

Earl C. Rudolph, Sr. World War II Diaries 1944

January 1 Saturday. So starts another year in the E.T.O. The last, I hope! The year has started very quietly. I hope this war ends soon. This should be the beginning of the end. The invasion should start any day now. External bomb racks are here now to increase the bomb load. We hauled nine sets today. The weather has been bad. There is a standby alert tonight. I don't think anything will come of it, though. The sky is completely overcast. The alert was scrubbed at 23:00.

January 2 Sunday. Attended church today. I am getting back into the habit again. I have missed going. The weather has cleared and a practice mission is set for this afternoon. No crashes this time. I finished the cabinet and stocked it today, a big improvement. Alert on at 2 PM, most likely we will load tonight. A letter from the folks. It has been several days since I had a letter from Irma. This mail situation ticks me off sometimes. I am sending another money order for "Junior". I gave Joe the money today, \$70.

January 3 Monday. Loaded 10 500 # demolition bombs last night. Called out at 9 PM and the mission was scrubbed ten minutes after we finished loading. The weather man is on the ball. It started raining at 8 AM and rained all day. A big inspection is coming one of these days. I guess these inspections help win the war! We are shining everything up for the "snoops". I will write a couple of letters tonight. I missed last night. No mail again today. There must be a helluva lot somewhere! Alerted again tonight.

January 4 Tuesday. Target: Kiel, Germany. Loaded 10 500 # demolition bombs. Takeoff: 8:30 AM, landed at 3 PM. "Goin Jessies" aborted again. It aborted the last two missions. Supercharger trouble. All ships returned from the target with only slight damage. One man, a ball turret gunner, died from lack of oxygen. His line was cut by the turret gear. The gunner on 412 could have been saved by proper action. Ed Silverstone shot up the ramp today. Gun and ball turret went off for him. So ends another day. A letter from Irma.

January 5 Wednesday. Another raid today. Loaded 12 500 # demolition bombs. The outfit got lost. A pathfinder went out. The formation flew around the Ruhr Valley looking for an opening in the clouds, found a factory and bombed it. It turned out to be a vital nut and bolt plant. Trust this outfit to screw up and come out on top! They didn't know what they were bombing until they returned. Going on pass this noon. London again. Hope I have some mail when I return. I saw "Sahara" with Humphrey Bogart. Very good.

January 6 Thursday. I arrived in London at 5:30 last evening. I stayed at the Mostyn Club. The Columbia Club was full up. I had breakfast at the Mostyn Club and a haircut. I'll never sweat out another line when I get out of this Army! Beans and mashed potatoes for breakfast! These Limeys are nuts! Saw "This is the Army" today. Very good. It is really playing to capacity crowds. It's funny, but of all the guys visiting Rainbow Corner I have never seen more than one I know. Bed at 10 PM tonight. The boys loaded and unloaded 36 100 # demolition bombs.

January 7 Friday. I returned from London at 5 PM. I got a shave at the club. I saw "Cry Havoc" and "The Nelson Touch", both fairly good shows, both war pictures. Another raid today. Target: Ludwigshaven, Germany, 10 500 # demolition bombs. Heavy fighter escort. The crews really like those P-47's and P-38's. No damage. "Goin Jessies" has another engine out. They won't have to sweat it out in the morning. Another alert on tonight. Ceiling 200 feet. I received five V-Mail letters while on pass.

January 8 Saturday. Loaded five ships last night, 10 500 # incendiary bombs. The mission was scrubbed after three ships were loaded. I expected that. They always scrub the mission the first time we load something new. It was cloudy all day and not a ship left the ground. A new engine was mounted on 231051, "Goin Jessies". Slow time tomorrow. A new gun to mount in the chin turret, the barrel jacket was bent. Another new ship landed today for our outfit. No mail again today, just a Christmas card from Shirley. No alert as yet.

January 9 Sunday. No mission today. It has been raining for the past several days. I went to church this morning. A very good sermon. I am glad that I have started to attend church again. I feel much better. Changed both chin turret guns today. Both jackets were bent. It was a much easier job than I thought. I am really in a letter-writing mood tonight. I wrote a letter and a request to Irma, a letter to Shirley, and a letter to Roscoe, Leonore, and Bill.

January 10 Monday. Happy day! I received six V-Mail letters today. Letters have been few and far between lately. Two letters were from Irma, the rest were notes from the folks. I have an air mail letter from Dad and Mother also. Three of the guys got drunk last night and had their heads clipped. Today they wish they had their hair back. Another quiet day. We slow timed 231051. It is all set for the next mission. Alert tonight but I don't think we will load. The weather is still cloudy.

January 11 Tuesday. Made a bad guess last night. We DID load. Target: Osnabruck, Norway, 10 500 # demolition bombs. We loaded eight ships in the squadron. Thirty-one ships took off from the group. Takeoff at 8:35 AM, land, 1:50 PM. All ships returned with no damage. The secondary target was bombed. The primary target was obscured by clouds. 231051 made it this time. No alert tonight, the weather has closed in again. It has been raining since 3:30 this afternoon. I wrote to Irma tonight. So ends another day.

January 12 Wednesday. All is quiet at Thorpe-Abbots. Reloaded ammunition and fooled around the ship. Norm Brett told me that he would introduce me to Ambassador Kennedy's daughter Kathleen if I went to London with him. The guy

actually knows them. His folks must have money. He tells me she is nice-looking and has seven million dollars. The guy gets around. Has been here before. His folks visited London often before the war. He stays with friends in London.

January 13 Thursday. The ships are still grounded and the sky is still overcast. One of our ships returned from the modification center at Harrington. It landed with the tail wheel up. The pilot didn't check. New tail section. Russ Stieler is taking another ribbing because his wife is in the Marines. It's raining again tonight. An alert was on at 2 PM this afternoon. Mission scrubbed at 6 PM this evening. Damn this country. They should cut the barrage balloons loose and let the damn place sink.

January 14 Friday. Wonderful day! Practice mission scheduled for 10:30 this morning. Scrubbed and loaded 12 500 # demolition bombs. The weather man screwed up last night so they made up for it today. Takeoff at 1:30 PM, back at 5:15 PM. Target was installations in France. Really blew hell out of it. Twenty-one ships took off and returned, with light battle damage. 051 was a ground spare. She is becoming a hangar queen! The alert came on again this afternoon. We will probably load again tonight.

January 15 Saturday. Loaded 10 500 # demolition bombs last night. C.Q. called up at 4:30 this morning. The mission was scrubbed at 5:45 AM. It was a beautiful night when we loaded but the fog rolled in this morning, really thick. The fogs at home are nothing compared to these. The fog lifted this afternoon, and is coming back tonight. No alert as yet. I sewed up my leather jacket this afternoon before the sleeves fall out of it. I wish Irma were here. So ends another day.

January 16 Sunday. It is still foggy. It has been for three days straight now. The fog lifts for a few hours and then closes in again. I had my teeth cleaned today. I waited seven weeks for it. I went to communion tonight. It has been a long time. I must go more often. There has been an alert on today but it was scrubbed at 5 this afternoon. The weather has closed in even more, if possible, this evening. This has been an eventful day. Another day without mail.

January 17 Monday. This is the second day since I have been at the shop. There is nothing to do out there. The weather has brought everything to a standstill. It is still foggy and cloudy. This is really a piss-poor country! These Limeys don't know what it is to live in a good country. I spent the morning in bed. We had our first chicken in the E.T.O. this noon. I spent the afternoon polishing buttons. We had corned beef again for supper. I wish we would get something to eat! I am going to the R.C. tonight.

January 18 Tuesday. C.Q. again today. The fellows showed up this afternoon. We have been busy the past few days doing nothing. The beds have been catching hell lately. The weather is still bad. New rumor going around. Twelve men from the shop with AWS(?) and others are supposed to leave for someplace soon. I don't know where. I am on the list. Rumor or otherwise? A restriction going on tomorrow supposedly. My day to go on pass. Everything happens to me! I saw "Slightly Dangerous" tonight with Lana Turner and Robert Young.

January 19 Wednesday. They called us out at one this morning to load nine ships with 12 500 # demolition bombs. The mission was scrubbed this morning at 9. 051 carried seven of the new fuses. They took off and dumped them in the channel. I am going on pass at noon. I arrived London at 5:15 PM, stayed at the Columbia Club. All the clubs are rather crowded now. I saw "San Bernardino - London", a good show. Lunch at the snack bar and to bed at 9:45. My room is right next to the "can." What a night!

January 20 Thursday. Loaded 11 ships last night. Seven were loaded from the night before that were not unloaded. Twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed. Had breakfast at the Columbia Club at 9:30. I walked to Rainbow Corner and had dinner. Saw "Lassie Come Home", a good picture. Irma recommended it. I also saw "The Angels Song" with Fred MacMurray, Dorothy Lamour, and Betty Hutton. Another good picture mainly because they were not war pictures. Bed at 10 PM, getting tired of London.

January 21 Friday. Breakfast at nine this AM. One hour to sweat out the line for the barber shop. I am due back at the base at 6 this evening. Alerted this morning. Same bomb load as yesterday. Took off at noon, back at 4:30. Target: Pas de Calais, France. Arrived Diss at 4:05. It took us an hour to get to the base. I had five letters waiting for me! It seems I have to go on pass to get mail. Alert on at 2:30 PM, scrubbed at 8:30 this evening. 231256 "King Bee II" and 231412 "Mason-Dixon" damaged.

