



WAR DIARY OF PAUL J. CARBONE
B-17 GUNNER on HANG the EXPENSE CREW

Note: This diary was transcribed from the handwritten record by Les Lautman in November 1995. This transcript is located in computer file CARBONE1.DOC. Care was taken to transcribe it as written. Where parentheses () are used they duplicate the original. Brackets [] have been used by the transcriber to add information or clarity.

5 SEP TO 20 OCT 1943

Have had one hell of a time since I left the States. Would rather be in Greenland than any step base. Picked up lot of canned goods there and they certainly come in good where a fellow isn't used to having fish and potatoes for breakfast. Can see where they should raise more chicken for soup. The best meal here is an old GI meal. Everything rationed and you can't eat a damned thing except tomato (soap)[tomatos tasted odd] sandwiches and tea. Can't get used to that. It's worse than their beer here. Had some good scotch 1'6 [one schilling sixpence] in pub. Have done a lot of traveling and Scotland is the place to be- more fun. Went to Framlingham and spent 1 and 1/2 days in London. Went to Bovington to gunnery school-then to Snettisham Beach [Snetterton Heath] for ground-to-air firing-then to Bury St. Edmunds to 94th. Stayed there about a week and transferred to Thorpe Abbots to 100th Group. They are supposed to have a rough record.

21 OCT 1943

Flew today after it cleared up for two hours. Just formation. Had radio school. Trying to get code down. Got mail from States today. Probably last of my old mail catching up. Been getting plenty of sleep lately 10 to 12 hrs a day and no passes for quite a while. You can sure tell you are over England by the masonry and the way things are built.

22 OCT 1943

Rained but cleared up and we flew again in 471 pretty good ship. I spewed everything I ate but didn't leave me sick. Got mail from home- first letter with my APO on it and other mail-A.P. Black couldn't get in the ball turret today (suction). Dropped bombs from 13,000 and someone dropped on a village. Malfunction on bomb rack. Had class on frostbite.

23 OCT 1943

No school today all cancelled weather was fine. Flew this afternoon on a practice mission but heavy overcast and no bombs dropped. Was 20 below zero. Got the new ship today 035. Black couldn't get in ball cause oxygen was on backwards. Saw picture here-Time Out for Love Claudette Colbert and Fred McMurray. No mail today. Third straight day. Got my laundry today- 5-6. Also moved to a new barracks. Signed payroll.

24 OCT 1943

Fine day. No school- Start briefing at eight AM now. Flew today and didn't get a dam thing done. Was dark when we got down. Got helmet (steel) fixed. Practice mission with plenty of 47's around us. Got to bed at 7:30- all fagged out. Flew 997- "Heaven can Wait". 15,000. -10°. Write home before I get to sleep. Had a close call [Difficulty in attaining liftoff].

25 OCT 1943

Flew today. Practice mission -20,000- -20°. Fired nearly 100 rounds into water couldn't find splash target. Malfunction in feed chute. Hope to get new one. Cleaned guns- Got up at 7:00 & left for breakfast- didn't get back till dark all out. Wrote home & Tommy & Aggie and went to sleep. Adam was home and was in Sicily. No school- fine weather. Ate in officer's mess today (late).

26 OCT 1943

Flew today as usual- weather closed in & only flew 2 hrs. Rode ball turret today. PW [prisoner of war] lecture today. Cleaned guns also. Heard from home today. Show- "North of the Klondike".

27 OCT 1943

Flew today as usual. Supposed to go to 25,000 but it was clouded up and closed in on us. Had flexible gunnery today (tracking). Test fired and cleaned guns. Chute was on wrong side [Paul always buckled one side of his parachute because he had a bad right shoulder and feared that in an emergency he would not be able to quickly fasten two buckles]. No mail today. Show today "Intermezzo". Washed cloths in octane. Felt lousy today.

28 OCT 1943

Foggy all day. Had school (flack and radio). No mail today. Having a big party tonight- might have some fun for a change. Washed my tans. Broken spoke in my bike a mystery. Got my picture from photo lab today. Sending some home. This evening (P. Poor).

29 OCT 1943

Fair today but we didn't fly. No mail today. Sure got plenty of hell today- Lt. Lucky, Maj. Kidd & Maj. Turner. The boys are getting off the beam. Had flex trainer [A gunnery ground training device] today & radio school. German invasion of low countries & France. Took laundry to be done- the lady wasn't home. Had a swell time at party.

30 OCT 1943

Fair today. They woke the boys up early this morning but scrubbed the mission- Overcast. Went to 27,000 it was 35 below. Had rendezvous there. 38s & 47s. Rhur valley marshaling yards. School today. Went to town today but didn't stay long. Drank cocktails- 2 shillings per. First trip with Hollen.

31 OCT 1943

School today. Very foggy day. Cleaned guns today. Meals were terrible today. Heard from Pauline and answered same.

1 NOV 1943

No flying today but school- 3 hrs of radio. I'm going to buckle down and try to learn something about it. Also cleaned guns today. Barrel was pitted terribly. Worked on it for 3/4 hr. No mail today. Beaver used my bike tonight. Has used Roy's, Bud's and my bike in turn. Got up at 8 AM this morning & was in barracks 1 time until 5 O'clock.

2 NOV 1943

Foggy and dull day- 2 hrs of school.

3 NOV 1943

Got up at 3:30 this morning for mission. Oil coming out of engine caused abortion (1st). We were 2hrs 50 min out. Wilhelmshaven was knocked to hell. It was a milk run. 21s[refers to a crew numbering system] first mission (King was out). Meals are getting bad. First sunshining day for a long time. 47s and 38s for fighter escort. They had no opposition. My lights were stole from my bike. Load-(4-500) 31-100 incendiaries).

4 NOV 1943

Another early mission but was scrubbed. RVMY [Ruhr valley marshaling yards] was to meet spits and 47s as escorts. Heavy flak & heavy opposition. 700 E.F. flew practice mission- 20,000, -20°. Tracked 47s with ease and fun. No mail- no school.

5 NOV 1943

[Mission Number 1.] Got up at 5:45 and the crew of "Hang the Expense" got the first of it's medicine today and it was rough. Went to the Ruhr valley and got Gooplant [unknown]* coal mine & marshaling yards- there was plenty of flak. I got my first souvenir today- a piece of flak in my waist window. Broyles [S/Sgt. Herschel H. Broyles] got hit in the rubber part of his goggles. We got 6 hole in the waist/ behind the co-pilot. Never fired a shot but saw several enemy fighters. Came in on three engines. 21's Tee[S/Sgt. Winfred L Tee, ROG on Pinky Flacks crew] nearly got it- he passed out twice in bomb bay without chute & Chief came to rescue. Joe Boyles of 23[S/Sgt. ROG on R.L. Hughes crew] got it today (head heart). He was a radio operator. Takeoff 9:45 return 4:47. Had trouble with throat mike. (10-500D) load. Protection- 47s & spitfires. Flew high 2nd element- Maj. Turner leader. Clear day- target smoke screened. Alt. 26,400, Temp. -39°, "Heaven Can Wait" [B-17F #42-5997] . Mission not very successful.

6 NOV 1943

Alert but rained most of the day. Got up at 10 O'clock. Letter today from Lou, Ans. same. No school and no flying. Raining tonight but standby. Got mic- put in oxygen mask. Cleaned guns today. Our ship had gee put into it & returned last night. Stdnd-by.

7 NOV 1943

[Mission Number 2.] Standby turned out to be a milk run. It was raining like hell this morning at 3:30. They woke us up at that time- briefed at 4:30- taxi time 7:30- takeoff 7:45- heavy overcast. Turned out to be nice day. Duren was target at entrance to Ruhr. Not much flak. 47 protection- no enemy fighters. 42 incendiary bombs- 27,00 feet, -44° Temp. Flew comp. Group, high in lead group. Got back at 12:30. Nearly got the works by Lt. Love- landed at 11:00. No ships lost. Bombs stuck in bomb bay and had to be salvoed. First mission on "Hang the Expense", [B-17G #42-31035] my second. Cleaned our guns this evening. Got my flying pay this evening. Beaver got frost bitten. Sent souvenirs home- 1pd +10 sh. Notes. Got order for money order- 20 pounds. Mission not very successful.

8 NOV 1943

21 & Mytko [T/Sgt. John Mytko, TTE on Valesh's crew] & Black [S/Sgt. Louis Black, Jr, BTG] got up early 2:30 AM for mission. Clear cold morning (mission scrubbed). Had demonstration today of new armor piercing and incendiary combined shell. Looks pretty good. Cleaned guns. Heard from Frank and Polly. No school. Wrote G.I. Christmas cards. Hit the sack at 8 O'clock (standby). Beavers frost bite is not serious.

9 NOV 1943

Up at 8 O'clock today- no school. A letter from home- answered same. Went on practice mission- 20,000 -13°. 2:00 O'clock takeoff. 5:15 landed, idea was to practice night procedures of landing. Had best chow for dinner today I've had here yet. Flew as tail gunner today- Mytko didn't fly. He got stranded at briefing room.

10 NOV 1943

Up at eight this morning. Ate and cleared up barracks for inspection. Turner was peeved off at Mytko's and Jordan's bed. Flew this afternoon- 14,000 -10°. Flew in nose and ball turret. Jordan missed flight and Lt. Valesh was peeved off. Jordan was to see him but Jordan didn't go this evening. Ceiling was low and we buzzed for a few miles at 105 MPH.

11 NOV 1943

What an Armistice Day. Got up at 6:15 and went to briefing. Takeoff at 10:50 AM- climbed to 24,000 -31°, was 15 minutes from target and had recall. Returned at 2:00 O'clock. P-38 fighter escort. Munsen marshaling yards. English were not successful so we got the job. Our P.F. equipment went out. Col. Harding Wing Commander. No mail today. Should have crossed target, one of the toughest in Germany.

12 NOV 1943

Up at seven for a practice mission but it was scrubbed. Had to wait in chow line 1 hr for breakfast. Air-Sea rescue and comments on yesterday's mission. 21 came back with some weird tales- Coons was with them. We aren't getting our pass- the first dirty deal & probably won't be the last by the looks of things. Picked up Mytko's laundry out at ship-7-3/. Went to bath this evening and on way back MPs stopped us for not having tail lights on our bikes, took name & serial number. The Col. Must have gotten hell for the smart one he pulled yesterday. Whatever happened to him it couldn't be right. It was plenty cold and Jordan got a sinus from it. Cleaned up my pistol today- Alert is on. 8: PM.

