar positions and went to the forward Observation Post. Saw two dead Germans in a house and went with messenger to Regiment with orders. Back to bed.

February 28

Woke up at 5:00 by Ferguson. We walked two miles to FraunBerg, France just across the river from Germany. Really sweat going down to the Observation Post.. mortars. Met some very good boys. Looked through binoculars and powered scoped and saw seven Germans running over a hill. Helped direct mortar fire on them. Went on two patrols to flush Germans out of houses. Started back at 8:30. Germans threw flares up to spot us. Really tired. 105mm artillery woke me up...they rocked the house.

March 1

Slept late..not much firing going on. Went to Radio Shack for Dinner. The boys cooked a nice dinner. Layed around and finally met the boys from down at Fraunberg. Talked the First Sergeant into letting us go back down. Boy was it dark. We had to hold onto each other. We met guards and heard strange noises as soon as we got to OP. They captured a German POW..exciting moments.

March 2

Never slept so good..had pancakes and coffee for breakfast. German mortars landed in the road and sprayed the OP with shrapnel. Quite a bit different than being shot at by flak. I was pretty calm. I was shot at by a sniper. Had pork, potatoes and beans. Really a nice meal. Went on a patrol to borrow a radio. Wyatt and I came back alone..really sweat it out. Met the Rangers going out. Quick night.

March 3

Early breakfast. Petrie and other boys showed us around some more. Took pictures and met the truck to Saargemine to the Regiment CP. I heard P-47's going in on targets and also B-26's going in on Saarbruchen. Met Cook and slept in Air Support G-3 at CP in Saargamine. 155mm artillery rounds nearly shook me out of my sack.

March 4

Up and to chow with Cook, Wyatt, and Cushman. Packed and on our way to 15th Corps. Ate dinner there and on our way back to Lumeyville. No truck there so we started on our way. Nancy was a nice town and to Neufchateau and to Dijon. 198 miles..Butt plenty sore. Found out Wyatt and I had made Tech Sgt while we were gone. What a surprise.

Back to Bomb Group

March 5

Never slept worth a darn..helped the truck driver get on his way back to 7th Army. Flew transition with Lamke and new co-pilot..2 hours and 30 minutes..took helmet bath and to open forum..really tired.

March 6

Never felt so good. Tankersley brought me breakfast. Slept nearly all morning. Wrote letters in the afternoon. Cologne fell.

March 7

Up early to chow. Had fresh eggs. Mission up but cancelled. New boys coming in every day. Up to fifty missions. Drank some Champagne and made steaks and spuds for midnight lunch.

March 8

Early to bed..early to rise..mission up but cancelled. Presentation cancelled ..chow poor. So many new boys in that I hardly know anyone. Weber back from the hospital. Jones over and read in the evening.

March 9

Mission up but cancelled. Started wrapping packages to send home. Helped Dalton and shaved and went to town with Tankersley. Bad weather. Had bad dream about Hitler Youth.

March 10

Weather bad but mission up. Weather bad over target..first radar bombing. Wrote letters and cleaned up. News good.

March 11

Pancakes for breakfast..mission up. Went to briefing 9:30. Black, MacGaffin, Sacco, Drake, Lucy and I in ship 16. Take off 11:35..target time 13:30. Landed at 14:30. Dropped bombs by radar..really a good deal. There was a solid overcast. Target bridge near Worms, Germany. Tired..movie "Music in Manhattan".

March 12

BAT (radar) mission up. Dalton, Wyatt and Tankersley. Nice Mission. To skeet range in the afternoon..hit 18...top score. On practice mission in afternoon. Lekus, Kaiser. Flew in formation in number 7. 3 hours..tired..sent box home.

March 13

Made it to breakfast just in time. Foggy as the devil. Two missions up for 12:45..sewed and fixed box to send home. Briefing at 1:45..take off 14:00..three hours..Lamkpke, Hedges, Bush, Drake, new boy and I. Number 20. OP Sarrgumines barracks area and ammo dump. Good hits on both..Three ships fraged..24 bursts of 88mm flak. Two were really close. Lamke did a good job. Tank, Dalton and I to town.