January 22 Saturday. Just another day in the E.T.O. High winds and cloudy. Standby alert at 2 PM scrubbed at 8 PM. Strictly not flying weather. Found bad ammunition in waist position, right. Split cases along shoulder. All ammunition in all positions was changed. A gunner found it after the mission. There is all-new ammunition in the ship now. Swarthout fouled up yesterday. He led the group into the flak instead of around it. Got a three-page V-mail letter from Irma today.

January 23 Sunday. Church this morning. Very good sermon. It rained all morning and cleared up this afternoon. 051 tried out her wings again this afternoon, the first time for two days. It is raining and windy again tonight. No alert. The coast guns have been firing quite regularly the past few weeks at different intervals. They must be preparing for the big push. They sank a German ship, a merchant man, the other day. Two more letters from Irma today.

January 24 Monday. The weather cleared last night and we loaded nine ships, 10 500 # incendiaries. Take off at 7 AM. They were called back at noon, 12 minutes from the target. They were badly hit by flak. The tail gunner was blown out of 239867 "Hang the Expense II". All the ships were hit. 231051 has a piece of flak in No. 1 engine. 230307 "Skipper", Schmidt's ship, crashed on takeoff. All got out but the bombardier. Two men were lost today. Bombs were dropped in the channel. It was counted as a raid. Silverstone was on 239867 today.

January 25 Tuesday. Alert tonight, although the weather looks bad. Clearing in spots but the wind is high. The AM's worked on 231051 most of the day to get it back in shape. Dunlap and Kizak left me their guns to clean, damn them! Going on pass. They came out when I had one left and Kizak helped clean that one. Two ships lost 307 salvaged also 867. We lose more ships in England than we do over enemy territory! Silverstone is OK, asks me about Irma when he sees me.

January 26 Wednesday. Loaded again last night. 42 65 # incendiaries. Six ships with incendiaries and three with 10 500 # demolition bombs. 231051 had incendiaries. Briefing at 4 this morning, takeoff at 7 AM. The mission was scrubbed at 6:45 AM. Weather closed in again. The target was clouded over, 110 mph headwinds, and the field would be closed in when the ships returned. Silverstone flew in the ball on 231051 today. Lt. Schoen's crew. Had to unload the ships by 10 for a practice mission.

January 27 Thursday. No alert tonight. This has been another quiet day. Practice mission this afternoon. No crash landings for a change. The boys are getting better! 23271 "Nine Little Yanks and a Jerk" crashed yesterday. One landing strut gave way. Wing, two engines, and the ball turret wrecked. The ship is to be repaired here on the base. More rumors today. 349th and 350th Squadrons were issued jungle kits and khakis today. Rumor that we are to carry carbines wherever we go on the base. Also, that we are moving.

January 28 Friday. What a night last night! Gorman, Granger, and Bergstrom came in tight and brought a couple friends along. Didn't get to sleep until after midnight. Regular procedure for Gorman. Practice mission today. Flying new formations now. Jerry was getting the boys in the old formations. Got another ship, 231708, yesterday, and two more today, 231767 and 231735. Each ship we receive has something new in the armament and other equipment. Another alert tonight.

January 29 Saturday. Mission today. Target: Frankfurt, Germany. Load 10 500 # demolition bombs. Bombs dropped through overcast. Seven ships crashed in our area on takeoff this AM. These before daylight takeoffs are rough! Takeoff at 6:15. One ship from our group crashed and burned five miles from the base. 349th squadron two B-24's crashed near here. What a sight! Don't care to see too many of them. Land at 1:45 PM. No damage to our ships. Was sweating out 051 after the crash this AM.

January 30 Sunday. Loaded seven ships last night 42 65 # M43 incendiaries. Takeoff: 8:30 AM, land 3 PM. Target: Brunswick, Germany. Again, 051 aborted. No. 3 engine burned out over France. The ship will be out for several days. Must change oil tank and cooler as well as the engine. 231389 came in with bomb bay door shaft sheared. We have more trouble with doors freezing. The temperature is usually 40-60 below. All ships returned safely. Another alert tonight. One letter and clippings from Irma.

January 31 Monday. Payday again. Needed it this month. Borrowed two Pounds from Smitty this month. First I have borrowed in the Army. Loaded ten ships last night, 10 500 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed at 6 AM. 231051 still grounded. The alert has been on since 2 PM. Probably load the same bombs and same ships tonight. Crap and card games are on again. Some of the fellows are borrowing money already. This gambling is rough! One V-Mail today from V. Sullins.

Nine missions this month. Doesn't look like we will ever make more than eleven in a month. Started out with a bang this month and ended up in a fizzle. Helluva way to win a war! A lot of rumors this past month we, twelve of us, were going somewhere on a special mission, but it didn't pan out. Then again we were going to move from here. Still sweating that one out. This has been a month of loading and unloading plus rumors.

February 1 Tuesday. Another one of those nights. Loaded the same bombs on the same ships we unloaded: 10 500 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed again at 7 this morning. This is the surprise, we didn't unload them! Spent the afternoon at the movie. Didn't get up until 11 this AM. Finished loading at 2:30 this AM. Another alert tonight. 231051 is still not back in operation. Probably slow time her tomorrow. Might change No. 1 engine while she is out.

February 2 Wednesday. No mission today. The weather is still bad. Unloaded three ships this AM and loaded them with five practice bombs. Seven ships still loaded with 10 500 # demolition bombs. There were three Spitfires and a FW190 on the field today. The FW190 is a ship rebuilt by the English after it crashed over here. Using it for identification purposes. Our friends the 47's and 38's are back visiting us again, buzzing the field, as usual. 231051 was slow timed this afternoon. Alerted tonight.

February 3 Thursday. Loaded three more ships last night making a total of ten. Ten 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Takeoff at 7 AM, briefing at 4:30 AM, land at 1 PM – 2 PM. No battle damage. Forty-five ships took off from the Group. Just had another Red Alert. Glow in the sky in the direction of Norwich. We didn't have many Red Alerts for quite some time. Lately we have been having several a week. USO show tonight. Another pass tomorrow, Alerted.

February 4 Friday. Loaded 12 ships last night. This outfit is getting too many ships! Target: Frankfurt, Germany, 10 500 # demolition bombs. Three ships aborted this mission. 231051 made it this time. Left for London on the 9:14 train. Arrived 12 noon. Stayed at Columbia Club. Saw "Thousands Cheer" with Gene Kelly and Kathryn Grayson. Could have seen it on the base sometime ago. Had dinner and supper at the Club. London is really crowded with soldiers now. News sounds good from the battle fronts.

February 5 Saturday. Second day of pass. The boys have been busy. Loaded again last night, five ships, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Airfield in Paris, France. All ships returned. One ship aborted. Another mission for 231051. Breakfast at the Columbia Club. Walked to Piccadilly Circus. Saw "The Girls He Left Behind" and "Johnny Vagabond" with Jimmy Cagney. Dinner at the Rainbow Corner Snack Bar. Went to bed early to catch up on my sleep.

February 6 Sunday. Another raid today. Four missions in as many days. Things are picking up. Six ships, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Pas de Calais, France. 231051 seems to be making up for all those abortions. No battle damage to speak of. The fighter escort makes a big difference! Due back today at 2 PM. Train forty minutes late. Came in a half hour late. Nothing said as yet. Getting a break tonight, no alert. The Colonel, "Chick" Harding, and Major Standish are inspecting tomorrow.

February 7 Monday. Seems that we passed the "big" inspection today. Cleanest the barrack has been for some time. The boys found mouse nests in everything. The damn pests run along the shelves all night long. Can't keep a damn thing safe from them. Not much doing today. Modifying radio hatches the past few days. Saw "Kings Row" tonight. Old but good. Didn't think I would like it. What would a guy think in a situation like that? No legs. No alert tonight.

February 8 Tuesday. Seems that every Wing in England flew a mission today but the one we are in. B-24's and B-17's went over in droves about six this AM. Must have been a "milk run" to France. Another quiet day. Swung the compass on 231051 today. Had a picture made with Griffin's crew today and the rest of the ground crew. Been having oranges the past few mornings. The fellows didn't stand short. They got from five to a dozen each. Had five myself. Stood short!

February 9 Wednesday. Loaded 12 ships last night, 231051 was one. Seven 500 # demolition bombs and three 500 # incendiaries. Finished loading at 3 AM. Ships took off at 7 AM and the mission was scrubbed shortly after. Unloaded the ships this afternoon. Very discouraging! How the hell can you win the war like this? Raining again tonight and we have been called out to load again. Betting that this one is scrubbed too.

February 10 Thursday. Seems that I was wrong. Loaded six ships last night, 7 500 # demolition bombs and 3 500 # incendiaries. Target: Brunswick, Germany. Two ships aborted, 237800 "Piccadilly Lilly II" and 231936 "All American Girl". 231051 did not go on this one. Crew on pass. Rain and snow all night. Snow, more like hail, all day today. High winds and intermittent storms. The raid today was presumably to test enemy fighter strength. Target 10/10 cloudy. Plenty of fighter protection. No alert tonight.

February 11 Friday. Cloudy, rain, and storms again today. The trip to Brunswick was sort of rough yesterday. Two ships lost in the group. Seventy-five to 200 fighters attacked a single group at a time. Jerry fighters flew through the group eighteen in line. Not much doing today. Read "Low Man on the Totem Pole" by E. Allen Smith. What a yarn. Read "The Snare" by Sabatini yesterday. Very busy, you see! No alert as yet tonight. Raided the Red Cross Wagon, 12 doughnuts.

February 12 Saturday. Alert called at 8:30 last night. Started loading at 11 PM. Mission scrubbed just as we were finished loading. Unloaded again and got to bed at 2 AM. Heard and saw several hundred planes go over this AM. What the hell is wrong with this group? Not much doing today. Went out to the shop around one PM after a shower. Came back in for the 3 PM show after pitching pennies. Lt. Griffin took up a bunch of Limey Cadets in 231051. No alert as yet tonight.