13 NOV 1943

No. 3. Got up at 3 O'clock this morning- briefing at four thirty. Takeoff at 7:30. Target Bremen marshaling yards and docks. Load 42 incendiary bombs. Altitude-25,000 feet temperature -49°. Pathfinder gave us a royal hookin again today [PFF couldn't find target]. The sooner they do away with is the sooner this will be over. Dumped bombs into the sea. Met enemy fighters. FW-190s. 21 saw 4-189s. Also 2-24s go down and 1 FW-190. Landed at 1:55 PM Got back to barracks at 4:00, ate and cleaned, got to the sack at 8 PM. The worst mission yet- we had a little trouble today. Black's oxygen mask came disconnected & after test firing his guns he passed out & I broke terminal lead to turret and cranked it up & he was slumped over- he was heavy as hell but I got him up far enough to feed him oxygen, he came to OK but was too weak for his own good & gave us a little resistance. Everything turned out alright after I passed out twice-- my mask was frozen nearly solid. Was over Denmark, by mistake of course. Bombs away- 12:26. No mail today. Last night I put the scapular Pauline sent me on. Quite a co-incident. Dropped bombs off Zuider Zee in Holland.

14 NOV 1943

Up at 8 O'clock this morning & as usual missed breakfast. Had a defense drill this morning. Supposed to take waist guns out of plane. Heard from home first time in a long time. Heard from Ag. Had school this afternoon- radio and security. Broyles name was in Combat Library for being hit by flak on Gelsenkirchen raid. Rained like hell today. Cleaned guns & got Amm. Boxes cut & put back of windows.

15 NOV 1943

Up at eight just in time for breakfast. Went to ship & cleaned guns, got a new bolt, camways were nicked, new bolts have very poor mold. Radio school today. Roy was the only one who flew today- it was a short hop to Bovingdon. Rainy all day. Got restricted today for 1 week for not having tail lights on my bike- MPs are grabbing everybody. Alert is on.

16 NOV 1943

N0. 4 on Hang the Expense. Slept 3 hrs. Last night. Up at 2:15 this morning- briefed at 3:15- takeoff at 6:15. Target hydroelectric plant in Norway- bombs away 11:15 & we sure blew the place to hell. No flack- no fighters. Bomb load 5-1000 pounders. Returned to base at 3:08 PM. 12,000 ft, -29°. Saw one B-17 go down in flames right on coast of Norway. Engines caught fire & he broke formation, salvoed bombs & 9 chutes were seen. The plane made a sea of fire. 21 flew with another formation & got in late. A-B-C-B-17 + C-24 groups flew with us. Only one fighter was seen by the 8th Group. 9 hr. Mission. Hope we never have to go back to Norway.

17 NOV 1943

Got up at 9 O'clock today- missed critique on yesterday's mission. Roy [S/Sgt. Roy Ulrich, TG on HTE] was the only one there. Class on security. Cleaned guns today. Write-up on incident of Bremen raid in Combat library. Should be in paper at home. Rained all day today. Went to see about replacing parachute & they didn't have any more. Heard from Lovete today, answered same. Mail from home is very slow.

18 NOV 1943

Fog & rain all day. Radio school.

19 NOV 1943

21 got up at three this morning & got another mission up on us- they got back around 2 PM. Target Gelsenkirchen in Ruhr valley- 10-500lbs. Another crew was to take up our ship & buried wheels getting out of dispersal area. First pass started at 4 O'clock today- they cut our 48 hr pass to 32 hrs. We had a sweet time getting back from London at some expense. Didn't do much in London- went to Washington Club (Red Cross) & to a show. Got a bit on the mellow side. All of crew except Jordan & we had 2 quarts before we hit London.

20 NOV 1943

Got up at 9:30 this morning (in London at Red Cross club). Spent most of a day looking for binoculars. No soap though. Went to Main PX. It is very small and has practically nothing. Looked in the register & found out that Bob Thorne from Newburg Britian Rd. Is on the Post. Left London at 5:36 PM and arrived at Norwich at 12:20. Took cab to Thorpe Abbotts for 4 pounds. Got in camp at 4:10 AM & was late but made out OK. Lt. Valesh got in early & the rest was later than we were.

21 NOV 1943

Got to bed at 4:30 AM and got up at 11:30, just in time for dinner. No flying for several days now but the order which forced us back early from pass indicates action. Radio school today 1-hr. Heard from Aggie and answered same. Broyles got a package and we ate all day. It so happens that he got the first package of both crews.

22 NOV 1943

Nice day today- Val & Flack took #800 up & did a buzz job. Lucky [Cpl. Ernest M. Jordan, ROG on Valesh crew] and Tee were with them. Saw picture "Arsenic & Old Lace"- Cary Grant & Priscilla Lane. Took my laundry out today. Met Bob Thorne today from home. He is married & looks quite different. He also drives for motor pool. He has trouble with his back from Norman. No Alert.

23 NOV 1943

Up at 4:30, brief at 5:30. Takeoff time 7:30, 7-500, 22-100 Inc. Target- Mission scrubbed before takeoff. We got a lecture today on security & we sure needed it. Everybody was blabbing this morning & it got to the wrong person.

24 NOV 1943

Alert called but mission scrubbed before mission call time. Nice day & nothing unusual happened except I got Mail from Tony & home today. Wrote to Mike Di & answered same to home.

25 NOV 1943

TG day. Some alert but was scrubbed & we slept till 9 O'clock, played a little crap, broke out even. Went to dinner at 12 O'clock just in time for grace & sat opposite Chaplain (Berrick & I). Saw picture "International Lady". Gordon & Val flew with S-2. We also got a quart from Val for the holiday. To bed at 10:30 PM. Alert is on.

26 NOV 1943

21 was called at four this morning - they went to Bremen. Heavy flak- no fighters. Rest of Hundred went to Paris- didn't drop bombs but they got hit by quite a few fighters. Loss 1-ship. 8-500, 21-100 incendiaries, Alt 28,000, -50°. A memorable day to 21 & 22 after coming down from a mission Flack and Valesh took our ship with Campion & two girls from the Red Cross Clubmobile and started for a spin but the start was the end for they zig zagged down 1/2 the runway and swerved to the right just ahead of our tent about 15 ft off the ground and couldn't clear the trees- Clipped the turret maintenance shack & a large oak tree, what was left came to rest in a half-wall (brick) half-shingle barn & burned- it was a complete loss. Flack is injured (extent unknown). Val will probably be grounded. Mytko flew with another crew(20). Johnson and Zetlan[Lt. John R. (Dick) Johnson NAV and Lt. Maurice G. Zetlan BOM, on Valesh crew] also flew with different crews. It was almost a miracle the way they got out of that plane- Campion was thrown out, others walked out. (Error) Ship plowed through 3 large oaks instead of one as I originally thought.

New regulation for combat crewmen, they must take vitamin tablets. That's how rough it is.

27 NOV 1943

Up at 7:30 & ate breakfast for a change. Stayed out at ship all morning & got the low down on it. Had school today- radio and night vision. Val and Campion are out of the hospital- Flack is at 12th Evac. Hospital with torn ligaments and cracked vertebrae. No mail & no alert tonight- 9:30.

28 NOV 1943

Had an easy day today - in spite of the rain we ran about all day. Saw Val & he is under arrest to quarters. There is talk about our crew going to the flak house. No school. Heard from home today. Talked to Val this evening & C.M. will take place when Pinky gets back. Reason seems to be a sheared pin in the tail wheel & No. 4 engine power loss. Wrote home + Aggie. No alert.

29 NOV 1943

Up at 5:30 today & flew with Griffin's crew today (24). Target Bremen, 27,000, -50°. Storage house was target- target was missed by 30 miles. They met fighters of the famous Abbeville Circus & they were in bright colors. Mytko-Booth-Johnson also flew with us. We aborted 10 minutes out over the channel- No.1 cylinder had burnt out valves- ship-(051). Alert is on. 10:00. Mail Aggie = Sam.

30 NOV 1943

Pay Day - 38-14-9. Called at 4:15 this morning & flew with Lt. Luckadoo in 307 (Skipper). Briefing 5:30, Target a German city North of Cologne [Solingen]. We got mid-way of channel and two engines went out so we aborted- load 8-500, 21-100 incendiary, Temp.-59°, 27,000 feet. Returned at 12:10 PM- a short fast day today. No mail. Met our new pilot, Lt. Drummond- he is from Ky & has flown as a Sergeant. It looks bad for Lt. Valesh. Helped the boys with their guns. No alert. A boy from the 418th got it in the back today. He was a ball turret man & couldn't be moved until he was given several blood transfusions. Another crew- everyone except Nav., Pilot and Co.P passed out from lack of oxygen. One of the boys who went to assist the tail gunner froze both of his hands and has to have them amputated. Kirkpatrick has frozen feet & is grounded temporarily. 8:30.

1 DEC 1943

Got up at 10:30AM- went to briefing room for test on dingy drill. Had meeting with new pilot at 5:30 & to straighten things out & he seems to be a regular fellow and their Co-Pilot Oallia got signed to Griffin's crew.(24) Got rations today. Lost 10 pounds in crap game. Let Val censor my mail & he seems sad but his name is opposite #997 on the board. No Alert.

2 DEC 1943

Up at 10:30 AM. Sure makin up for lost time as far as sleep. All the boys are out tonight getting stewed & I'm in bed at 10.30. We just got a call on the carpet from the Colonel for various things. Czech & Hutchinson are here- arrived with the replacements. No school today & no mail. Went out to ship "Picadilly Lilly II" & cleaned guns. Got two new fellows in barracks- spares. Wrote to Chuck. Standby is on. 9:00.

3 DEC 1943

Easy day & breakfast chow is lousy as usual. Didn't go to ship in morale hope that they take it from us. Drew new parachute today- Black, Roy & I- Jordan was refused. Tried to get M.O. [money order] & couldn't so lost it in black jack again. Heard world news at Red

Cross. Got two new fellows- they were ground crew & trained on base. No mail today. Haven't flown for a couple days now. Standby. 9:00.