March 14

Other boys on a mission. I took a shower and washed Fuzz (dog), but the old devil rolled in the dirt afterward. Burgers for dinner. Lyons, Steir, Garvey, Dever and I in ship 23 on mission...3 hours...number 81 caught fire and blew up. Smoke as high as 5,000 feet. Enjoyed Flight. Chicken for supper..Jones over in evening..really spring weather.

March 15

Everyone restricted because of the 7th Army push. Early mission..up at 4:00..breifing 11:15 and take off at 1:30. fuel pressure 24 so we went back to parking and took off at 1:45. We caught the formation at OP and tagged on. Lyons, Shaum, Garvey, C'Connell, Geronimo, Tankersley and I. Fifty bursts of 88mm flak..accurate as the devil and very close. Number 12 crash landed with three wounded and number 24 co-pilot hit in the knee. Really a good mission and a lot of German territory on fire.

March 16

Fifty missions..end of first tour...Ha! Ha!. Mission take Off time 8:45..back at 12:45. Another BAT(radar) mission. Schrantz led..Lyons, Geiger, Garvey, O'Connell, Geronimo, Tankersley and I in number 2. Climbed and bombed in clouds..no

flak..German towns still burning. Number Nine salvoed on our side of the lines..hope no one was there. To shower and show in the afternoon..read in evening.

March 17

Early briefing. Took off at 1:15..time delayed three times. Climbed through clouds and went within five minutes of enemy lines and turned back because our boys had overrun the target. Lyons, Geiger, Garvey, Mordns, Tankersley and I in number 2. We really should have dropped the bombs over enemy territory. Really tired. To bed early.

March 18

AT Last..a reasonable hour for a briefing...8:15. Delayed an hour by weather. Take off time at 10:45 ...three hours and 20 minutes. Lyons, Geiger, Garvey, Nordon, Tankersley and I. Nice crew in number 2. Sixteen P-47's as escort. Target..escape route at Neadst. 85 foot bridge bombed and knocked out by radar bombs. Really wonderful to be able to drop bombs through clouds and knock out target. No flak..recieved letters dated March 4. Lyons dog on first mission.

March 19

What a time to get up. 4:00..briefing at 4:45 and take off at 6:45. Lyons, Kamanship, Garvey, Bader, Geronimo, Tankersley and I in number 2. What a load. Hauled 260 pound frags to strong point on front lines..good hits..no flak..3 hours 20 minutes flying time...Aircraft REC in evening..hope a little more finishes this thing.

March 20

Up early for transition flight..Lamke and Kaminiski and I in 16..test hop..one hour 50.

March 21

Other boys on mission..called me early to fly transition with Lyons, Black and Garvey in 2. Clouds too thick for practice bombing. Back at noon. Other boys had rough mission. To wash woman for laundry. Danner took Infantry exam.

March 22

Briefing at 8:30..take off at 10:30..Lyons, O'Mahoney, Garvey, Sipan Geronimos, Tankersley, Potts and I in 2. Target Hiedelberg, Germany. DA's first Group lead and good hits..about fifty bursts of 88mm and 105mm flak..really accurate on second squad. Landed at 13:30..to bed early.

March 23

7:30 briefing. Lyons, Loar, Garvey, Nav Weber, Tankersley and I in 2. Really a nice mission..no flak..no fighters...second flight back up...target Neckerelz, Germany. Good hits..saw lots of German highways etc..took off 10:30..over target 12:30..landed 2:40.

March 24

Briefing 8:15..take off 10:00 in 02..Lyons, Geiger, Garvey, Siporon, Weber, Tankersley and I. Two runs on target. Group lead messed up both times over target. A few bombs hit on bridge. Passed over Autobahn Highway. Germans really ahead of other countries.

Off course on way back. Seven bursts of 88mm flak really close. Maj Cook along as observer. Lyons was really on the ball. Landed at 13:25.

March 25

Not on the mission so I started tearing the tent floor up. Wish I were through. Weather poor..mission for other boys cancelled. Had a lot of fun tearing up the floor and sides of the tent. Wyatt drove jeep for Lt Bader. He later brought a French girl over to see us. She brought us cake. Very pretty girl. Late night broadcast was very good. Hope the war ends soon. Don't feel like writing letters but I really should.