February 13 Sunday. Attended church today. First chance in several weeks. Alert called at 9 this AM. Loaded 11 ships, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Takeoff at 1:15 PM. Target: France. Returned at 4:15 PM. No damage to ships. 231051 made its 20th mission today, the most of any ship I have had so far. I was expecting to be called out of church to load this morning. Church was out just as they started to load at 11. Probably load again tonight. Alerted again.

February 14 Monday. Loaded six ships last night, 2 2,000 # demolition bombs. 2313051 was not scheduled to go. Unloaded this afternoon. Another "dry run". Ipswich was bombed again last night. There was quite a glow in the sky. Flak all over. Eight Jerry planes shot down. Quite a sight to see the flak and the flares light up the sky. Just hope they don't come any closer. Prepared for another inspection by General LeMay. Of course, he didn't show up. They never do! Otherwise a quiet day. No alert as yet tonight.

February 15 Tuesday. Another quiet day. Practice mission this afternoon. Two men in the shop here on detached service. Here to learn the why and wherefore of bomb loading, etc. Supposedly they are to be trained for a new group forming over here. Took off this afternoon to the movies today. Another class B picture. One way to spend the afternoon. Granger came back tight today. Lost my hat, damn him! Loading tonight.

February 16 Wednesday. Called out to load at 9 last night. Mission scrubbed before we started to load. Just got the bomb bay doors open when the word came through. Unusual, they usually wait until we get them loaded. The sky was clear and full of stars. It started raining about 3 AM and it is still raining. Spent the afternoon at the Red Cross reading. Nice sitting by the fire. Alerted tonight and we have been called out. Good chance this one will be scrubbed.

February 17 Thursday. Loaded 13 ships last night, 2 2,000 # demolition bombs. Rained and stormed all night. Mission scrubbed at 5:30 this AM, just as expected. Snowed most of the day. First real snow we have had over here. Picked up the brass and old ammunition around the dispersal point today to please the good Captain Carleton. The guy has it in for Armament, he and his stooge, M/Sgt. Spangler. Spangler seems to be the most disliked guy in the squadron.

February 18 Friday. Nothing doing last night. Rain and snow all night and most of today. Spent the morning cleaning and checking a new bomb hoist. Ruined the old one on those 2,000 # bombs night before last. Checked the chin turret guns on H. Swank's ship. Bombardier came in the shop bitching this AM. Found them OK. Cockpit trouble again. Spend the rest of the afternoon watching Brett check his hoist and reading Readers Digest. What will the night bring?

February 19 Saturday. Still cloudy and rain and snow. Cold and damp today. Not so cold but the dampness cuts through. Haven't been warm yet today. The breezes come through the quarter inch ends of these huts as if nothing was there. Cracks big enough to put your finger in. The past few days have been the first real winter we have had. Down to the Red Cross tonight. Some armament man from the 418th went batty there. This E.T.O. is rough. Alerted.

February 20 Sunday. Loaded ten ships last night. Seven ships with 10 500 # demolition bombs and three with 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Ships carrying incendiaries flew with the 390th Group. 231051 carried incendiary bombs. Started loading at 1:30 AM ships took off at 7:30 AM, back at 6:45 PM. First day of pass today. Went to bed instead. Going to Norwich tomorrow. First time there. Target today was aircraft plants in Germany. 231051 came back with No. 1 feathered. Made target, no escort today.

February 21 Monday. Loaded 14 ships last night, one a ground spare. Load 10 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Aircraft plants in Germany. Called out to load at midnight and the mission was scrubbed before the ships were loaded. The boys just got back to the barrack when they were called again. Same load and same ships. Someone screwed up in operations. Among the targets today were Brunswick, Hanover, Bramsche (?), Lingen, Vechte, Quakebruck, Diepholz, and Ahlhorn.

February 22 Tuesday. Loaded 13 ships last night, 10 500 # demolition bombs. The ships were called back after takeoff, mission scrubbed. The bombs were left on the ships for tonight's mission, if any. Have been lucky being on pass the last two days. Loading more ships right along. Bombing aircraft factories to cut Jerry's air power for the invasion. Spent one day in Norwich this pass. Don't think much of the town, not too much to do. Think I will continue to go to London. Tetanus shot today.

February 23 Wednesday. Mission scrubbed again this morning. Ships still have bombs on from two days ago. Alerted again tonight. 231051 back in operation again. Might load it tonight. Changed left tail gun today. It blew up on Sunday's mission. I just found it out today. Great cooperation while I was on pass. It should have been changed on Monday. What this outfit needs is breaking up. They have been together too long. Also need someone to run the shop!

February 24 Thursday. Unloaded two ships yesterday and loaded two again last night. 231051 was loaded. Ten 500 # demolition bombs. This squadron led the group. Eleven ships took off and one ground spare. Target: Rostock, Germany, an 11-hour mission. Takeoff: 7:45 AM, land 6:45 PM. Damage to ships was light. No escort. A B-24 cracked up on landing here yesterday. Ran off the runway. Had to cut part of the crew members out of the ship. Slight injuries to part of the crew. Alerted again tonight.

February 25 Friday. Loaded 12 ships last night, 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Target: Regensburg, Germany. Takeoff: 8:15 AM, land: 5:45 PM. Chemical warfare screwed up last night Had to load and unload and load three ships last night because they forgot to put the bursters(?) in the bombs. 231051 made another mission. Lt. Dunlap finished yesterday and Del Priore finished today. The 350th squadron lost a ship today. Alerted tonight.

February 26 Saturday. Loaded 11 ships last night, one a ground spare. Ten 500 # demolition bombs. Started at twelve, back in the barrack at 2:30 AM. Mission scrubbed at 7:30 AM, 30 minutes before takeoff time. The mission was going to be another long one. Bombs are still on the ships. Everyone on base is dead tired. Went to bed at 8 AM and got up at 2:30 PM. Received a new-type gas mask yesterday. Jerry is bombing London. No alert tonight.

February 27 Sunday. Quite a night last night. The first night's sleep in a week. Made my bed for the first time in a week today. Attended church for the first time in two weeks. Feel much better after going. The psychological effect, I suppose. Put new radio hatch gun in 231051 today. Liquor is really high over here. Sixteen dollars for a fifth of gin. Same for watered scotch. Mail has been pretty good lately, with letters each day for the past few days. No alert tonight.

February 28 Monday. Surprise alert this morning. Nine ships took off at 11:45 AM with 10 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Pas de Calais, France. Landed at 4:40 PM Five ships returned with bombs. 231051 dropped her bombs. Capt. Griffin and Roy Pilgrim made their 25th mission today. Glad to see them finish. Still working on the radio gun. Caused the loss of a life raft with the cables and pulleys of the stowage arrangement. Alerted again tonight.

February 29 Tuesday. Leap year this year and therefore this extra day. Payday also today. Loaded six ships last night, 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Loaded Smitty's ship for him. 231051 not flying this one. Target: Brunswick, Germany. All but two ships dropped their bombs before they reached the target. One ship accidentally salvoed its bombs and the rest dropped theirs too. Bombs are dropped off the lead ship. Several ships damaged by flak. Gambling as usual. No alert tonight.

Record month for the 100th. Twelve missions, the most in any one month since we have been over here. Wish they would keep up and run a mission every day. Get this thing over quick. Wonder when the war is going to start over here? Can't win a war by bombing alone. More bombs dropped on Germany this month than were dropped all last year. The AAF is larger now than the RAF.

Capt. Griffin, Lt. Dunlap, Del Priori, and Roy Pilgrim finished their 25th mission within a few days of each other. Nicholas and Lt. Johnson were lost to the crew on the eleventh mission due to flak. Nerves shot. Haven't seen Nicholas since he went to the Flak House. Lt. Johnson is grounded. Hayo(?) is also grounded because of the same raid. Lt. Kizak, Siegel, and Roy Howell have several missions to finish. They are now flying as spare gunners.

Very glad that Capt. Griffin made his 25 missions. He was really sweating them out. He had a good bunch of boys. My second crew to finish. Hope the rest of the fellows all finish OK. The ones who have finished will be around for several months and then back to the States. I envy them. Wonder when we all will be going back. So ends another month and the end of another damn fine combat crew!

March 1 Wednesday. Another quiet day. The gamblers finally quit at 4:30 this morning. More games are going tonight. Couple of days and they will all be broke again. Finally finished radio gun mount and stowage. Looks like one of Rube Goldberg's wild dreams! Reloaded the tail and nose positions also the rest of the ship. Cleaned the guns. No crew now. Wonder what the next bunch will be like. Went to the show this PM. Saw "Ball of Fire" with Barbara Stanwyck and Gary Cooper.

March 2 Thursday. Called last night at 10 to load eleven ships. Mission scrubbed before the ships were all loaded. Snowed the heaviest this winter. We were called at 11 AM to unload and load six ships. Loaded 7 500 # demolition bombs and 20 65 # incendiary bombs last night. Loaded 38 100 # demolition bombs today. Target: Chartres, France. Takeoff: 2 PM Land: 7 PM. No opposition, another "milk run". Another B-24 cracked up on the base this afternoon. "A" markings from Shipton Base. The second one this week. Sort of a graveyard for B-24's.

March 3 Friday. Loaded 12 ships last night, 42 65 # incendiary bombs. 231051 a ground spare. Target was to be Berlin but the ships turned back at the coast of Denmark due to weather conditions. Two groups crashed together in the overcast. According to reports only six ships survived the crash. Two ships brought bombs back, the others dropped theirs in the channel. 231051 never left the ground. Unloaded her tonight. Silverstone has two to go. Another package from Irma.