4 DEC 1943

Up at 8 this morning- the first sunny day for a long while. Today they're breaking in the new boys & 791 cracked up. I watched him come in- his let down was very steep & before he could level off his right wing touched & then he leveled off and gained a few hundred feet in altitude & all of a sudden he swerved to the left & came in on the right wing & nose & was a complete wreck. I was in dispersal 7 near an AT-17 that had just come in. I was the first to reach the wreck & three members were roaming around it (one injured). Then I heard moan and shuffling from the mouth- I ran over the wing & the B or N [Bombardier or Navigator] was pinned under a engine. I lifted it & Black & Sam took him out. He opened his mouth & was bleeding terribly. His thumb on the right hand was cut off completely & only a match-stick thickness of skin was holding it. He complained of pain internally. The other man in the tail was also injured pretty bad. He was lying by the tail wheel all covered with Amm. [Ammunition] 4 out of 6 were injured- Crash approximately 3 O'clock. Jordan & Berrick were out all night & came back this evening at 8:30. Good news- we fly with Val tomorrow in #800. Drummond is flying 062- Loves crew(Love sick). Alert is on. 9:00.

5 DEC 1943

Number 5. Up at 4:15 this morning, briefing at 5:30, taxi 7:30, takeoff 7:45, target Bordeaux air [field]. Alt. 21,250 -35°. Flew #800. Ship is not worth flying. I had oxygen trouble today. I sure suffered all day with a solid cake of ice in the tube of my mask. This evening I have a stiff neck and split headache. Reserve mask is old type and I had to hold it to my mouth by hand. Couldn't eat. Landed at near 4:30. 1 ship went to Spain. Flak was light & to the left of us. P-38 & P-47 escorts. Had trouble finding field, ceiling very low.

Mytko has 6

Johnson " 6

Zetlan " 6

Rest of crew has 5. Tried four times for my fifth mission.

9:00, Standby.

6 DEC 1943

Up bright & early for chow- Chowan woke us up. Put parachute out. Found bike broken- Berrick. A B-24 was in our dispersal and we gave it a good once over. Cleaned guns today on #800. Supposed to fly but lent my equipment to new officers that Val was checking out. Black, Mytko and Jordan only E.M. that flew. Made out money order for \$150. today & to be picked up in two days. Won 3 pounds in black jack game. 9:30, Standby.

7 DEC 1943

Very foggy this morning. No school. Went to show "Above Suspicion". Talked to Bob Thorne. Broyles got a package. Checked out new equipment "frost mask". 22 got their ship back today. Top turret guns were dirty. Lost 5 pounds in poker. Lost my fountain pen today. No alert-11:30

8 DEC 1943

Up bright & early & went to saw wood. Tee, Black, Ulrich & I. Hall & Jordan in the afternoon. No mail. Lost again in poker. Had a long talk with Bob Thorne tonight & got straightened up in case of emergency. Gave instructions to new crews on #997. Sawed wood enough for 2 weeks. 11:00 - Berrick [S/Sgt. Justin .S. Berrick, TG on Flacks crew] fixed bike. Standby.

9 DEC 1943

Up early and ate breakfast. Had bacon and bread and grapefruit juice. Food is very poor. Dull & foggy all day. Heard from home today. Tee, Joe, Shorty, Chief & Beaver got stewed and came in raising hell- its a pity these boys can't drink & act like they had any sense at all. Sent \$150. home by money order today. Justy & Jordan went to Norwich. Heard from La Mothe. No alert- 2:15AM

10 DEC 1943

Dark day. Nothing unusual happened. Alert is on.

11 DEC 1943

Mission Number 6. Flew- 424 [Probably B-17F #42-3474, see reference to #474 in diary entry 27 Dec. 43] King Bee, Jansen's ship [probably Lt. Carl H. Janssen]. Got up at 3:00, Briefing at 5:30, takeoff 8 O'clock, Target Emden Sub-pens. Alt. 25,000 -35°, 10-500, 12-100 incendiary. Target was Plastered. British recon showed smoke 20,000 ft. high. Landed at 2 O'clock. Saw 3- B-17s go down from fighter attacks. They had every kind of German fighter up they have. Our Group got 5 & 3 probables. Total for day 117 E.F [enemy fighters]- #715[B-17G #42-37715, Sugarfoot] Haddock [Probably Lt. J.R. Haddox] was lost today. Alert is on.

12 DEC 1943

Up at 8 O'clock- alert called off. Reason unknown. Val was going for a new ship but weather closed in. Gave Bob Thorne my crew pictures & insignia to hold. Yesterday my shoe burnt a half dollar hole in my sock & burnt my foot. I also flew with 2 right hand heated gloves. The boys got two pheasants & we fixed them & had french fries, only & best fresh meat I've had in the E.T.O.

13 DEC 1943

Mission Number 7. Up at 3:30, briefing at 5 O'clock. No breakfast for past three missions. Target- Kiel Important S.C.[Shipping channel] trade harbor. Alt. 26,400 -39°, takeoff 8:30, landed 3:20, second to come in. Howell of crew 24 got hit in the elbow with flak. Jordan got a piece of flak from our left wing. We got 5 holes today & flew 066 "Fools Rush In" [B-17G #42-31066]. Had trouble with 2 & 3 engines. 2 new crew flew with our squadron today- Hutch's first mission. We really pulverized target & it was 10/10 cloud cover. Flak was very thick and accurate. Also met flak at Heligoland. Lt. Booth [John E. Booth, CP on Valesh crew] and Black got sick today. Black is still in hospital at 9 tonight. I flew ball turret back today. ALERT IS ON.

14 DEC 1943

Up at 2 O'clock this morning. Briefing at 3:30, load was 8-500 - 12-100, target was --[word missing]- mission scrubbed about 15 min. before takeoff time. Briefed at 6:15 for a second mission- it was also scrubbed at 8 O'clock. Came back to bed at 10:30 & slept until 2:35 this afternoon. Went to [word missing] tonight- got back at 1 O'clock- Black got out of hospital & Booth is still in. Sausages and eggs. No alert- 1:30AM

15 DEC 1943

Up at 10:30 this morning & went to Personnel to reinstate my allotment which was cut-off temporarily. Will commence Jan 1, 44. Got package from home today. 5 others also got packages. Booth is also in hospital still. Howell is in 12th Evac. Love & Griffin's crew are on passes today. Got rations today. ALERT-IS-ON- 8:30

16 DEC 1943

[Mission Number 8.] Up at 4 this morning- briefing at 5:30, takeoff at 8:30, E.T.A. 3:30. 24,000 ft. -29°. Bomb load 10-500 - 21-100 Inc. Target- Bremen- I think we hit it for once. More flak than I've ever seen. Saw 3-190s get it. No 17s lost from our group. Our escort was late & we didn't even get to see it. Heard from home today. Flew 066, [B-17G #42-31066] "Fools Rush In". Drummond Co-Pilot [Arch. J. Drummond] Saw Booth tonite. NO ALERT- 9:30

17 DEC 1943

Up at 8 this morning- had poor breakfast. Washed shirt and hat in gas. Crew 21 got pass today. Pictures of yesterdays raid were poor but smoke was said to have risen to 20,000 ft. Got some very old mail today. One of the nicest days I've seen here. Landed through overcast yesterday (instruments)- Ceiling 800 ft. Visibility 1/2 mile. Boys are out getting stewed. NO ALERT 10:30

18 DEC 1943

Up at 7:10 & had tomato juice for breakfast. Raining all day. Heard from home. Went to 997 to clean and instruct on gun maintenance. Re-wrapped watch- I'm going to send it home tomorrow. NO ALERT- 10:30

19 DEC 1943

Went on pass to London- 1:30 to 5:50. Stayed at Washington Club, booked for two nights- Jordan took one. Ate supper together with officers. Got to bed at 10:30. Was feeling good.

20 DEC 1943

Got up at 10:30 this morning- had air raid last night & saw remains of it this morning. Watched workmen clean up wreckage. Called up Pauline & caught 1:15 train for [a town near Liverpool]. Got there at 6:30 & met her at 7:30. Also met father Joe. Slept in Hut #18. Got to bed at 11:30. Polly has gained a little weight but she looks as good as ever. [Polly was an Army nurse. The Carbones and her parents were close friends and Godparents to each other's children]

21 DEC 1943

Up at 5:45 for reveille & ate breakfast. Polly went on duty at seven. I saw her before I left. Got a carton of Camels & gum. Caught 7:15 train & got back at 3:55. Came via St. Pancras & Liverpool St. Station. Missed bus back and had to wait for late train bus. Found plenty of mail here including clipping of 1st Bremen raid. 21 got another mission yesterday. (Alert) 11: O'clock

22 DEC 1943

Didn't fly today. 21 got another mission (Munster & 41 incendiary bombs. Slow & easy day. Wrote Aggie, Polly & home. NO-ALERT- 11:00

23 DEC 1943

Up at 1 O'clock this morning. Cleaned my corner out good- Shoes and OD's also. Put new patch on blouse. One letter from home today. Mailed wrist watch to Quiedo. Alert is on & 21 went out to get stewed. Got my laundry- 8-11. Took tab to Pop. Took more laundry over. 11:00 ALERT

24 DEC 1943

[Mission Number 9.] Got up at seven this morning. Briefing at 8:30, Takeoff at 11:40, load 300 pounders. Landed around four O'clock. Altitude 12,000 ft. Target Northern France. Heard from Johnie today. The boys stayed up all night cooking the King's birds. I didn't go to Church- In bed with cold and headache. No flak (2 bursts) or fighters. Very good escort. Sick today. NO ALERT- NO SLEEP.

25 DEC 1943

Finished letter I was writing yesterday. Had dinner at 3:00PM- was exceptionally good. Got up at 10:00 O'clock and went to clean guns. Flew 412 a new ship with blisters in waist. They're not so hot. Broke off sight & burnt out bulb in Opt. Sight. Was in bed & Bud got us out for party. Got polluted. 4AM. Sick in bed today.

26 DEC 1943

Got up at 10 O'clock, went to Church, came back & went to bed again. Have bad head cold & pains over left eye. Ate supper at 4:30 & went back to the sack. NO ALERT.

27 DEC 1943

Got up at 9:30 this morning. Had coffee & donuts this morning. Had bad headache all day & went on sick call- took 3 treatments & walked around with a patch on my eye all day. Got to bed early. A stage show tonight. A big crack-up today- 4 ships, Pr.[practice] mission. 2-351 ships. 3 were completely devastated- happened in landing (King Bee)(474). ALERT IS ON.