March 26

Slept late. Mission cancelled by strong cross winds. Went to the showers with Tank. Tried to fix lights and wrote a letter to Mom.

March 27

Practice bombing..but cancelled. Cleaned up and Tank and I to town and fooled around.

March 28

Up for practice mission but cancelled. Wyatt and I worked on lights. Got lots of letters. Argued in the evening.

March 29

Slept all morning..cleaned up around tent..guard duty..to bed

March 30

Weather bad..mission cancelled. All boys with 59 missions or more alerted to go home. That leaves me 4th in line to go home. Chopped wood and laid around. Wrote letters.

March 31

What a life. Weather perfect till practice bomb time then cancelled till afternoon. Visited Weber. Two hours with Lyons, McGregor, Garvey, Penkava and I in 02. Other boys on mission. Pay day \$135.40.

April 1

Up at 7:00 to shower. Found out that we were being held over as a detail. Sgts with 9 Cpls and I to be held back on account of being a Tech Sgt. Really feel bad.

April 2

Up a 5:00 to move..tore tent down and cleaned up and moved stuff into chateau. On KP duty rest of the day. Time moved up to 2:00.

April 3

Detail again..plenty of work to do. Still fooling around and to bed early.

April 4

Up early and on detail..Barrett and I. Poor detail officer..jumping from one job to another. To St Jean in the evening . Eggs cooked over open fire.

April 5

Up at 8:00 and started cleaning up Mess Hall and tearing it down. What a job. Had fun fooling around with Gravel Gerts.

April 6

Up at 8:00..the cook had pancakes and eggs..really good. Tore Officers Mess Hall down and loaded it for Dole. Went to Aiserey in evening.

April 7

Up at 8:00. Hauled wash line down and some trash. Cleaned the Chateau and loaded kitchen and baggage and started for Dole, France at 4:00. Nice ride but cold and dusty. Tankersley had tent in good shape. Nice country coming down.

April 8

Glad to sleep in my own sack. Cold as the devil. Slept till 11:00. What a chow and wash line. Chow no good. Helped put a door in tent and antenna for radio. Rumors.

April 9

None of us on missions..Fooled around and wrote letters. Rumors about requiring 60 missions. I don't give a damn.

April 10

Up for mission. Sweat it out. Briefing at 6:50..take off at 11:00 but delayed until 2:00. Maj Sharp, Johnson, Walters, Featherston, Goering, and I in 06. About 30 bursts of 88mm flak from Schweinfurt, Germany over target. Wiped town out and our Infantry walked in. Seventy two ships from our group on mission.

April 11

Practice bomb mission...ten runs. Lyons, Jones, Garvey, Trias and I in 02. Back at 12:00. Dalton, Tank and I went to Auxonne, France. A very nice place. Came back for chow and wrote letters. What a ride with those French drivers in the truck.

April 12

Up early 5:30. Briefed to expect 200 fighters near Munich. Canelled at 10:00..raining. Slept. At 10:30 Weber told us about the death of President Roosevelt. Didn't sleep a bit well thinking about it.

April 13

Awakened by boys when they left for briefing, but didn't see any reason to get up before 11:00. Sweat a big line out. Tank and Dalton talked me into going to Auxonne with them. Plenty of good looking girls..took pictures..back for chow and went to a bar to listen to some boys play music.

April 14

Slept till 10:00. Other boys on a mission. Weber and his two dogs and I went fishing in the Somme River near here. Fooled around and to bed. Mission tomorrow.

April 15

Real early briefing..3:20..breakfast 4:30..take off 6:20..Target Royau, France 10 miles NE of Bordeaux, France. A pocket of resistance. 2,000 bombs on gun emplacements. Country is really nice. No flak and naturally no fighters. Black, Braescher, Murray, Tamasonius, Crist and I. Back at 10:30. Lyons, Garvey to Paris in evening. They went after laundry.

April 16

Slept late. Dalton and Wyatt on early mission...another mission up. 12:30 briefing and take off at 13:10. Black, MacBurnett, Sacco, Katz, Tamosonius and I. Target near Bordeaux on the ?? Pocket. Made three runs on the target and never dropped. 4 hours 45 minutes flying time. Meeting for combat men at 20:00. Capt O'Mahoney. Really good CO.