March 4 Saturday. Sort of a screwy deal today. Loaded 12 ships last night, 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Two ground spares, 231051 one of them again. Never left the ground. Flew two groups again today. They were called back just after takeoff. All of our ships but one came back. The other formation went on and bombed Berlin. Of 31 ships that got to Berlin 22 were from our group. Some sort of distinction if it was the result of a foul-up. No alert tonight. Three ships from the 350th lost yesterday.

March 5 Sunday. Quiet night and day. Missed church this morning. My turn to pull C.Q. at the shop. Spent the day loafing. Probably be working tonight. Light mail call today about a dozen letters in the squadron. Cleaned my carbine today, first time in several months. Gun inspection Tuesday. Think I will spend part of the evening at the Red Cross. Quiet in the barracks this evening. Reading, letter writing, etc.

March 6 Monday. Busy night. Loaded ten ships, 10 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Berlin. Takeoff: 7:45 AM Land: 4 PM. Lost four ships from the squadron, 16 from the group. Fifteen on the way to and from the target, one crash landed at Harrington. The ships that returned were pretty-well shot up. 231051, one of the ships lost, her 23rd raid, flown by 349th crew. Crews claimed may German fighters shot down. Glad that Capt. Griffin finished his missions before this.

March 7 Tuesday. Loaded seven ships last night, 10 500 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed at 7 this morning. Going on pass today. London again this time. Had enough of Norwich last trip. Had another B-24 crack up on the edge of the field the other day. Took the 1:55 PM train to London. Arrived at 5:15 PM. Walked all over Russell Square looking for a hotel room. Finally went to the Columbia Club.

March 8 Wednesday. Loaded seven ships, 10 500 # demolition bombs and 30 65 # incendiaries. Target: Berlin, Germany. Raid a complete success from all reports. 240056, "Holy Terror II" was lost on this raid. Lt. Chapman the pilot. Eddie Silverstone finished his 25th mission today. Glad he made it! Been sweating him out. Really a great guy! Saw "Northern Pursuit" with Errol Flynn and two stage shows today, "Good Night, Ladies" and "Windmill".

March 9 Thursday. Loaded four ships last night, 10 100 # demolition bombs and 30 65 # incendiary bombs. Target: Berlin again. One ship a ground spare and one aborted. Returned from pass this afternoon. Left London on the 1 PM train, arrived here at 4:15 PM. Have five air mail letters from Irma, two from the folks, one from Shirley, and one from Marge Freeman. First I have had in a week. Must go on pass to get mail, it seems.

March 10 Friday. Nothing doing last night. Crawled out of the "sack" in time for chow this noon. Started to build a new table and a gun rack this afternoon. Spent the evening catching up on my correspondence. Had nine letters to answer when I got back from pass. Wrote five tonight. Has a letter from Carolyn and Jay today. Seems everyone at home is sweating out the Army. We just got called out to load. Only four ships tonight.

March 11 Saturday. Loaded five ships last night. 42 65 # incendiary bombs. We were called out at 9 PM. Mission scrubbed at 10:45 PM, just after we finished loading. We unloaded the ships at 10 AM today. Chow gets worse here each day. Powdered eggs, dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk, and canned rations. Work half the night on one sandwich. Most of the time there is no bread at night. I feel low today otherwise these things wouldn't get me. Not much doing today.

March 12 Sunday. Rain again today, and damp as usual. Went to church this morning. The chapel was full of new crews, officers and men. They are sort of getting their religion early. The men on the crews seem to attend pretty regularly. We had creamed chicken again today. Mostly gravy and not so much chicken. Finished building that so-called table in the tent this afternoon. More twists in it than a snake. Lt. General Spaatz is supposed to inspect the base tomorrow.

March 13 Monday. My brother Fred's birthday. Happy Birthday, Fritz, old boy! General Spaatz is on the base today. He presented the boys with their D.F.C's and Air Medals. We were called out at 3:30 this AM and loaded six ships, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed at 7:30 AM. Unloaded at 10:30 AM. Practice mission this afternoon. The new crews are really goons – green and no experience. Lucky the raids are getting easier each day. Signed the payroll again today.

March 14 Tuesday. It is still quiet here. Practice missions yesterday and this afternoon. Been having it pretty soft since I lost 231051. I don't know when I will get another. The other two ships were replaced the same day. Haven't a crew this time like I did before. Just loafing around taking life easy. I went to the show again this afternoon. I sure will hate to go back to work again when this war is over. Standby until 2300 tonight.

March 15 Wednesday. Loaded again last night. Seven ships, ten 100 # demolition bombs and 32 65 # incendiary bombs. Takeoff: 6:45 AM. Land: 1:45 PM. Target: Brunswick, Germany. One ship was lost in the group, the lead ship from the 350th squadron. Captain Knight was co-pilot. He used to be in our squadron. The ship went down over the target. Had trouble with the bomb racks on two ships. Breakfast at 5 AM and to bed, up at 12:30 PM. Saw "What a Woman" with Rosalind Russell and Brian Aherne.

March 16 Thursday. Loaded seven ships last night. Ten 500 # demolition bombs. One ground spare and three flying spares. Unloaded all four of them. Target today was Augsburg, Germany. All ships returned, no damage to ships. Had a few Jerries flying over the field last night. Moved in an anti-aircraft battery today. Don't know if they are going to stay or not. Had a Red Alert this afternoon about 6 PM.

March 17 Friday. Busy again last night. Loaded seven ships 42 65# incendiaries. Briefing at 4 AM, crews recalled to the briefing room at 6:45 AM and re-briefed for another target. Mission scrubbed at 7:30 AM. Heavy fog and ceiling zero. Unloaded the ships at 10:30 AM. Had four fresh eggs for breakfast this AM. Third time in the E.T.O. Missed them twice. Saw "Madame Curie" with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon today. R.C. tonight.

March 18 Saturday. Received Robe and Thel's Christmas package yesterday. It was mailed December 14. Went back to work again last night. Loaded eight ships 10 500 # demolition bombs, one ground spare. Target: Augsburg, Germany. Got to bed at 12:30 AM and up again at noon. I prefer this life, better than having a ship. Captain Zellers, a new pilot, led the group and screwed up. His second mission and he was leading because he was the ranking pilot. Three ships were lost, two from the 418th, one from the 350th.

March 19 Sunday. No church today. Loaded eight ships at 9:30 AM, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Takeoff at 2:50 PM. Target: Pas de Calais anti-invasion fortifications. Direct hits on target. I have another ship, one from K Group. It came in yesterday afternoon. The ship is all modified. Twenty-one British Halifax and Lancaster bombers landed on the base last night. Their field was overcast and they couldn't land there. A man from the 418th was killed. He drove into a propeller. Red Alert tonight. Norwich was bombed again.

March 20 Monday. A nice quiet night last night after the Red Alert. It rained the biggest part of the day. Worked on the new ship, new to this group. It flew 12 missions with "K" Group. The ship has been rebuilt at one of the depots. We changed all the ammunition and cleaned the guns and made a couple of modifications. We have a few more things to check out. An argument is going on as to whether a drafted soldier can or cannot wear a service stripe after three years. I hope I am not here that long!

March 21 Tuesday. Something is wrong! Three nights' sleep in a row. This can't last. Still working on 231530, the ship I have now. I'll finish the work tomorrow. I wonder how long this one will last? It's getting so I just don't give a damn whether they fly or not. Not a nice way to be but you get so you just can't help it. This Army is surely ruining a lot of men. A lot of us guys won't be worth a "tinker's damn" when this thing is over. Working again tonight.

March 22 Wednesday. Loaded seven ships last night. 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Target: Berlin, Germany. Direct hits on target. Two ships were flying spares. One returned and had to be unloaded. New electric hoists are coming in for the weary armorers. I think I would prefer the old method. It seems longer to set up the new outfit. We'll know more after we try it out. The new ship is ready to fly. "Quitting Time" seems to be the name. Pass tomorrow.

March 23 Thursday. Loaded seven ships, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Brunswick, Germany. All ships returned with little battle damage. Left for London at 1:55 PM. Stopped at Mrs. Beswick's, 24 Taviton St., Enleigh Gardens. Had a nice room and enjoyed it for a change. Had dinner at the Chicken Inn. I wandered around London for a while and went to bed early. Had an alert and heard a few guns.

March 24 Friday. Nothing happened at the base today. Got up at noon today. Had almost 13 hours' sleep in a real bed. Really enjoyed it. Hated to get up. Had dinner at the Columbia Club and then a haircut. Went to see Dorothy Palmer and found Friday was her day off. Screwed up again! Saw "Desert Song" and dinner at Café d Europe. The head waiter wore "tails" and the waiters wore dinner coats. Saw "Tunisian Victory" and "Lifeboat". Had coffee and donuts at Rainbow.

March 25 Saturday. Dropped in the Victory Club again to see Miss Palmer. She doesn't get in until late in the afternoon and I must leave on the 1:00 PM train. I'll try again next pass. I must send the pin I bought last pass to Irma one of these days. I arrived back on the base at 4:30 this afternoon. Nothing doing in the way of a raid today. All is quiet in the E.T.O. Alerted tonight. There was a big raid on London last night.

March 26 Sunday. Loaded seven ships last night, 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Finished at 10:30 PM. Mission was scrubbed at 6 AM. I don't know why. It's a beautiful day and not a cloud in the sky. Unloaded at 10 AM. I'm spending a lot of time in the "sack" lately. It's a beautiful day, and I'm getting spring fever. The fellows are out playing ball and soaking in the sunshine. We don't see much over here.