28 DEC 1943

No call & got up at 8 O'clock. Went on sick call. Got three more treatments today- laid in bed all day. A B-24 was taxiing out of its dispersal & went across perimeter & destroyed worker's shack. They gave us a new ship today (796 Sunny II)[B-17F #42-0796]-. It has been thru 25 already. Eye still giving me trouble. NO MAIL- NO ALERT 9:00

29 DEC 1943

Got up at 8 and went to sick call again. Got more treatments today & pain seems to be traced back to tooth- am going to have it x-rayed . 062 cracked up today [Two A/C with this # were lost between 30 Jan & 10 Feb. 44]- about fifth ship that has been put out of action in 4 days- without any missions. Swarms of 24s were in sky today- formation wasn't extra [B-24's were not tucked in tight formation]. Roy got fruit cake today. NO MAIL- ALERT IS ON. 9:00

30 DEC 1943

NUMBER 10. Got up at 3 & briefed at 6 & took off at 8:15- Load 10-500, -32°, 23,000ft. Target C.F. Ludwigshafen, SW Germany. 10/10 cloud cover. Flew lead, low , second element- was to fly right wing. My suit burnt out & I darn near froze & then flak gave us plenty of

close ones over the target (plenty accurate). Last of all, fighters hit us and blew our stabilizer nearly off with 20MM's- nose and bomb bay also got shot up. It took P & CP's effort to hold her up. We got orders to put our chutes on and it was certainly a funny feeling. We landed it on E.C. a small fighter base on W.C.O.D. Saw 47 [P-47] in same shape. 997 [B-17F #42-5997, Heaven Can Wait] went down- fire- Smith [Lt. Frances C. Smith]. We lost 3 planes. Flew 768- new ship.[Probably B-17G #42-39867, see A/C reference at diary item 7 Jan 44] Ate in Sgts. Mess- tea at four O'clock & supper at seven-30. Slept in an old house with no fire and 4 blankets. Nearly froze again. To bed at nine. LYPNE

31 DEC 1943

Up at eight and ate 1 piece of bacon and two sausages for breakfast. Went to ship & removed equipment- went to railway station. Went to Manston field to catch air transportation back to base. Waited till 3 O'clock & no plane so we went to 94 [94th Bomb Group at Bury St. Edmunds] with their plane & caught truck back to base after waiting two hrs. for it. Got to base at 9:30 & started on a quart of Old Overholt & then we killed 3 qts. of scotch by the New Year. The results (stinko) & sick but we had a good time. The whole barrack & our ground crew the 1st. Sgt. & Roy was the only sober one here. Got to bed about 1:30 Or 2 O'clock. Slept in Broyles bed. He was in mine.

1 JAN 1944

Got up at 11 O'clock & went to dinner- couldn't eat. Got a new heated suit & gloves & shoes. Got equipment left in tent. Got two letters today. Went to Church at six this evening. Ate supper with a bit better appetite. In bed at 8 O'clock. STANDBY

2 JAN 1944

Got up at 8 O'clock- got briefed today for No. 11- went to class for fighter tactics. Heard from home & Aggie. A soggy day & stayed in all day carrying a cute shiner. Hit the sack at 10 O'clock. ALERT IS ON

3 JAN 1944

Got up at 9 O'clock & had coffee & sewed insignia on overcoat. No mail- missed critique of NO. 10 for gunners. Slicked up for our Air Medals tonight & was presented them by Col. Harding. Father Phil was also there. Will sent it home after next pass. Capt. Swarhouse's crew got 4 day pass (pull no doubt). ALERT IS ON- 10 O'clock.

4 JAN 1944

Number 11. Got up at 4 this morning, briefed at 5, taxi at 8:15, takeoff at 8:30, target Kiel. Went over target on 3 engines[Johnson log says engine failed after bomb run]- plenty of flak- no fighters. On way back oil ran out of #2 engine & prop ran away- couldn't feather it & whole ship vibrated. Had 30 gallons of gas left when we landed at RAF Leconfield. Prop was ready to fly off & froze after landing. We oiled guns & stayed overnight, Major Turner picked us up. Nine Little Yanks + A Jerk- 271 [B-17F #42-3271]. Aussies + Canada [Stationed on base in addition to Brits]

5 JAN 1944

Ate at 8 this morning & had a good English breakfast. Had a few ales- then sweated out the Major- he came at 4:30PM & we took off at 5:05- landed here at 6 O'clock. Heard from Joe Brizelzinski and he's not flying any more- doing K.P. (sinus trouble). Ate chow & Bo-- was up. Hit the sack. Lost a B.T. gunner yesterday- no oxygen. STAND BY- 10 O'clock.

6 JAN 1944

Got up at 10 O'clock- mission scrubbed. Went to get new heated suit and turn in gloves. Our ship came back today- had Tokyo tank blown up and oxygen system out besides visible battle damage we could see. The other crew went up to fix 271 [Nine little Yanks and a Jerk at Lympe]. went to show- First love- Deanna Durbin. Cleaned blouse and shirt. Black & Tee flew. No Mail. clear day. FW-190 buzzed field-(Rurzor-)[rumor]. Typhoons.-Spits-47's & 38's landed in force. ALERT. 9:30

7 JAN 1944

Got up at 4 AM & ate breakfast & went back to sleep. Slept till 10AM. 21 got their number 16 in today- same as our No. 10. My eye gave me trouble again today. Roy is grounded temporarily because of abscessed tooth. I got coke and cleaned up barracks up for inspection. We have new Operations Officer- Capt. Fuller. No mail. 867 is still out of commission. ALERT IS ON. 9:30

8 JAN 1944

Got up at 8 O'clock- alert did not materialize. Took out a voluntary allotment today of \$75. to start Feb. 1 & notified them of change of address. No Mail. Our ship is out of commission still. Had an easy day and still have eye trouble. Ulrich was ungrounded. Six canteens laid on the floor- everybody was thirsty & went to bed till I got water- then it disappeared. We got some new crews today. NO ALERT- 11:30

9 JAN 1944

Up late this morning & washed my O Dees & shirt. Our ship is not ready yet but being no alert is on it'll be ready for the next one (I hope). Heard from Johnie today- ans. Same. wrote 5 V-Mail's today, one was to Adam. Haven't heard from him for a long time. Feel much better today. Losing our Bombardier and getting one from new crew(Dean)[Lt. Arthur E. Dehn]. Zetlan will be Lead Bombardier. Lost in Poker. NO ALERT- 10:30.

10 JAN 1944

Up late today & eye is giving me the same old story. Ate two meals today and got 4 letters- one from Frank & answered same. Got flying pay 4-15-8. Sent home \$100. Today. No receipt yet. Took shower and hit sack. ALERT IS ON 11:30

11 JAN 1944

Up late this morning- crew 21 got up at 4AM- it was they're 17th. Someone else flew our new ship (867)- T.oP [unknown] was hit. Saw show (Fired Wife). Spent night at Red Cross Club, Tall Tales by a stranger- one of the first to land in England. We drew for coke - I got an ace but whoever was low didn't go - now I'm froze here so I'm going to bed. 1 letter from home. NO ALERT- 11:00

12 JAN 1944

Up late again today & didn't do much but lay around all day. Cooked some of the King's birds tonite until about 1:30AM. We sure enjoyed them. Hall and King got stewed- Beaver & King tangled. King is half crazy when sober so imagine him drunk. NO ALERT- 2AM

13 JAN 1944

Got up late & as usual all good things must come to an end. We didn't clean up for inspection & got gigged. 21 got off easy and went on pass & we had to go out on dispersal 1 & pick up rock and saw wood. Broyles didn't go & nothing said. Pilot sure was peeved off. Had oxygen lecture today. Gl'ed barracks- Black, Roy & I. Justy refused to help us. We went to Harleston tonight & had a pretty good time- saw Zet there- Bud Lucky & I. They sold out of drinks. Danced until 12PM- got home at 1:30 & ate at paddlefoot mess hall. My bike is guarding (Mytko). ALERT CALLED OFF- 2AM.

14 JAN 1944

Alerted at 9:00AM. Was to have gotten pass- no pass, alert called, no fly, mail call- no mail. School on Flex. Gunnery. We've been down for over a week now & sure hope to fly. Would rather fly than sit down here all day. There's something screwy somewhere. ALERT- 12:00.

15 JAN 1944

Got up at seven this morning- mission scrubbed. Got pass at 10:00AM & went to London- took 10:50 out & arrived at 2:00 O'clock PM. Called Pauline up & got cut off when I tried to tell her something. Hope to see her on my next pass. Slept at Interstate Club & in double decker, all rooms are very crowded. I know now what the London fog is like- you can't even see the traffic light. 11:00PM.

16 JAN 1944

Got up at 9 O'clock & went to Washington Club for breakfast with Roy & John. Saw Cook and Bennett & played a little ping pong & ate dinner. We walked down to Picadilly and looked at the movies- stood in line for "This is the Army" from 1:20 to 3:00- show lasted 2 solid hrs.- in Technicolor & very good. Ate supper & had a few drinks & slept on floor part of night because pass was for Nottingham. 11:00.

17 JAN 1944

Got up at 7:30 & ate with Roy & John & met Black there & checked out my Air Medal & picture & caught the 10 O'clock train back. Pass was up at 12 & we got back at 2:20. Sure was hungry. Saw show "Butch Minds the Baby". No mail- hit the sack at 10 O'clock. ALERT IS ON.

18 JAN 1944

Got up at 9 O'clock & cleaned up. When I came back Lt. Murton caught some of the boys in bed yet & its extra duty for us all again. They caught Mytko & Jordan today & they worked but they're going to have to catch me. I'm tired of taking it for someone else. I hope the Major would hold individuals responsible instead of a crew. No mail. 10: O'clock ALERT IS ON

19 JAN 1944

Up at 8:30 this morning- cleaned up & went to Combat Library. Some of the boys worked their extra duty. Murton raised hell cause 21's side beds were not made. Threatened to put us on K.P. They can bust me if they do. I'd like to tell someone just what I think of them. Heard from Frank today. Saw G.I. show this evening & got soaked coming back to barracks. Val is to have his case tomorrow. 10:30 ALERT IS ON.

20 JAN 1944

Got up at 8 O'clock and cleaned up- then went to Combat Library- mission scrubbed again. Court Martial went through today & no results as yet. No mail- school radio. Supposed to get up at 7:30 & get ready for inspection. Lucky & Berrick went to Bury. Tee came in half stewed & like a kid per usual. Joe has Phyrrea & like me has to lay off drinking. NO ALERT- 11:30

21 JAN 1944

Number- 12. Got up at 7:AM & fixed bed & cleaned up- then went to Combat Library- then they called an alert. We got briefed at 10 O'clock & took off at 12:05PM Load 12-500, Alt. 20,000, -12°. Came back at 4:30PM. Target-Secret [St. Omar- Rocket Installations]. Janson got shot up & emergency landed at another field. Did not drop bombs. Alert was on and called off. No mail. 11PM

22 JAN 1944

Got up at 7AM & cleaned barracks up- then Lt. Murton came in and OK'd the joint. Had school (Naval Identification). I think it was for a purpose. Also went to radio school on my own. Got 6 letters today- first time in a long time. Didn't clean guns. Saw show-"Gangs All Here". Good show but queer ending. Heard from Luke today. Ans. same. NO ALERT. 11:00PM. [Following is a note between the entries for 22 and 23 Jan.] Nottingham---Lt. P.E. Del Signore---Sutton A.S.N. 759928-ANC---Ashfield-229.