April 17

Dalton got his sixtieth mission. They got ME 262 fighters and number 3 ship hit with a 37mm round. Lt. Bader and I took a long hike to Molay and the Daubs River and saw and took pictures of blowing up bridges on to Chaussin. We went back to Peseux and home by 9:30. Nearly 25 km. Boy were my dogs barking. Bought 38 eggs and cooked some before bed.

April 18

Slept late and tired from long walk. PRO man took pictures. Sweat out mission. The boys were pretty well shot up. Number 21 crashed near Nancy. Blue was on it.

April 19

Briefing 7:30..Take off at 9:00. Target Ingolstadt, Germany ordnance depot 40 miles north of Munich and 40 miles south of Nuremberg.. Domke, Kamanicki, Ferrindino, Bader, Potts, Neal, new boy and I in 11. Circled Mannheim and went on course to OP but target was clouded over and we came back. Went to French farm and got eggs. Evening took a nice walk with Lt. Bader. 4 hours flying time.

April 20

Briefing at 10:30 take off time at 11:10. Target Ingolstadt, Germany. Lekus, McKenzie, new boy, Kron, Norgerg and I in 11. 5 hour mission. Real pretty day. A lot of Germany on fire. The ordnance depot really blew up..smoke to 9,000 feet and flames to 4,000 feet. Circled Mannheim to Rondedeaux. Presented Air Medal by General Doyle from 42nd Wing. (Sixtieth Mission)

April 21

Very nice day and eager about going home. Don't remember much.

April 22

Nice package from home

April 23

Still sweating out being on a mission. Wish I knew whether or not my orders were in . Blue came back from Nancy and gave us a \$5.00 snow job.

April 24

Slept till 10:30. Tank on sick call..Cleaned up clothes and sewed on stripes. Bull session.

April 25

Had my blood pressure taken...158...too much. Fooled around till chow. Weber and I walked about 5 miles up to Toveuz Cite and the chemical works. Really sweat out being on a mission. Thought maybe orders in but no such luck.

April 26

Up for mission. Never slept good last night.Went to ship 02..target Eichfeld..4 hours flying time. Lyons, Lekus, Garvey, Baker, Turner and I. We led the 7th Squadron. Clouds were really built up and we had to return only after making two trips into enemy territory. Other boys..Williams, Zepeda, Cook, Rasche, Nelson, Bush, Cirno, Connell, Purcell orders came in to go home. Good. Bader and I went after eggs.

April 27

Never woke up till 11:00..poor chow. Took pictures in afternoon. Drank some Vin Blanc in the evening. Wrote letters and ate eggs.

April 28

Bad weather. My bags are ready to go home. Hate to see them go without us. Layed around the tent and nearly froze. News good. Mussolini dead.

April 29

Slept late..chow and to laundry. Went out in the evening with Weber, Tank and Klotz. What a night.

April 30

What a morning..I've really had it. Scheduled for mission to Ile il Oleron, a pocket of resistance near Bordeaux. Briefing 11:20.. take off at 1:30. Domke, Ferrindino, Bader, Bolton, Dalton, Hollingcrane, Billinton and I in 11. My worst ride in an airplane . What rough weather. Landed at 6:30 and to bed late.

May 1

Up for breakfast and back to bed..to chow and PX to get rations. What a line to sweat out ..Bocu..big French Holiday.

May 2

Cold as Hell..Bader wanted Dalton and I to go to Dijon but we went the other way. Country was beautiful..rolling hills and roads lined with trees. Trees in bloom. We went to Seurre on the Somme River. Beanne Chalow. They were having a celebration for the fall of Berlin. What beautiful women. Wish I were a Casanova. Back at 1:00. What a ride with Bader.

May 3

Raining yet what a life...Bocu sleeping..wish I could air out my sack. Bader over.

May 4

Raining..sewed stripes on..hunted for eggs..nothing to do.

May 5

Raining..eggs for breakfast. Nothing to do but lay around and sleep. Denmark and Holland surrendered.