March 27 Monday. More work last night. Seven ships again, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Airfield, Bordeaux, France. Many hits on target with good results. All ships returned safely with no damage. This idea of one crew loading and the men assigned to the ships sweating them out. Rather like having a ship that doesn't fly. The war seems to have slowed down a bit lately. Correction on the above. Jake's ship got it in the tail again! Another lucky gunner.

March 28 Tuesday. Loaded again last night. The usual seven ships, one ground spare, which is the usual thing lately, 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Target: Airfield, France. Results in question. Some say the target was blasted and others report a complete miss. A few holes in the ships today. Jerry was throwing quite a lot of flak. Painted the shackles on 231530 as per orders today. Hear that they are going to call the ship "Quitting Time". Took the afternoon off.

March 29 Wednesday. Had another night off. No alert last night. Went to bed early and got up for breakfast, the first time for a week. Foggy last night and rain today. Still raining tonight. Eddie Silverstone left for home yesterday. He promised to call Irma when he gets to Chicago. I would like to be going with him. WE all will be going one of these days. Soon, I hope. The fellows going home seem to be getting a raw deal. Perhaps it's better to wait until this is over.

March 30 Thursday. Had nine ships to load last night, ten 100 # demolition bombs and 32 65 # incendiary bombs. The mission was scrubbed just at the fellows had the racks set up. I didn't go out last night as I was going to sweat this ship out this morning. Got a break out of the deal! Didn't have to go out at all. Stayed in the "sack" until noon. Missed fresh eggs today. We're getting them about once a week now, and pancakes several times. They ran out of eggs just in front of Smitty!

March 31 Friday. Nine ships again last night, ten 100 # demolition bombs and 32 65 # incendiary bombs. The ships were recalled about an hour or so after takeoff. Hanna had a ground spare again. He had it for the last ten raids or so. The base was bombed for the first time at 4:30 AM. The dropped two bombs, probably 500 # demolition bombs. One missed the base and one hit the East-West runway. The place was lit up like a Christmas tree. The mission was delayed one hour. The bombs were dropped in the Channel. The target was Ludwigshafen, Germany. It was counted as a mission.

A record month, with 14 raids, the most so far. The first bombing of the base. The war has come to us at last and I can't say I like it! The fellows were in the mess hall and beat it for the shelters. The second bomb woke me and I stayed in bed. Lots of stories are going around. I hope they don't come back! There was only one ship this time. From the stories the fellows on the line really ran for cover. No one was hurt. 200 or 300 guys filled in the hole.

April 1 Saturday. Another month has passed. I wonder what this month will bring? Loaded the same nine ships again last night, ten 100 # demolition bombs and 32 65 # incendiary bombs. The ships took off at 6 AM, and were called back and landed at 10:30. All but two ships dropped their load in the Channel. I helped load 231530 last night, the second time she has tried to make her first mission from this base. Those bombs yesterday caused a little damage. A few holes in the ships and the tents.

April 2 Sunday. Had a welcome night in bed last night. No alert. Rain and windy today, rather like March weather at home. It's Palm Sunday and I missed church. I just didn't get up. It's getting so I hate to get out of the "sack" even if I don't work nights. The whole bunch of us will have bed sores! I didn't go near the line today. I got up in time for dinner and went to the show this afternoon. Saw the thing before several years ago. I hope we have another peaceful night.

April 3 Monday. Another uneventful night and day. Twelve hours in the "sack" again. It's going to be tough getting up in the morning again! Smitty, Norm Brett, and I fried about a peck of potatoes at the shop last night. Those french fried potatoes were great. The meals are getting worse rather than better. Too much politics in this Army and in this war. Replaced the incendiary grenades in the ships with Limey grenades. We have proved to ourselves that they are inferior to ours.

April 4 Tuesday. This is now the fourth day of rain. No alert last night. I had another 12 hours on the pad. We are restricted to the base until further notice starting this morning. Flying personnel are not restricted. I don't get the deal. Spent the afternoon at the movie. The weather sure is holding up things. I wonder if this restriction means the start of the invasion. I hope so, lets get this damn war over and go home. Nothing doing tonight.

April 5 Wednesday. Another night of inactivity. It's getting to be a habit, this sleeping uninterrupted for a full night. There was a practice mission scheduled for this morning but even that was scrubbed. The best part of the whole thing is that we now have ground spares for practice missions! The ideas that the invasion is imminent seems to be widespread. Perhaps this lull is about to break. We are alerted tonight, the first time for four nights.

April 6 Thursday. Got a bit of exercise last night. Loaded nine ships, ten 100 # demolition bombs and 32 65 # incendiary bombs. Mission scrubbed at 11 PM. Unloaded this morning at 8 AM. Had a sample briefing this morning. The idea was to give the ground crews what a briefing was like. We had the same briefing the crews were given for the February 25 Regensburg raid. Where the fighters would join the group, the way in and out from the target and what to expect.

April 7 Friday. Good Friday. The whole world is paying the penalty of its sins. Another night of activity. Loaded seven ships last night, 231530 was one of them. We were called at 1 AM and finished at 5 AM, 38 100 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed at 7 AM. Unloaded the ships this afternoon. Some of the fellows had trouble in Diss the night before last. Several bear the scars of the conflict. Pete, the first sergeant, seems to be facing court martial for his part.

April 8 Saturday. More exercise last night. Called at 1:30 AM. Loaded eight ships, 38 100 # demolition bombs. Back in bed at 3:45 AM. Lt. Kraft sent Smitty and me back to the barrack in his jeep. The rest of the fellows didn't get in until around 6 AM. They waited for chow. Target: Quackenburg, Germany. No opposition, flak, or fighters. All ships returned safely. The first raid for some time. I should be on pass today if the restriction weren't on. I'm taking pass on base tomorrow.

April 9 Sunday. Easter Sunday. Loaded nine ships last night. Three were spares and were loaded with 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Six ships had ten 500 # demolition bombs. Takeoff at 7:30 AM and they were called back at 10:30 AM. The weather was cloudy with rain and fog. One ship crashed near the field. I don't know what it was. Two of our ships landed at other bases because of the fog. Sorry to say I didn't go to church today. This is the day the war was to end. Pass day on base.

April 10 Monday. The second day of pass on the base. The boys loaded nine ships last night. Six ships with 42 65 # incendiary bombs, three spares with 12 500 # demolition bombs. The spares were unloaded. Target: Melsbroek, Belgium. They saw one enemy fighter. Three men on a 418th ship were wounded. All ships returned. They had a sort of picnic for the group today. It was sort of a flop due to low attendance. Smitty and I had fried potatoes at the shop tonight. We foraged the line for a pan, potatoes, and lard. A terrible supper tonight.

April 11 Tuesday. Twelve ships last night including one ground spare, 237800, and one flying spare. Load: 5 1,000 # demolition bombs. Target: Rostock, Germany. 231530 screwed up and went with another group to Stutensee, Germany. One man was killed on 231389 "Borrowed Time", the engineer. A crew tried to fly 237800 but didn't get off. The boys were scared this morning and used every excuse to keep from flying. A little ass-chewing of the ground crew was the result.

April 12 Wednesday. Loaded nine ships last night, 237800 a ground spare again, flew today. A crew from the 349th took it up. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Ships were recalled. They saw some flak and were credited with a mission. I do not know the target. 231530 was shot up pretty badly yesterday. It will probably be out for several days, perhaps a week. No one was injured. We just put a few hours on the line today. Had to unload all but one of the ships. Three new crews arrived yesterday.

April 13 Thursday. We were busy for a while last night, called at 2 AM to load ten ships, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Augsburg, Germany. Saw some flak. One bombardier was injured, not seriously. Six-hour passes are now suspended. The restriction should be off at midnight on them. Started midnight last night. All trucks kept on base, might have been moving troops or equipment. Yesterday's raid was not credited as a mission. The decision was reversed late yesterday.

April 14 Friday. Stand down last night. Another night in the "sack". Spring fever seems to have me. I have no ambition or pep these days. Made another modification on the table in the tent just to have something to do. 231530 won't be flying for some time yet. They find more wrong with the ship each day. Working on both wings. Gas tanks and struts in the right wing were punctured and all the lines in the left wing are cut. Going to the Red Cross again tonight.

April 15 Saturday. Another stand down. I don't get it. The past two days have been perfect for a mission. It rained late this afternoon, regular April showers. The mechanics are still working on 231530. She was really shot up and might be out for several more days. Alerted this afternoon to install external bomb racks. Went out to the line to put them on after chow. The deal was scrubbed by the time we reached the shop. That mission the other day counted.

April 16 Sunday. Rain all day today, and still rain tonight. No alert. Missed church today. Had a "dry run" today on installing external bomb racks. Removed them again this afternoon. Glad to learn how they are installed. We will probably put them on about 2 AM some fine morning soon. That is going to be interesting, installing and adjusting them by the light of a flashlight. They will carry from 100 to 4,000 # bomb under each wing.

April 17 Monday. Cloudy and light mist all day. All ships are grounded. Not much doing for several days. Things should start moving when the weather changes. The invasion should start soon, if ever. Spent the morning frying potatoes in the shop. This afternoon was spent at the movies. Saw Kay Kyser in "Around the World". A fairly good picture. Popped some of the corn Irma sent some time ago. Loading ten ships tonight. We are starting early for a change.

April 18 Tuesday. Loaded ten ships last night, one ship a ground spare, 231767 this time. One ship aborted, oxygen leak in the tail. Target: Berlin. Bomb load: eight 500 # incendiary clusters and 16 100 # demolition bombs. No damage to ships. Landed at 6 PM. Put in another day fooling around. 231530 may fly again one of these days. Had more fried potatoes today. Had a bit of luck today, ran down the donut wagon and had a couple of donuts. Alerted again tonight.