23 JAN 1944

Falling weather. Got up at 10 O'clock and went to Church. No school & no mail. Had chicken for dinner today. Practice mission for 21 today. Changed our beds to other side- it took 4 hrs. Place looks a little better now. Lost my passport pictures- will get more made soon as possible. Lucky & Shorty went to Harleston. ALERT IS ON.- 11:00

24 JAN 1944

[Mission Number 13.] Got up at 2:45 this morning & briefed at 4 O'clock. Takeoff at 7AM in → complete darkness, merely [barely] got off the ground & plane swerved off of runway & we nearly got it as a crew but as it stands we had bad luck anyway- we were 20 minutes from target and got a recall- so when we turned around we started to loose altitude & got across Belgium (Ghent) when we met AA & got a direct hit on the tail and blew the whole thing off. Roy went out with it & I don't think he knew what hit him. We started to bail out when Val got control again & we threw everything out that was loose. We made it to England & landed at Eastchurch, stayed there over night. Made a perfect landing. Saw another B-17 crash & burn near field[Thorpe Abbots]- Drummond did not show up in formation & Zet was flying with him. It would be terrible if that happened to be him.

25 JAN 1944

Got up at 10:30 this morning & ate in Sgt's mess at RAF Base. Left at 1:30 PM for Manston. Met Lt. Davis there at 3 PM. Got back a 5 & found out that Zet got it yesterday- the only one killed in the crew. Funeral will be Thursday & we are all going (Cambridge). Ate & all of the boys had 2 Qts. & we all slept good but Black & he had a good buzz on. We went to a dance last night at the RAF Base. Had a good time (drinks on the house).

26 JAN 1944

Have to complete this page & bring this up to date. Got up at 10 this morning & had a rout with Supply over Roy's cloths- they took my boots by mistake. Heard from home today & got a clipping. Got a picture from Hagenbach. Wrote home. We expect to go to rest home before the week is out. We go to Zet's funeral tomorrow at 3 O'clock at Cambridge. Took laundry out today. [Final entry in the first diary.]

20 FEB 1944

Number 14. Got up at 3:45 & briefed at 5:45- Target Stettin, secondary. Primary was in Poland. Bomb load 10x 500, Altitude 12,000. One ship went to Sweden. Saw every type of fighter in the Luftwaffe. Saw a fort go down minus tail + wing + on fire (3 chutes). Got back with only 60 gallons of gas left. Temp. 30 below. Had trouble with ship today. Mike Rotz new tail gunner, Dehn new Bombardier- first mission today. Shorty Hall finished up. 9:00. Alert.

21 FEB 1944

→ Number 15. Cluster day[Carried anti-personnel cluster bombs]. Up at 3:45, briefing at 5:45, takeoff- 9 O'clock (delayed). Target Brunswick- bombed airfield south of Bremen- results good. Altitude 22,000, Temp. -40°. Fighter escort was good. Nearly crashed on takeoff. No power on engines. Sent Air Medals & photos home today. I thought that by this time I'd be home but only 3/5 done and PFF will delay me for months.

22 FEB 1944

Mission called early and scrubbed. We didn't fly. Black was called- we may leave post to go to Path Finder soon. Heard from home today. We have a new Crew Chief- Hollen [Sgt. Lloyd M. Holland]- other man got busted. Ship is in terrible shape. ALERT IS ON. 11:00

23 FEB 1944

Got up at 3 O'clock- ate chow & came back to bed- mission was scrubbed- same as yesterday. Heard from home today & wrote several letters. A B-24 crashed here today landing with 15 men aboard. No fly tomorrow because Pathfinder news is in. Tee has 24 and has made two attempts for his last one. Oulici has gone home. ALERT IS ON.

25 FEB TO 3 MAR 1944

With the exception of Broyles, Black, Rotz & I the crew went to Pathfinders & will pick us up when they are through. Black has 18 missions now & will probably finish up before we start flying again. All of Love's crew has finished up except B.T. Smitty who has eye trouble. All of Flack's crew is done - they finished up on Brunswick & had a big celebration at dispersal one. W.L. Tee has gone to R.C. #12 [Reception Center #12] already. We got paid-16 [pounds]. I went to the 96th & saw Chuck & Burton. They have 23 missions in. I found out that Pat Calabrese is in the 385th and they was over to see him. Most of our gang is here except Booze and Chisolm. Booze is in New Guinea & Chisolm is in the states yet. I've lost 15 pounds in a poker game already. Broyles won over 200 dollars already & is going strong. Hope to get a pass next week & if I hear from Adam I'll go & see him. Haven't sent anything home yet We got a new crew in our barracks- sorta crowded. Losses of B-r--- [Berlin] 4 ships. Two collided head on . One went to Sweden (Lt. Ball). One was missing. Rumors that Major Turner received promotion to Lt. Colonel. Weather has been cold & snowing for two days- Snowing now & cause for recall today. Got package from Aggie with sweater & is a good fit. Ans. with appreciation. Hall's cousin is here for furlough & is celebrating by S----- in our doorway.

3 TO 9 MAR 1944

Silverstone finished up. Essary went down over Berlin. Black has 21 now & 2 over Berlin. Our losses are so great that we can put up only 3 crews. Chaplin went down today. (B.T.) Hutchins heard from home & Aggie- they tell me things are going good. Hope I could say same. Had 48 hr. Pass- went to London. Were supposed to fly in spite of it[Big losses over Berlin] & crew will be broken up I'm afraid. Schoens only crew left out of replacements in December.

9 TO 14 MAR 1944

Shorty & Barrick have left for 12th R.C.D. Wrote 11 letters in last 3 days- caught up on my mail now. Went to Church yesterday. Love's crew + Chief & Beaver got back from 7 day furlough. Rupert of new crew twenty-two went to hospital. Black got shots (four). Valesh dropped in but didn't come to see us & his laundry is laying around. Got an exchange on battle jacket- thirty-six regular for long. Had a meeting on missions- they've been raised & I have to do thirty. Fifteen & under do thirty. 23 or over does 25.

14 TO 19 MAR 1944

Our losses have been as usual. Adam was up to see me yesterday. One of our men was killed by our own bullets & one wounded. Got a package from home. Got some new pictures of formation & such- gave same to Bob. Rotz was taken off of crew & Szekely[Probably Sgt. S.M. Szekely] was put on. Moved to new base [Snetterton Heath, 95th BG].

20 MAR 1944

Got up at 6 O'clock for practice mission. Dropped two smoke bombs over Channel- Alt. 23,000. Landed at 11:30. They're sending Zeke[Szekely] back to Hundredth.

21 MAR 1944

Got up at 7 O'clock for breakfast. Cleaned guns- Zeke went back today- alerted tonite- got the new heated equipment. Briefing at 10 O'clock, takeoff at 11:30. Sack up at home- officers & I slept in Bks. Three. Other boys slept in No. 1.

22 MAR 1944

Mission Number 16. Slept for 3 hours last night. Got up at 3 for briefing- target Brunswick. We flew No. 2 position in lead. Col. Kidd flew lead (Wing)- 4-500, 23,000 -35°. No losses- 5 flak holes- they got our outer Tokyo tank. Saw plenty of fighters today. Cloudy over target- 5/10 rest of way. Got my first scotch today after a mission. Cleaned guns & went to bed at 3PM- slept on to 7AM next day.

22 TO 24 MAR 1944

Got one letter since I was here. Cleaned guns today- practice mission with skeleton crew yesterday & called off today cause of weather. Gutowski is in New Guinea. Chuck & Burton is on their way home. Got hell for dumping ashes in front of barracks- Lucky was called over to orderly room to take care of barracks.

24 TO 27 MAR 1944

(26) Mission scrubbed LZ [Target, possibly Leipzig] & it was a rough one. We lost our way to the 95th but finally made it- didn't get much sleep in fact I've been sleeping a lot during the day because of night flying. This is worse than flying in a regular combat squadron. The boys in the barracks went on pass today. I wrote my first letter home from here & told Adam I was coming down to see him. Went to see the new B-29 at the 388th Group & its too big of a ship for a bomber for my money. I'd take a B-17 any day.. Did a little buzzing yesterday 50 feet over 95th field & had Crew Chief & assistant aboard.

27 MAR TO 2 APR 1944

Got four letters so far here. Two men were burned alive here late today by gasoline igniting their cloths. Went to Church today (Palm Sunday) and got lecture on accident today. Came back from pass today from London (72Hrs.). First pass in over a month. Everybody is restricted pending the invasion. Lucky & Bud aren't back from pass yet, nor is our pilot. 6PM,[now] was due back at noon. Ate one meal today. Weather- rain & foggy.

2 TO 15 APR 1944

Number 17. Made one mission and got over coast. Bad weather turned us back. We got flak off Dunkirk. Heard from home & they got my Air Medal and pictures. Got paid the 10th of the month. Was to go to Hundredth and fly without PFF (a funny deal). Bought two pair pants from Q.M.- cost 11 dollars. Adan wrote & he's on transport. Target- Berlin.

A miracle certainly has happened- the pilot came in today & told us that Roy Urich, our tail gunner, is still alive. & a prisoner of war in Germany. Word from his sister to Val's mother. Joined the Non-Com's club(3 pounds) and they have had one dance- had a good time, got polluted. Went to confession- first time in years. Have flown every day since I've been here. Visited Zemeke's field- P-47.

15 TO 19 APR 1944

Number 18. 18th [of April]- mission today- into Berlin- aircraft assembly & manufacturing plant- 500lb bombs, Alt.16,000 ft. -39°. Ran into clouds over target- Ret'd & hit Brandenburg. Saw 3 17's go down in flames. Flak knocked out my oxygen line- got flak & line for souvenir. Flew with 95th & led high group. Hansen led Wing. Black finished up missions today & really got polluted at the club.