May 6

Looks like the war is nearly over. They had a mission up but it was a fake just to keep us thinking we are on combat. 3 hours flying time with Lyons, Coulter, Garvey, Blackberry, Peretto, Tank, Weber and I in 02. Landed 4:30. Had to hurry to make a date with girls. Had Maj Fays jeep..very nice dance. Mama's escorted us..Ha! Ha!

May 7

War over but not officially. Weather beautiful..kinda wish we were going home. We will have to sweat out the Group now. Slept and listened to news. Letter from Mark in SWP.

May 8

Awakened early but I did like it. Orders came through to clear out the Squadron and celebrations are going on everywhere in France. Parades, dances from morning till morning. Everyone drunk or drinking. Supposed to leave tonight but cancelled. To dance in the evening. What a time. Don't lose that French music.Home at 3:00. Sober too.

May 9

Up at 11:00..legs and feet sore from dancing. Up to see Mama, Papa and Michelle. Drank some of the best Vin Blanc. Back home and slept more. Fooled around and contemplated going back to the dance at Tevaux Cite. Finally walked down there. French Band playing..promenaded with girls and back at 3:00..really tired.

May 10

Up at 11:00..wash and chow. PX in the afternoon. Received a package from home. Really nice letter from Ida. Will probably go to dance tonight.

May 11

Still sweating out shipment orders to be out today..finally came this afternoon. Turned in blankets and cot. I'm ready to go. Shorty may go back with Tank. Lyons and all the other boys over to see us off. Left 7:00 for Dole on car with two bags. Pretty heavy. Changed at Dijon for Paris. There were 22 men from the 441st on my way home.

May 12

Rode all night long in a cattle car 3rd class. Really tired..got off at station and rode around Paris. The taxi driver didn't know the way to the 134th Replacement Depot and we arrived here at 8:30. The estate of the Baron Rothchild. What a dump. A very large Chateau and 40 acres of all different lakes and houses and GI stuff. Checked in tents and Weber and I were together. Hope we go out of here soon.

May 13

Up at 7:00 for chow. Slept real good..sweat out shipment. Weber and I walked around on the Rue Versailles and Rue Victor Hugo. Really a nice Sunday morning. Lots of people on the streets. Back at 10:30 to chow. More boys coming in and going out. Had a notion to hop the fence and go to Paris, but too late in the game to mess things up .

May 14

Up for breakfast. Played hearts..alerted for shipment..to show "Brazil".

May 15

Up at 5:00 for shipment. Left Paris Station at 8:00. Traveled first class to Deippe where we boarded a ship for New Haven, England. Heavy fog and we nearly ran into the white cliffs of Dover. Made three runs. Changed from Francs to Pounds and took first class train to London 12:00 and checked into a Red Cross.

May 16

Up at 9:00 and took a shower and got a shave. Ate at a snack bar and rode two story busses around London. Saw St. Paul's Cathedral. Really impressive. Westminster Abbey, London Bridge. Bombing damage but not too bad compared to some I have seen. Dinner at Red Cross. Weber, Dalton, Wyatt and I went to a club in the evening. Pretty good time.

May 17

Up at 9:00 and ready to go. Had chow and caught taxi after getting pictures taken. Left at 3:05 for Chorley Lanes. Rode 3rd class..not too bad. Country really beautiful and green. Changed trains at Preston for Chorley Lanes. Met other boys already in camp. Had first Coca Cola since Sardinia. Showers and good sack.

May 18

To Orientation..chow good. Met Caley. Had pictures censored and money changed. Got PX rations and signed KP list. To a stage show in the evening. Really good.

May 19

Never slept good. Up at 5:00 for KP..cook's helper..good deal. In charge of bread room in the afternoon. Bought a \$100.00 money order. To day room in the evening.

May 20

Up at 7:30..roll call at 8:00. Fooled around till noon. Signed for a pass to Chorley. Raining..should wash clothes, but too cold. New boys in mostly B-17's flying home. How I envy them being here. What a life. To town with Caley. Beer tasted good. What crazy girls..about ten to 1. Met a very nice girl. To see "Over Tokyo"

May 21

Up at 8:00 for work call. Cleaned the latrine in Block 8..took all morning..slept and went to work in receiving. Didn't do much. Caley and I to town in the evening ..good time.