April 19 Wednesday. Eight ships last night. Unloaded three ships today. One abortion, one flying spare, and one ground spare. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Lippstadt, Germany. Red Alert last night at 12:30 AM. Flak all over the sky plus flares. One bomb shook the field and broke windows in Harmston. Hit about 18 miles away, a big one. Could hear planes all over the sky. The boys hit for the ditches and I was with them. Had another Red Alert early this AM.

April 20 Thursday. Another quiet night, standby until 10:30 PM then stand down. Rained all night. Loaded ten ships 10:30 this AM. Seven ships 12 500 # demolition bombs, 2 1,000 # demolition bombs on external racks. Three ships 12 500 # demolition bombs. Takeoff: 4 PM, land 8:30 PM. Target: Cherbourg, France. Thirteen German planes were shot down over England Wednesday morning. Saw six and possibly ten go down from the base. One ship from the group landing gear collapsed. Several of our ships were hit by flak.

April 21 Friday. Waited all night to be called to load. Finally the call came at 8 AM. Loaded eight ships, ten 500 # demolition bombs on nine ships, 32 100 # demolition bombs on one ship. Takeoff: 1 PM. Ships called back after takeoff. One 418th ship crashed today. Eight ships reported crashed in this vicinity today. Another one of those tragic days. 231530 is back in commission. Test hopped today. Jake Sambrailo's friend Woodward and his ground crew were awarded the Legion of Merit. There was an article in Stars and Stripes.

April 22 Saturday. Loaded nine ships today. Called at 8 AM. Had eight loaded from yesterday. Unloaded two and loaded three making a total of nine ships. Takeoff: 3 PM. Land: 9:45 PM. Target: Railroad yard, Hamm, Germany. German ships followed the boys home tonight. Red Alert called when the ships were landing. Saw one ship shot down several miles from the base. I think it was a B-24. Quite a few ships were in the air at the time. 231530 flew today. All our ships returned.

April 23 Sunday. Called at 1 AM to load. Didn't expect to be called until around 8 this morning. Loaded nine ships, 38 100# demolition bombs. Finished around 4 AM and waited until 5:30 AM for breakfast. Mission scrubbed at 6:30 AM. Unloaded the ships at noon for a practice mission. The weather was great for a mission. Attended the movies this afternoon. Two ground spares again today. Why do they always pick on us?

April 24 Monday. Back to work again last night. Loaded nine ships, ten 500 # demolition bombs, one ship a ground spare. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Land: 4:45 PM. Target: Friedrichshafen, Germany. A few flak holes in some of the ships. 231530 has a hole in her tail. Finished Lt. Kraft's office today. Hope he is satisfied now. He is talking of building a bomb shelter in back of the shop. Pass again tomorrow. Must be back on the base at midnight each night.

April 25 Tuesday. Called at 12:30 last night. Loaded seven ships, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Early briefing today, 2:45 AM. The crews were out before we finished loading. Takeoff at 5:30 AM. Target: Dijon, France. Very little damage to the ships. Land: 1 PM. Thirteen B-24's were shot down last Saturday over England. Jerry followed them home. Several bases were strafed, quite a few killed. Ten to 15 men were killed loading on a base close to us several nights ago.

April 26 Wednesday. The boys loaded seven ships last night, 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Group operations heaped injury on injury. Three ships were flying spares and one ground spare. We also had the weather ship and an air-sea rescue ship. Unloaded the flying spares and the ground spare. Takeoff: 5:10 AM. Land: 12 noon. Target: Brunswick, Germany. No damage to the ships. The weather ship was almost shot down over Ipswich. It flew over during a Red Alert and it was fired on by anti-aircraft batteries.

April 27 Thursday. Two missions today. Loaded seven ships last night, 16 500 # M-53 semi-armor piercing bombs. Three flying spares and one ground spare. 231530 was the ground spare. All three spares unloaded. Target: Cherbourg, Pas de Calais, France. No damage to ships. Loaded six ships for a second mission, 12 500 # demolition bombs. 231530 flew on this one. Three flying spares on this mission. Target: Nancy-Toul airfields, Alsace-Lorraine, France. Unloaded three ships. A B-24 crashed killing the bombardier and 40 sheep!

April 28 Friday. Loaded seven ships last night, six 1,000 # demolition bombs. Target: Cherbourg, France. Ships went over the target but could not find the target because of clouds and brought the bombs back. Four ships in the group were lost, two from the 349th and two from the 350th. Col. Kelly, Group C.O. went down in one of the 350th ships. He replaced Col. Harding several weeks ago. He didn't last very long! Harding was promoted to General and went to Wing. 231530 has a few holes today. Loaded new explosive ammunition today.

April 29 Saturday. Ten ships loaded last night, four 500 # M-17 incendiary clusters and three 1,000 # M-44 demolition bombs. Target: Berlin, Germany. No damage to ships. Had one ground spare and one flying spare. Both unloaded. The flying spare aborted. 231530 flew this mission. One gun out, with trigger bar worn. No ships lost today. Another milk run for this group. Col. Kelly sort of screwed up yesterday, went over twice at the same altitude and speed. Flak was close the first time over the target.

April 30 Sunday. Very happy to say that I attended church again today. No alert last night so I had no excuse. Had breakfast and a shower this morning. I must do this more often. Payday again. I collected all outstanding money but one pound ten shillings. Poker games, crap games, and blackjack are in full swing. They'll last for a week or so. I had to carry a gas mask and carbine to pay call today. We are getting ready for a gas attack and paratroop raids. I hope those gas attacks never come. That is the thing most feared. A practice mission this afternoon.

We broke another record for this group this month. Fifteen missions, the most for any one month so far. Eleven was the previous high. The B-24's seem to be crashing on the base or near here often. I don't know why. The last one crashed near here killing one man and about 40 sheep. They salvaged their bombs in a field before they crashed. I hope they don't drop them on us one of these days. We lost our Group Commander several days ago. Col. Kelly replaced Col. Harding a few weeks ago. Harding was promoted to Brigadier General and went to Third Division headquarters. I wonder who the next one will be? Spring arrived this month. The weather has improved a great deal. Trees are getting their leaves and the hedges are in bloom. The fruit trees are full of blossoms. So ends another month. What will May bring?

May 1 Monday. Two missions today. Loaded seven ships last night, one a ground spare. Target: St. Omer, France. Load: six 1,000 # demolition bombs. Bombs were brought back because the target was clouded over. It counted as a mission. Loaded five ships and unloaded five ships for the second mission. Load: six 1,000 # demolition bombs. No one seems to know why the ships were changed. Target: Sarreguemines, France. Some of the ships were hit by flak. A 418th ship had part of the rudder shot away (a 20 mm cannon?)

May 2 Tuesday. No mission today. Practice mission this afternoon. Flew to P.R.U. P-38 base today, a country farm base near Oxford. We flew two tires down in the bomb bay of 231530. One of our ships flew there on a visit and tore off a wing tip taxiing and burned up the tires. Had dinner there. It was rough, they use mess kits. It was too windy to change the tires. Someone will have to go back tomorrow with the pilot. A p-38 cracked up near our base today, the second in several weeks.

May 3 Wednesday. Another full night in the "sack". High winds and cloudy. Rain this morning and clear this afternoon. Practice mission this afternoon with practice bombs. A letter from Irma today. The pictures I sent in the Yank magazine reached home. I was wondering about them. I have a letter from Mrs. Hamlin today. Rather surprised to hear from her. Weather is clear this evening. We will probably load tonight for a mission tomorrow.

May 4 Thursday. Had nine ships to load last night, one ground spare, one flying spare. Load: three 1,000 # demolition bombs, five 500 # M-17 incendiary clusters. The ships were called back shortly after takeoff. Berlin was to be the target. Haven't unloaded all the ships yet. Two have been unloaded so far. Fried french fried potatoes at the shop last night, Smitty, Brett, and I. Had five kids as guests. Got a kick out of watching them eat. Couldn't keep up with them.

May 5 Friday. Unloaded seven ships and reloaded them last night. Load: six 1,000 # demolition bombs. Mission was delayed just after loading until 3 PM then scrubbed. Ships were unloaded again including two we didn't unload last night. Rain and thunderstorms this afternoon. The first thunder I recall hearing in England. It seems to be unusual over here. Another package from Irma today!

May 6 Saturday. Quiet last night, no alert. Cloudy with thunder, lightning, and rain squalls. Had a good night's sleep. Didn't get up for chow this AM. Lt. Kraft is angry because the fellows didn't show up at the shop to inspect their guns. Moore and the Lt. were going round and round. Russ Stieler and Moore started going round in the barrack this noon. The inspector's job is no snap. A commendation from Gen. LeMay today on the 100th mission.

May 7 Sunday. Busy last night. Loaded 12 ships, ten with 42 65 # incendiary bombs and two with ten 500 # demolition bombs. Our squadron flew with a composite group. One ship was a ground spare, and Stieler's ship aborted. One ship from the 350th crashed in England. Heard that 8-10 men were killed. One ship from the 349th came back with a dead navigator and a badly wounded bombardier. Target today was Berlin. Heavy flak, no fighters. 231530 was grounded because its crew is on pass.

May 8 Monday. Eleven ships loaded last night, one a ground spare. Ten 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Berlin. No opposition, all ships returned. Capt. Swarthout, now C.O. of the 350th flew lead ship of the group and couldn't find the group and aborted with one of our ships. Another double header today. Four ships loaded this afternoon with 12 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Cherbourg, France. A few ships in the group hit by flak. More fried potatoes, and the beer joint opened again tonight.