We took a Colonel on his first mission today. Our ship is out for a hundred hour inspection to day. Jansen's crew went on pass today. It took Black 5 Mo. & 19 days to finish 26 missions. Chaplin's name at the 95th is Father Nolan.

19 TO 25 APR 1944

(21-24). Got a pass to London. Left watch to be repaired. Met Murial-wellington 3846. She's a nice clean-cut girl- beauty parlor operator. London is deserted in comparison with GI's. Saw St. Pauls Cathedral, Hyde Park & Buckingham Palace. Package is not here from home yet. Sent pictures home & other places. Flying as usual- did dive bombing with a 17 today- also skip bombing- 3000 to 1000 & 500 skip [Dive from 3000 to 1000ft, pull out and release bomb at 500ft]. Lucky brought Gladys back with him at NCO's Club.

25 TO 29 APR 1944

Number 19. Sent \$28. Home today. Up until today we led an easy life & I had the impression that Pat Calabrese went down. But we flew big B today with 385th B Group & I found out he got hit with a 20 MM & in 65th Hospital- I'm plenty lucky I didn't land up in the same place for I saw more German fighters today than I've ever seen. Dropped 1,000 lb. Bombs on Berlin and caused plenty of damage. 25,000, -35°. Loss- 26 ships. Fighters were 190's & 109's. Jordan never made mission.

29 APR TO 2 MAY 1944

Jordan + Johnson is in the hospital. Sent \$40. Home & we was alerted at 11PM one night. A missing factor must have prevented the big thing [Pre D-Day air operations]- got paid + lost in the usual poker game. Fixed my bike after two rusty months. Got hell for not saluting First Lieutenant. Heard from Blasey & he's finished up. Saw Cleary's name in the Stars & Stripes. Had good time at the club- scotch, gin & beer. Heard from Tess & watch which I got back isn't running right.

2 TO 7 MAY 1944

Our ship was out a couple days with battle damage- flew test hop the 5th & had dog fight with two P-51's. Lt. Valesh's ear went bad when we went to the Hundredth for a mission which was scrubbed. Jordan was still in hospital & we had a new radioman. Col. Kidd flew with us. Got to coast & cloud banks above 25,000 caused abortion. Borrowed ten pounds from Jordan & five from Mytko.

8 MAY 1944

Number 20. Big B again today. Flew with 447th Group today- met no fighters & moderate flak over Berlin. Hit target- lost no ships & temp -35°. Flew tail gunner today & Zekely who came back was sick & flew waist. Got & flew first mission with new pilot- Lt. Chadwick. One boy got 3 fighters today & brought ship back. Another pilot was wounded.

9-10-11 MAY 1944

Have been alerted three days in a row- flew with the Hundredth & got to French coast & turned around because of weather- flew Capt. Rosenthal & Col. Turner. Flew 654, our ship was out- battle damage. Heard that Quindo Jerome was killed in action today & was bent on seeing him next week. Hansen's crew got pass today & Kotan was broke. Flew to Bovington. Sent Chaplin's black pictures home.

12 MAY 1944

Number 21. Target- Brux Czechoslovakia, near Prague- oil (synthetic) plant. 9 & 1/2 hr. Mission- 23,000, -29°. Destroyed target- good results. Saw a B-17G get a direct hit by flak between 3 & four engine. Wing broke off & 8 chutes got out. Knees nearly froze & came back with headache because of lack of oxygen. Got gas tank punctured & only battle damage- other groups lost heavy. Krup & White went down today.- Charlie England & Rupnick went down yesterday. Bed 6:00 O'clock

13 MAY 1944

Got biggest piece of flak we've ever gotten in main tank near the top- lucky it didn't explode- made hole big enough for fist to go through & sealed sufficiently to keep gas from escaping. Ship is still out of commission. Lost 6 pounds in poker game. Bombardier won about ten & Zekely won nine- Lucky lost & Bud Lost too. Group is off Ops because of terrific losses. Heard from home & Aggie today. May get much needed rest next week.

14 TO 17 MAY 1944

Nothing unusual has happened except I got a package from home & this morning after going to bed at 1AM they came in at two for briefing & we took off at just after three & its one of the darkest nights I've ever flown in. Didn't get briefed cause we were too late & had fried eggs for breakfast- got Communion. Mission was scrubbed.(A.F.I.B.)[unknown]. Hundredth got new C.O.- Lt. Col. Jeffrey & he's C.S. They lost other C.O. on his first mission. Hansen's crew should go to rest home tomorrow & us Saturday- I'm broke so it's tough.

18 MAY 1944

Went out in high hopes on this night & it was very dark- we crashed when landing [At Thorpe Abbots early in the morning of the 19th- & it sent me to the hospital with lacerations of both legs & chest & right arm. I got 4 stitches in my left eye & 3 in the top of my head & spent seven days in the hospital. Lost 1 qd. 10 shillings, money pouch & A-2 Jacket. Atkinson's tail gunner was killed by 20MM on the 19th- my third mission as tail gunner. Franklin, our Navigator got five stitches in his lip & lacerated ankle. Broyles, our R.W gunner got sprained back. I've been shaved bald-headed. Rest of crew Rec'd only minor bruises & got a pass the next day. To go to rest home upon returning. Capt. Hansen's crew has already gone. This was a big deal that I missed. Surprised at poor food & mixing of white & Negro boys at mess hall. Capt. (Harleston) was my surgeon. Plane was demolished. Landed on short runway & no lights. Overshot. Ju-88s [Intruders had been reported in the area so Carbone was flying in the tail].

25 MAY TO 2 JUNE 1944

Got out of hospital and traveled in pajamas & robe from 65th General Hosp. Went to rest home at Southport & had a good time- too bad I wasn't in condition to run around too much- wanted to go to Isle of Man. Went to Liverpool and back to Rugby. Had plenty of steak & chips- played golf & cycling & tennis. Traveled on special orders & GI travel. Booth, Dehn, Mytko, Broyles & myself & Zekeley took watch to London for repairs.

Number 22. [2 June]. Got watch from Turner till mine's repaired & I lost crystal in it- getting same fixed for ten shillings. Sent stars & Stripes home for back days. Went on Number 22 to France- military installations- 25,000, -38°, no escort. Little flak & no enemy fighters. Got a new plane- Hang the Expense V. Hope to finish with this plane. Led low Group 95-B. Twelve men aboard and 21 ship formation.

3 TO 5 JUNE 1944

Numbers 23-24. Made three missions in three days [Believe this refers to missions on 4, 5, and 6 June] to hit military installations on French coast- flak but no fighter opposition. Really destroyed targets. Flew with 95th twice & Hundredth once. Never got any sleep in three days now. Expect to be called out tomorrow. No mail in past three days. Checked out new A-2 jacket. Let Pete keep my wallet. Saw 100th lose 2 planes in flak-collision. One ship was hit by flak & collided with the other one- 3 chutes.

6 JUN 1944

Number 25. D-Day.

One day I've looked forward to for a long time. Never got any sleep for the last four days now. Never seen such a mass of men & ships & more waiting in Channel. Zero hour-7:28 AM, flew with 452nd (L) [low group] & target was heavy gun installations just inside invasion point. Saw flak but no fighters. Been up since five PM last evening- got back at Eleven today and slept until 5 PM. Ate supper & sweating out alert- there has been much air activity over England all day. 8/10 cloud cover over invasion.

Takeoff time was 3-AM, target time 7:25- 3 minutes before troops went ashore. Altitude 16,000 feet, temp -17°. Carried 500 lb bombs- flew to Scotland & down to tip of England- duration of mission- 8 hours. Clouds prevented seeing too much however I saw plenty through tail with binoculars in 7/10 clouds. Back in bed at 7PM. Expect to be called any minute. Dislocated shoulder again today & arm isn't in shape at all. Has been giving me trouble.

7 TO 10 JUN 1944

Have been flying all day but bad weather over France prohibits us from getting over target. Have been flying the length of England taking off at 3 AM.- missions of 8-hours duration. Clouds have been 10/10 & up to thirty thousand feet. Have seen plenty of reinforcements in Channel. Hansen's crew moved the eighth. We moved the 10th to 95-335 Group & squadron respectively. Lt. Valesh is grounded for three days- ear trouble again.

11 JUN 1944

New Base [Horham]. Had an easy day- got up at 9:30 & missed Church. Ate & went out to line to clean guns. They certainly were dirty & I spent nearly an hour on two guns. Had chicken ala king for dinner. Saw show Buffalo Bill today. Got real cokes from Red Cross today. Here it's 15 till 12 & still daylight & time to hit the hay.

18 JUN 1944

Number 26. First mission at new base (oil refinery near Kiel)- bombed secondary near same canal entrance. Believed bombs blocked canal. Moderate flak & we got several holes. Flew with Hundredth, 25,000, -33°. Packed cloths for big job tonight but was recalled- doubt if we'll get to go- don't rate at home base- prejudice against pilot [Valesh] by Col. Bennett [because Valesh was too outspoken]. Had extra gunner from 350th- flew [handwriting garbled & overwritten], 696 [maybe, several other possibilities] - needed new wing. No mail.

19 TO 21 JUN 1944

Spent most of this time at Hundredth- two missions were scrubbed on us & we finally came back. Mail man has been on pass for last three days & mail system is terrible- mail man is on job 15 minutes a day. Have bad cold, black eye & a GI haircut. Someone else is packing their bags today for the big job. Should come out in the papers in a few days. (Shuttle raid.) [to Russia 21 June, then to Italy 26 June and back to England 5 July]

21 JUN 1944

Number 27. Flew with 390th. Saw Gooding & Blough there. Boulick is also there. Target- FW-190 aircraft engine plant in Berlin. Hope next three aren't as bad as this one. Lost two engines over the target & flew back at 140 MPH with P-38 escorts. Lost final engine near English coast. Threw everything overboard that was loose & emergency landed at first field we saw [Seething] (448BG, B-24s) No flaps- I had to crank them down- no brakes. Went into dive when hit over target- 26,500 to 24,000- prepared to bail out again & put escape kit and money pouch in binocular case & tied same to chute harness. Lt. Booth's chute was hit by flak & he got piece of flak. Came back by truck. Threw out guns & Ammo., oxy. Bottles & flak suits & radio equip. & everything loose. Hang the Expense VI coming up. 26,500, -43°. Clear weather over Berlin- had hard time finding target. But hit it.

21 TO 25 JUN 1944

Number 28 [Aborted]. Called out twice & no missions called- one especially rough deep in the heart of Austria [crossed out]. Will come up again soon. Flew with 390th- part of 100th there- also Lt. Col. Turner. Very little mail while I've been here. Made salt shaker out of 50 Cal. shell & expect to send it home soon. Our ship is in Russia- got new ship #.