May 22

Slept till 8:00 and cleaned out barracks..to town in the evening. Dalton, Weber, Caley and I. These girls must think they will never see another man. What a life.

May 23

Up at 8:00 and cleaned up Block 6..not much to it. Checked clothing records in the afternoon. Hope we get on our way home soon. To town and had a date with Dot. Enjoyed myself immensely. Had chips and tea at 10:00..back by 12:00..still wasn't dark.

May 24

Up for formation and cleaned out officers barracks..really dirty. Chow good. More boys coming in. Down to the Aero Club for a phone call. Made a date and had a good time.

May 25

Pulled a small detail..ready to go home by row boat if possible. Wrote Mom a letter and made a date but broke it. Went with Caley and Moore down past the other hotel..1,200 girls who work in a munitions factory.

May 26

Not much doing..still sweating it out..Hope not much longer. Raining each day. Met some Irish girls in the evening. They sure don't like the Limey's..can't say as I blame them though..me neither..

May 27

On baggage detail for boys flying home. No detail in pm. Caley, Shorty and I to town..not much doing...too many GI's in town.

May 28

Slept till 8:00..new boys in from the 320th..Hart and Cirimo...PX rations. A lot of boys here now..big chow lines but still good chow. Still eager to get out of here and on my way home. Restricted for not getting up for reveille..Ha!. Weber, Caley, Dalton and I to GI beer hall..back early.

May 29

Up at 8:00.. chow..detailed to clean up hospital..not bad..good chow..nothing doing.. Weber, Moore, Caley and I went to a pub in pm and had a lot of fun.

May 30

Up at 8:15 for duty. Called out for 24 hour guard duty..2 hours on and 4 hours off. Not bad. Chow still good but I want to get home. To poor show "Practically Yours"

May 31

Off guard duty at 6:00..chow and took shower and to bed...slept till noon and again in the afternoon. To the pub with Dalton, Weber, Caley and Moore..good time.

June 1

Up for chow and ready to go...I saw the other boys off. Left at 9:00 after lecture and service records. 40 mile ride to Warrington, England..to leave tomorrow. Hope so. Nice Red Cross and Aero Club..to bed..slept good.

June 2

Supposed to take off..raining..checked chutes and to Red Cross Club. Slept and to Red Cross in evening..good cokes..shower and bed.

June 3

Slept good and checked chow...plane is B-24M number 256. Looks OK. Back to chow and packed bags in plane. Took off at 12:20 for Valley Wales. Weather not bad. Guarded plane and to chow. Came back and made up sack in plane.

June 4

Slept in ship. Took off at 7:00..weather bad and cold as the devil at 8,000 feet. We arrived at Iceland at 12:40..not much to brag about..snow on hills and lava rock. Chow and ready to take off at 9:30..sun was still up. Lincoln and I crawled in to sleeping bags and slept till we landed at 4:00 in Goose Bay Laborador..we passed Greenland at night.

June 5

Goose Bay was a beautiful place. Four passenger cars picked us up and to chow. We came back to sleep on the plane. A lot of planes going for Bradley Field. Ate a lot of ice cream and finally to bed in plane..cool.

June 6

Up at 7:00 to breakfast..waited around to leave but didn't. To show in the afternoon. Read at the Red Cross and Stars and Stripes Club. Tried to go fishing..Had to wait for leaving. Bed in ship.

June 7

Hoop-La-La. Mush for breakfast. Going to leave at 9:30 for Bradley Field. Lots of snow, lakes, ice and scrub trees. We crossed the St Lawrence River..boy does it look

cold as the devil. Weather bad...we landed at Bradley Field, Conn. At 2:40. Processed and assigned to barracks..plenty OK. \$7.25 per diem. To movie.

June 8

Slept plenty good(sheets). Called at 5:00 to leave. Left at 6:45 on train for Miles Standish Field, Mass. Train slow..arrived at 12:30..they had a band playing in the theatre. We were divided into groups for the Reception Center (Leavenworth # 17). Chow and put in a call for home. It took 15 minutes..Leila answered . Really nice to hear someone I knew...back to sack.

June 9

No further information was recorded