May 9 Tuesday. Ten ships loaded last night, 38 100 # demolition bombs. One ground spare. Target: Airfield, Laon-Athies, France. The boys had quite a time last night. About half of them were drunk. That sort of thing will cease when they kill someone while loading. There is no sense in things like that. A 418th ship came back with a bomb in its tail. It was dropped from another ship in our group, and it pinned the tail gunner in the ship. It was removed here on the field.

May 10 Wednesday. Another busy night. Loaded 12 ships, one a spare, with five 1,000 # M-44 demolition bombs. The ships were recalled after takeoff. Weather conditions. Still awaiting orders to unload the ships. Hope they leave the bombs on. The weather is still cloudy this evening. Another ship crashed near the base yesterday, quite near Diss. A fighter, I think. The landing gear collapsed and a tire blew on a ship on the base today, with damage to the props and engines.

May 11 Thursday. Started to load 13 ships last night. Load was to be 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Mission scrubbed just as we started to load. Loaded 12 ships this afternoon, seven ships with 12 500 # demolition bombs, five ships with 6 1000 # demolition bombs. Target: Liege, Belgium. Railroad marshalling yards. Lost one ship, 239983, "Katie", Lt. Hunter crew. It went down over the target. Accurate flak, no fighters. 231530 has six or seven holes, no one injured. Takeoff: 2:45 PM. Land: 8 PM.

May 12 Friday. Loaded 11 ships last night, nine ships with ten 500 # demolition bombs, two ships with 38 100 # demolition bombs. The 350th squadron loaded and flew one of our ships today. Target: Brux, Czechoslovakia. Both the 349th and the 418th lost a ship today. Ordnance had a time finding bombs last night. The revetments are all empty. The ordnance boys will be busy unloading convoys one of these days. Cleaned my O.D.s today. Squadron party tonight. Beer, dames, W.A.C.S., etc.

May 13 Saturday. Ten ships loaded last night. Waited two hours for bombs, the second night in a row. Load: 12 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Osnabruck, Germany. Lost one ship in the group, from reports it was a 350th ship. The party last night was another of the usual brawls. Several fights and the usual drunks. Lt. Col. Jeffrey, the new C. O., is cracking down on the boys, uniforms and military courtesy. We must carry carbines now, fear of paratroops.

May 14 Sunday. Had the night off. Heard the Articles of War and another lecture on Military Courtesy. It seems that saluting officers makes the bombs fall with more accuracy. 231530 got another hit yesterday in No. 4 oil tank. Lt. Faff has refused to fly 231530 in combat. Seems that she doesn't answer to the controls properly. Seems to be a bug in her somewhere. Heard today that we are getting a presidential citation for exemplary achievement.

May 15 Monday. Seven ships loaded last night, one a ground spare. Load: six 1,000 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed this morning and ships unloaded at 8:30 this morning for a practice mission. The new C.O. of the Group is cracking down. The boys are getting extra duty for not saluting, wearing improper uniforms, or not wearing a tie with O.D.s. Also for coming in late from pass. I think he is trying to reform us!

May 16 Tuesday. Loaded eight ships last night, two of them ground spares. Load: six 1,000 # demolition bombs. Unloaded them again this AM for a practice mission. This is the second time in succession that this mission has been scrubbed. It seems the new Group C.O. has "henhouse" ways. Some young punk who wants to show his authority. He threatens court martial for the fellows caught without their carbines. I hate to say this but I hope he doesn't last long!

May 17, Wednesday. The fellows loaded ten ships early this AM. We were called out at 2:30 AM and briefing was at 3:15 AM. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Normal gas load, 2,200 gallons. Mission scrubbed at taxi time, 5:00 AM. Three missions in succession scrubbed. Unloaded the ships at 6:30 this evening. I came off pass just in time to get in on the unloading deal. Restricted on this pass again. Attended the movie today. The picture was here before.

May 18 Thursday. Stand down last night. 231530 was to be a ground spare for yesterday's mission. Took out the guns and re-oiled them this morning. Hanna helped me take out the guns. Jeffrey is making himself disliked around here. Had to clean up the barrack this afternoon for his inspection. He didn't come by any closer than the orderly room. Rumor has it that he is going to have the ships loaded and the crews briefed every night for practice.

May 19 Friday. Called out at 2:20 this AM. Loaded ten ships, seven with five 1,000 # demolition bombs, three with 10 500 # incendiary clusters. Target: Berlin. Takeoff: 9 AM. Land: 6 PM. Lt. Valish cracked up his fourth B-17 this morning on the field, a pathfinder. The bombardier was hurt. One ship came back with half the stabilizer shot off. 231530 has one hole. 238047 "Fever Beaver" is full of flak holes.

May 20 Saturday. Called out early last night. Loaded seven ships, one a ground spare. Load: 12 500 # demolition bombs. The load was changed from ten to twelve shortly after we started to load. Target: Brussels, Belgium. The ships returned with the bombs. Target was clouded over. It counted as a mission. Three ships in the group were lost yesterday, one from the 418th, one from the 349th, and one from the 350th. Another pilot refused to fly 231530 after today's mission. One of our ships hit a gravel truck while taxiing. Must stand guard duty a full four hours every 60 days.

May 21 Sunday. Stand down last night. Climatic conditions unfavorable for a mission. Attended church this morning with Granger, Brett, had no excuse to stay in the "sack". Granger, Brett, Sambrailo, and Gorman occasionally are the only ones from the shop who attend church. Smitty just won't go for some reason. Didn't go near the line today. Went from church to chow and then to the show this afternoon. Chicken a la king for dinner and corned beef for supper again!

May 22 Monday. Standby last night until 11 PM, changed to stand down. Seems they still don't know what to do with 231530. Heard today that it was condemned along with 237800, "Piccadilly Lilly II". Still not sure of its status. The third pilot has now refused to fly the ship. Must be something wrong with it. Resurfacing the perimeter track, adding eight inches of concrete to the existing depth. All the ships are crowded together now. 231530 has been moved twice.

May 23 Tuesday. Five ships last night, six 1000 # demolition bombs. Three flying spares and one ground spare. Only one ship actually went on the mission. Unloaded four ships, three this evening. Target: Railyards, Chaumont, France. Have another new ship today. Rumor going around that the 95th Group was bombed this morning by an English ship. The ship crashed and salvaged a 4,000 # bomb on the mess hall. Heard a series of explosions this morning.

May 24 Wednesday. Eight ships loaded last night. Six loaded with ten 500 # demolition bombs, two ships 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Finished at 2:30 AM, briefing at 3:30 AM and takeoff at 7 AM. Helped load two ships one of each. Target: Berlin. Land: 3:15 PM. Nine ships lost in the group, four from 349th, four from 350th, and one from the 418th. Our ships were shot up pretty badly. Lost one crew in the 418th ship. On pass. More "commando" practice tonight.

May 25 Thursday. Seven ships last night. Load and target changed twice. Twelve 500 # demolition bombs first changed to ten 500 # demolition bombs. Target changed again to original but the bombs were not added again. Target: Brussels, Belgium. A milk run, no fighters and no flak. On pass last night, watched the boys go out, rolled over and went back to

sleep. The 95th Group was not damaged by bombs. A JU-88 dropped five bombs in a pasture near their base killing two cows. Off pass tonight.

May 26 Friday. Stand down last night. Practice mission at 3 AM, probably instrument takeoff and landings. The ships were up for an hour or so, six of them. 231530 is definitely not operational for a combat mission. It has been classified as strictly a low altitude ship. It has no crew now. Zapf transferred to 237800, Hanna's ship. Cleaned the guns this afternoon. He a sight to change and rack salvo bar. Seem to expect paratroops. Had some drill last night.

May 27 Saturday. Busy last night. Eight ships, one a ground spare. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Helped Smitty put the guns in his "lead ship ground spare". Target: Rail yard, Strasbourg, France. Another milk run, with 1,300 fighter escort. We fired our carbines today. First time in a year. It still fires! A 24 hour pass every 14 days now, starting today. Must pull guard on the ships as well as regular guard now, two men to a ship. A parade in Diss today.

May 28 Sunday. Eleven ships last night, eight carried ten 500 # demolition bombs, three 38 100 # demolition bombs. Worked from 1:00 AM until 4:15 AM. We seem to be getting slower instead of faster! Had my first experience with all electric controlled bomb racks. Target: Magdeburg, Germany. Heavy fog this AM. Plenty of flak and fighters today. Lost one ship, 231389, "Borrowed Time," Lt. Lacey, pilot. Had to unload the ship I worked on, a flying spare, and she returned.

May 29 Monday. Loading steady now. Nine ships last night, one flying spare and one ground spare. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Ships returned at 3:45 PM. Target: Leipzig, Germany. Plenty of enemy fighters, several wounded on the ships today. Two B-24's and a B-17 collided in the air as the groups were coming back. I saw them from the base. A 418th ship was in the crackup. I don't think anyone got out of the ships. Three ships were lost in the Group.

May 30 Tuesday. Seven ships last night, one a ground spare. Load: twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing at 3:45 AM. Takeoff: 6:15 AM. Land: 12:30 PM. Target: Rail yard, Troyes, France. Another milk run. No damage, no opposition. Lt. Col. Turner and his brother, a B-26 pilot buzzed the field this evening. Turner finished his tour of missions a few days ago. He is due to return to the States. I spent the afternoon getting in some "sack" time.