25 TO 28 JUN 1944

Started on mission (28) this morning & turned back on weather- 26,000, -35°, clouds building up. Led 390th- 2000lb bombs. Was over Cherbourg smoldering city- 6/10 clouds. 3:55 takeoff- landed 8:30 & in bed at 1:00AM & slept till 6PM- one meal today. Talked to Bordenaro this evening in movie "Phantom Lady". Went to Communion- wrenched ankle in stirrup of truck- saw B-24 crash into ground & explode.

28 JUN TO 4 JUL 1944

Nothing unusual has happened. We got paid here- 2-17-6. I came out ahead in poker- paid Zeke 4 pounds, Lucky 1-4 & had seven pounds left. We have to do 35 missions now, now were sure we'll be here for the duration. Have new C.O. in place of Major Harman- Capt.

4 TO 6 JUL 1944

On pass to London- 48 hrs. Bought a carving knife set for Mother & picked up my watch. Saw picture (Up in Arms) very good. Had a experience that I'll never forget. The buzz bomb certainly has everybody jumping- it's silver in color- it's very fast- has extension on tail- sounds like engines all revved up & then it stops & plunges with terrific concussion. Got back at 8 PM Thursday [6 July].

6 TO 8 JUL 1944

[Mission Number 28]. Sent package home- carving set- \$10.50 was the price. Also sent hand made letter opener. Also sent English paper on Churchill's speech about flying bombs. Haven't heard from home in nearly a month now. Am getting worried. Got a package from home- 2 more films & plenty of stationery. Only took two pictures in London. [Mission # 28 should have been covered here. Carbone's flight record shows a mission on 8 July]

11 JUL 1944

Number 29. Took off at 7:15, Target Munich JP [Junkers Plant] aircraft plant. We flew No. 2, took over lead before target & dropped short, 25,000ft, -17°. A little flak & very good fighter support. Jordan has quit flying & Cooper flew today. No losses- whole 8th Air Force hit same target. Saw Switzerland's Lake Constance with small island in center- only a few holes- 10/10.

A few things that happened in Russia:

A girl who disobeyed orders and drank from the same well as American airmen was shot on the spot.---Many Russian girl fliers and soldiers were decorated for killing many Germans.---German fliers who had parachuted out & caught by Americans & fed in American tents were snatched out & shot by Russian soldiers.---Russians are using mid-aged school children for guards.---Americans were just one step ahead of the Germans when they bombed their fields but still lost a few planes.---Russians are not eager to see their money leave country as souvenirs, boys brought very little back.---Russian pilot who cracked up plane & survived was shot for same.

8 TO 13 JUL 1944

Broyles went to see doctor and is going to hospital soon. Jordan has quit flying at 29 missions & we are now minus these men on crew. As for me I'll do 35 & see what happens. I have 2 money orders to pick up in my father's name- 100 & 75 dollars respectively. My watch is being fixed- am to pick watch & money orders up Friday at 2 O'clock.

18 JUL 1944

Number 30. Mission today [with 100th] to Kiel[95th BG PFF Bombing Report says Valesh's crew bombed Hemmstedt Denmark. Kiel was bombed by another element of the 100th BG]- 40 mi. SW, oil refinery- 10/10, 27,000, -27°. Led high group- very little flak. Jordan & Broyles didn't fly. Broyles has fractured back. I'm flying engineer- may get tech by end of month. Harris's crew is operational.

19 JUL 1944

Number 31. Mission to Schweinfurt- plenty of flak. Smoke screen kept us from dropping bombs on target. Overran secondary & bombed target C. Missed it. Dehn isn't worth @#%[not Carbone's symbols] as a Bombardier. Maj. Barr flew with us. 26,000ft -17°, 5x1000. Finished tour of OPS in E.T.O. Martins crew finished too. Kincannon & Hansen have one to go.

20 JUL 1944

Moved to Hundredth again & hope to leave for home soon. Capt Kincannon [Francis C., POW] went down today with one to go. Direct hit over target- Leipzig. Got blouse from same & paratrooper boots. Broyles went to hospital for a cast on his back before embarking for the States. Got Lucky Bastards certificate today and pictures from the photo lab. Remind Broyles of Hang the Expense duplicate.

21 JUL 1944

First Sgt. gave us the news that we would clear tomorrow & leave next Wednesday- hope I'm kidding myself but I'm looking for a let down. Sleeping in tent here & it's pretty cold at 10:45. All the boys have gone to town & I'm alone writing home & sent \$10. to Church & wrote to Brother Adam. Val, Booth & Franklin {Lt. Al Franklin, DR NAV on PFF crew} went to Leicester to see M.J.

21 TO 26 JUL 1944

Have moved to site 6 with other boys who have finished up. Mytko's & two other boys have orders already. Have no orders yet- I don't know when they'll come in. Have turned in pistol & cleared all except S-1 & seven. Adjutant Sgt. Williams told me I'd make tech before I leave. Got more pictures from photo lab but no pictures of Hang Exp. Crash. Sold pair of boots to Abney for four pounds. Heard from Adam- first time since D-Day. Fixed bike & am going to sell it. Went to Diss for first time & had some fish & chips & bitter- then came back. Chips weren't peeled. Paid 3'6'.70 for a box of strawberries.

26 TO 30 JUL 1944

Sold bike, 6'10''. Kincannon[POW]& Noble[Lt. James B. Noble, POW] went down- two more were lost from our squadron [351st] today & they say missions are easier. Went to Huntington with Bob & saw plenty [Buzz Bombs]. Orders came in & we go home tomorrow(12 RCD). Got 1-1 from Booth that he owed me. Got a few pictures & cleared- went to the 95th for our D of C. [DFC] today. saw Burns & Hagenbach [Robert J. Hagenbach] & got his address. Am leaving plenty of stuff behind cause I don't have room for everything. Lucky & I are on same orders.

30 JUL TO 3 AUG 1944

Left base on July 31 and spent the night in London. Bought a few souvenirs, \$48. Left Euston Station at 4PM & arrived at Chauley at 10:30. Found bags here- went to base- 17 RCD next day. Place is like reception center- we get KP here & detail. Had close one in London near Victoria Station- 5 buzz bombs within a half hour. Knocked glass out of club. Hunt, Howell, Lucky & myself were in same room.

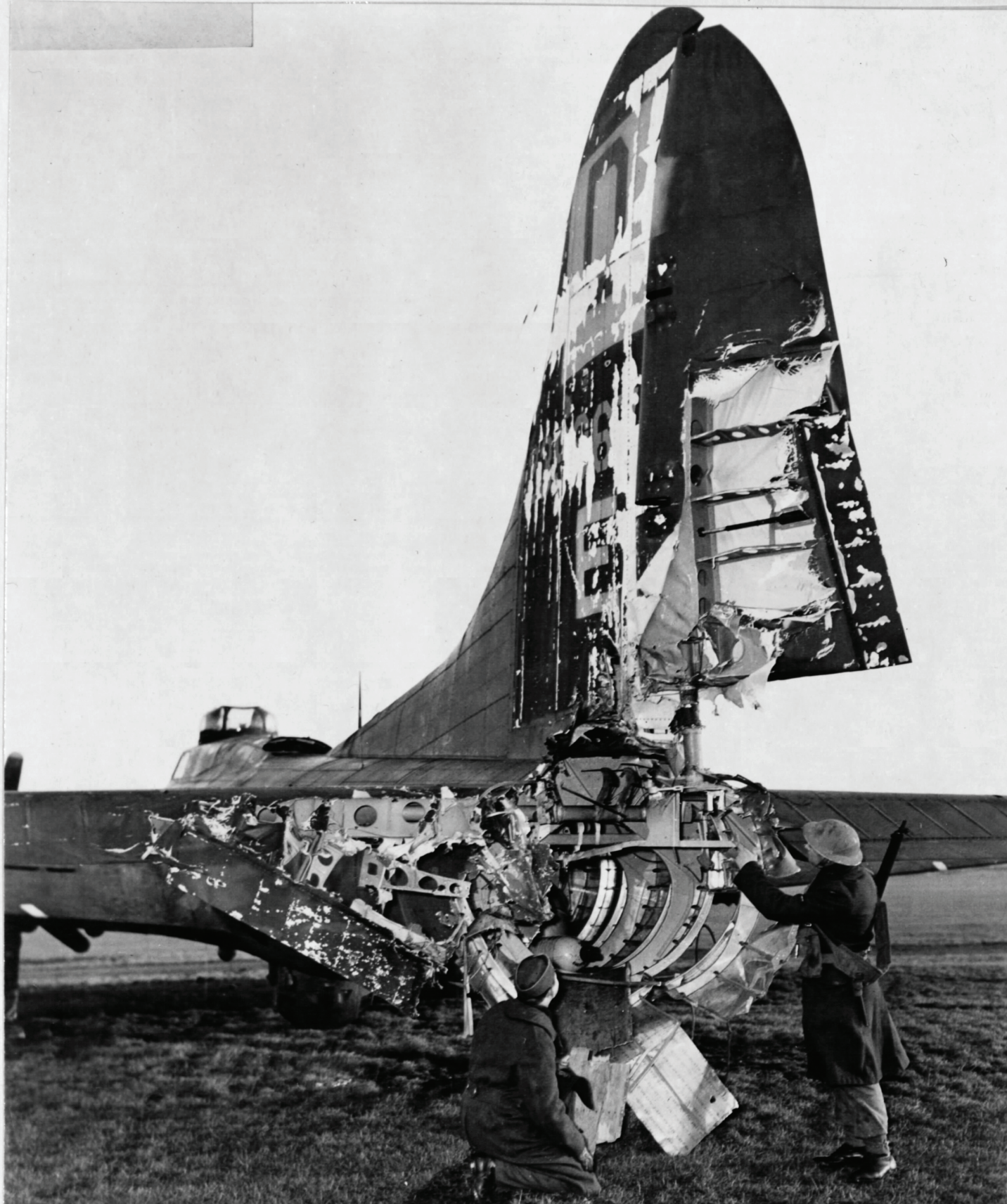






8x10 print rec'd 2/10/44 from BPR to accompany Press Release "HANG THE EXPENSE".
(2 photos) Copied 2/10/44.

A 5575



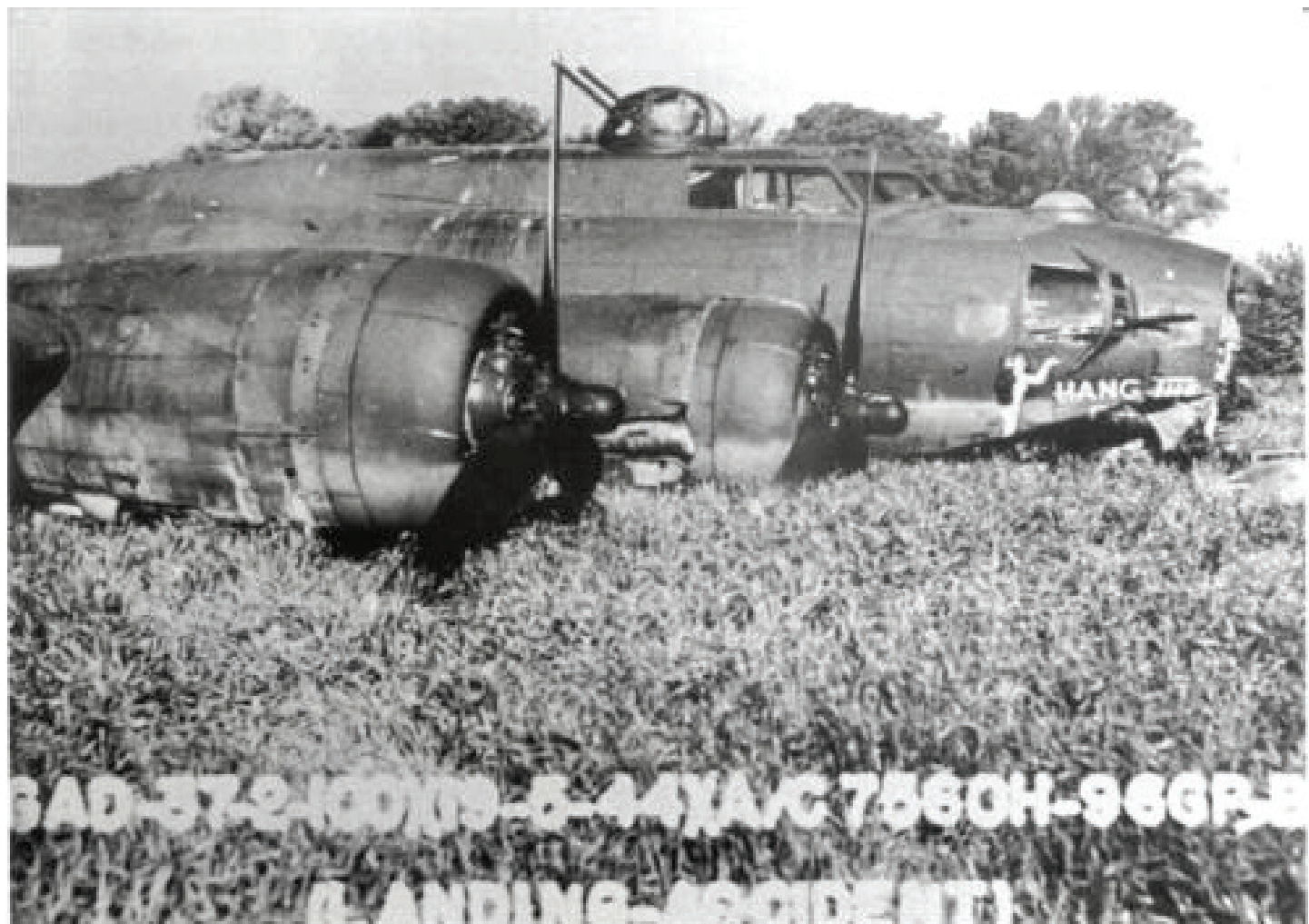




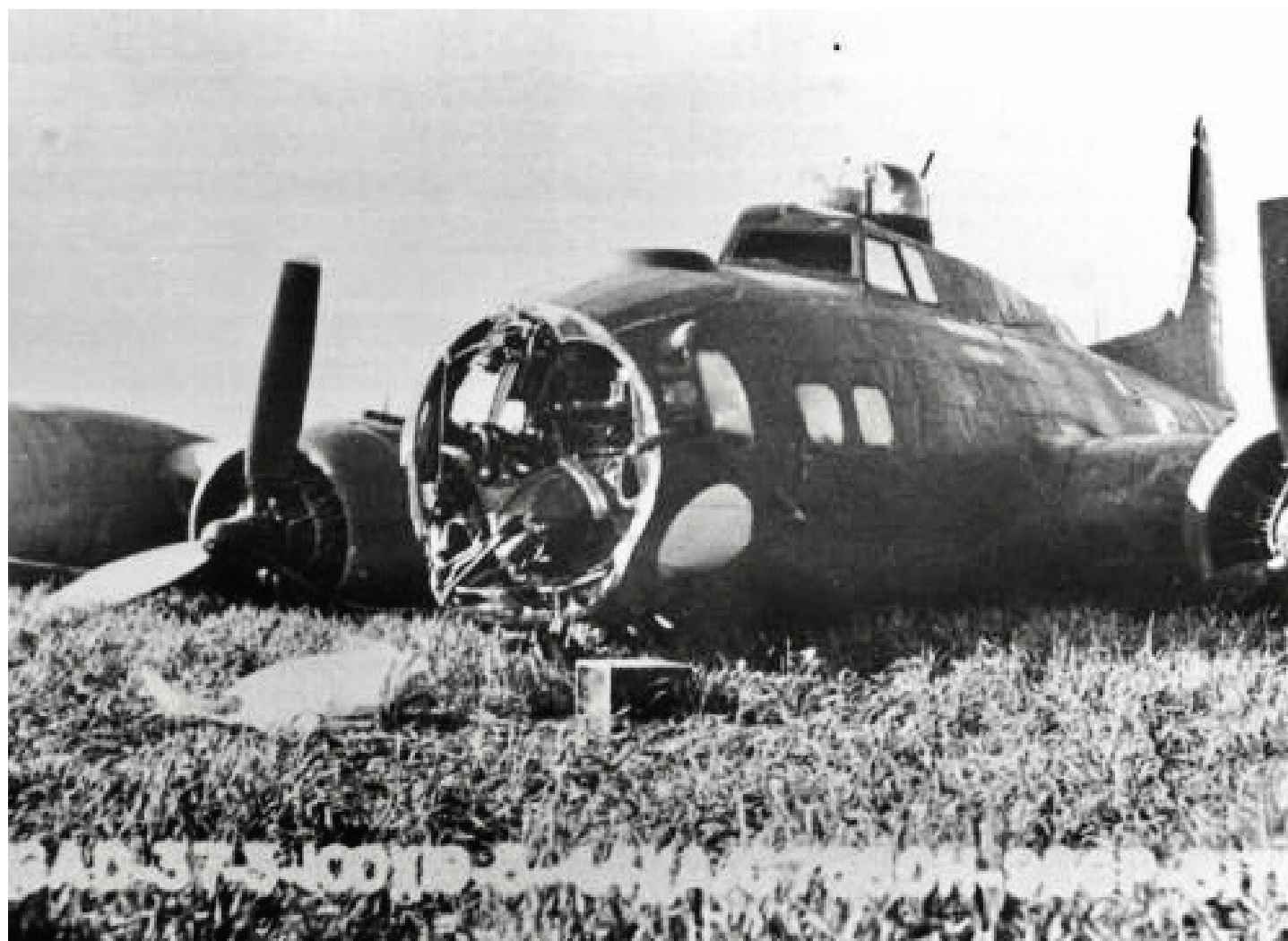
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LANDING-ACCIDENT

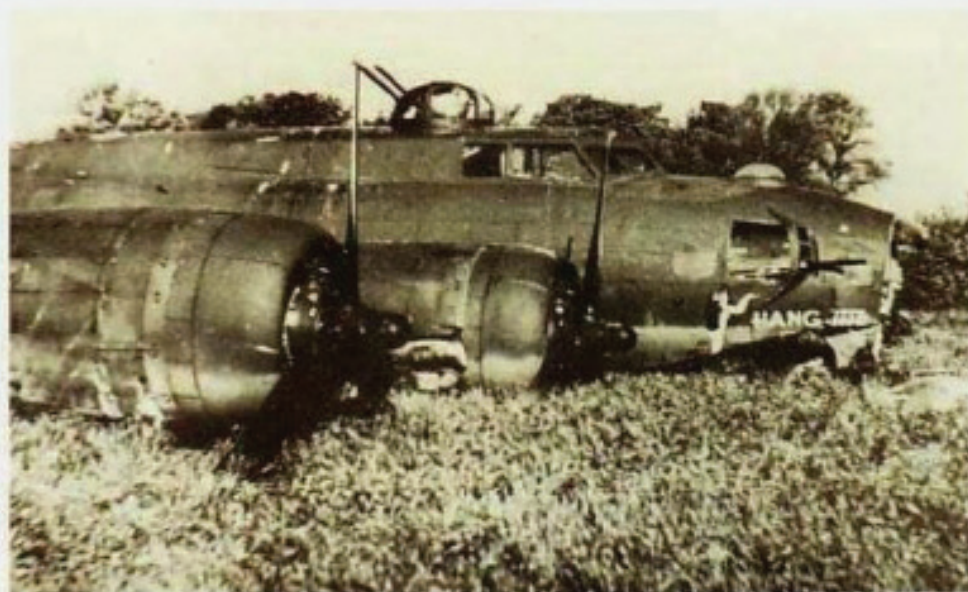




(6AD-374100)19-5-4-100-7560H-900P-817

LANDING STRIP





The PFF B-17 # '560' after the landing crash in the early hours of May 19th 1944



The scene and wood today





J. Mytko J.R. Johnson F.E. Valesh M.G. Zettlan J.E. Booth P.J. Carbone S.M. Sherman

N.O. Davidson L.M. Holland L. Black Jr. R. Ulrich H.H. Broyles J. Sambrailo E.M. Jordan H.C. Wildrick



(GP-2-15-100)(22-11-43)(CREW- NO.22)

Crew 22

FRONT ROW, left to right: 2nd Lt. F.E. Valesh, 2nd Lt. M.G. Zetlan, 2nd Lt. J.E. Booth, 2nd Lt. J.R. Johnson

BACK ROW, left to right: T/Sgt. J. Mytko, S/Sgt. R. Urich, S/Sgt. L. Black, Jr., S/Sgt. P.J. Carbone, S/Sgt. H.H. Broyles, S/Sgt. E.J.