May 31 Wednesday. Nine ships on the list last night, two flying spares. Load: six 1,000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:45 AM. Takeoff: 6:30 AM. Land: 1:00 PM. Target: Osnabruck, Germany. All ships returned. No fighters, little flak. Payday again today. The gambling has started again. It will probably last most of the night. Haven't been out to the line today. The fellows tell me that the tents have to be taken down and cleaned. No more cooking on the line, Major Uteley's orders.

Another month has ended. How near is the end of the war? When will the invasion start, or is it just a rumor? Nineteen missions this month, the most in any month so far. We'll probably have more as the weather improves. Lt. Col. Turner has finished his tour of operations and is due to return to the States. This outfit is getting chicken____! The loss of Jeffrey and Major Uteley would not be mourned by this Group. So ends another month in England.

June 1 Thursday. Another month. Will this one bring the invasion? Pulled plane guard on 231530 last night. The fellows loaded five ships, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed at 3 AM. I didn't help load. I helped clean up the tent this afternoon. We picked up the brass and links around the dispersal point. 231530 has been flying most of the day. Lt. Scott has been checking out new pilots in her. That's about all she will be used for from now on.

June 2 Friday. The Queen Elizabeth pulled in the harbor, Greenock, Scotland, Forth of Forth one year ago today. Loaded seven ships last night, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Takeoff: 9 AM. Land: 1:30 PM. Target: Pas de Calais, France. Bombs returned, target clouded over. No damage to ships. Three ships loaded for a second mission, one a ground spare. Takeoff: 4:45 PM. Land: 10:15 PM. Target: Rail yards, Paris, France. All ships returned, no damage. Credit for two missions today. All the bombs were returned on the first mission.

June 3 Saturday. I landed at Greenock, Scotland one year ago today. Loaded four ships last night, one a ground spare, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Reloaded the same bombs on one ship that was unloaded an hour before. Mission scrubbed shortly after the ships were loaded. What we need is a few brains in this Army. The shop is in a mess. We need someone to run the place. It took an hour and a half to get out after we were called.

June 4 Sunday. On pass today. Spending it on the base. Can't get up enough ambition to get off the base. Loaded eight ships last night, 12 500 # semi armor-piercing bombs. Takeoff: 9:30 AM. Land: 1:30 PM. Target: Boulogne, France. All ships returned safely. Received seven letters from Irma in the past two days, the most that I have ever received at one time. My turn to stand guard on the ship tonight. Sheppard is standing in for me.

June 5 Monday. The boys were busy last night. Didn't get called until 2 AM. Loaded ten ships, 12 500 # demolition bombs on part of the ships and 12 500 # semi armor-piercing bombs on the others. Takeoff: 6:30 AM. Land: 11 AM. Target: Boulogne, France. Two 349th ships crashed in the air over England. One returned to the base with the right horizontal stabilizer hanging down. Cloudy with occasional showers today. Chilly and damp in the barracks. Off pass again.

June 6 Tuesday. D Day! Loaded 12 ships for first mission, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Takeoff: 3:25 AM. Land: 10:30 AM. Target: Le Havre, France. Used two ships ground spares. Loaded three ships for second mission, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Takeoff: 6 AM. Land: 2:15 PM. Target: Caen, France. Loaded seven ships for third mission, 16 300

demolition bombs, one ship a ground spare. Takeoff: 5:20 PM. Land: 11:30 PM. Three missions today. No opposition and all ships returned. Targets: Le Havre, Caen, and Falaise, France.

June 7 Wednesday. Had a rest last night. Everything seems to be going better than expected. Hope it continues so. Targets are hard to schedule. When the ships reach them the troops are already there and passed on. Loaded eleven ships this afternoon, two 2,000 # demolition bombs. One ship a ground spare. Takeoff: 3:20 PM. Land: 10:45 PM. All ships returned safely. Little damage from flak. One ship, 232018, brought back one bomb. Release lever was out of release. Target: Bridge at Nantes, France.

June 8 Thursday. The boys brought a few "bandits" back with them last night. Several flew over the field and the ground guns opened up. They strafed the 95th and a B-24 base near us. Three ships, B-17's or fighters, shot down near the 95th. Loaded seven ships at 3 AM. Takeoff: 6 AM. Land: 11:30 AM. Load: two 2,000 # demolition bombs. Target: Bridges at Montes Cassicourt in southern France. Loaded four ships this afternoon, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed. Been using whatever bombs we have on the field.

June 9 Friday. Rained most of last night and today. Had a night off. Going on plane guard again tonight. Just some more extra duty. We are a tactical air force for the present time, formerly a strategic force. Spent the afternoon cleaning and oiling the guns and receivers on 231530. My job since there is no crew assigned to the ship. May have a new one someday. Have been restricted again starting yesterday. Six hours off each two weeks.

June 10 Saturday. Loaded six ships last night. Three were loaded from the day before, making a total of nine ships. Load: 12 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing at 2 AM. Takeoff: 4 AM. Land: 9:30 AM with the bombs. Could not find the target through the overcast. Two of the ships were flying spares. Finished loading at 11:40 PM, went on plane guard at 12 midnight. Came in at 5 AM for breakfast. Called out on a false alarm at 9:30 AM.

June 11 Sunday. Only three ships last night. New load this time: 20 250 # demolition bombs. Target: Beach target on the coast of France. Takeoff: 5 AM. Land: 8:30 AM. Have another new ship today, 337521. 231530 is still here. Don't know what they are going to do with it. Changes the radio call letters on 231530 and it still is in the squadron. The new ship has all electrical bomb racks and all the latest modifications. Came from the 95th and has not flown a combat mission. Hear that the 95th is going PFF.

June 12 Monday. Really puzzled these days. We have been made a tactical air force for the invasion and haven't been flying any more missions than usual. Loaded five ships last night two of them spares. 38 100 # demolition bombs. Takeoff: 4:30 AM. Land: 9:15 AM. Target: Pas de Calais, France. Lost two ships in the Group. Two of our ships were badly shot up. The Luftwaffe put in an appearance today along with plenty of flak. They haven't been very active since the invasion began.

June 13 Tuesday. Loaded eleven ships last night, ten 500 # demolition bombs. One flying spare and a ground spare, 337521. The mission was scrubbed at 1:30 AM. Briefing was to be at 1:15 AM. A long mission, full tokio tanks and an early takeoff. The ships are still loaded, although the tokio tanks have been pumped. Alerted again tonight although we have had showers all day and a hail storm a few minutes ago.

June 14 Wednesday. Eleven ships again last night, 38 100 # demolition bombs. 230521 was a ground spare again and we had an air spare. Briefing: 2 AM. Takeoff: 3:45 AM. Land: 9:30 AM. Brought the bombs back, clouds over target. Some ships dropped the bombs. One carried 24 bombs, only with delayed action fuses. Target was air fields in Belgium. 230521 is to be a lead ship. Checked out this afternoon. 231530 flew a practice mission this afternoon.

June 15 Thursday. Had an easy night, loaded only five ships, two of them spares, one ground and one flying, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 1 AM. Takeoff: 4 AM. Land: 11:45 AM. Target: Hanover, Germany. This ground spare business is a pain. Had it twice, two days in succession. Took the guns out of 230521 today and cleaned and oiled them. The weather is still unseasonable, cloudy and not too warm. Not as busy these days as I thought we would be during the invasion.

June 16 Friday. Loaded two missions last night. Eight ships for one, eight 500 # demolition bombs and three fighter belly gas tanks, two in the bomb bay and one in the waist. Supposedly a shuttle raid to Russia. The tanks were for the fighter escort's return flight. The second mission was four ships, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Both missions were scrubbed, but loaded anyway. The ships are still loaded. 230521 was loaded for the first mission.

June 17 Saturday. Twelve ships still loaded. The mission which the four ships were to go on was scheduled again for today. The detonators were changed last night by ordnance. The crews had the guns in the ships and were ready to taxi out for the takeoff when the mission was scrubbed for the second time. The shuttle raid to Russia is still hanging fire. Put the hoists in the ships and extra shackles and releases plus bomb slings today.

June 18 Sunday. The Russia deal was scrubbed definitely last night. Unloaded the gas tanks and extra equipment and put on two more 500 # bombs. Eight ships, two spares, 230521 on this one. Briefing: 1 AM. Takeoff: 4:10 AM, delayed a half hour. Land at 11:15 AM. Target: Ostermoor, Germany. Some flak damage to ships. 230521 picked up a hole in her tail. Loaded four ships this PM for another mission, two 2,000 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed at 6 PM.

June 19 Monday. Went out to load ten ships at 11 PM. Added two ships to the list. Still didn't have bombs at 2 AM. The load was changed from ten 500 # incendiary bombs to ten 500 # demolition bombs. Eight ships were scrubbed and the

other four were finally loaded with two 2000 # demolition bombs. Finished at 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:15 AM. Land: 11:15 AM. Target: France. Rather a screwed up affair. At times one wonders where the brains of the Army are!

June 20 Tuesday. Loaded 12 ships last night, two 2000 # demolition bombs. Briefings at 12:45 AM and 1:45 AM. Takeoff: 4:20 AM. Land: 12:15 PM. Target: Sallersleben(?) Germany. All ships returned with little damage, mostly flak. Pulled plane guard last night. 230521 flew this mission. The 349th squadron are now known as the "Vanishing Americans". They lose planes and men constantly. Practicing dropping a new parachute gadget, bomb or supply container.

June 21 Wednesday. The shuttle raid to Russia is on again. Loaded 12 ships last night, eight for the shuttle raid and four to return to the 390th Group. The eight ships carried 8 500 # bombs and 35 releases and shackles, bomb hoist and slings, three fighter tanks and other equipment. 230521 carried four tanks, put-put oil coolers, and other equipment. The other four ships carried 42 65 # incendiary bombs. Briefings at 12:30 AM and 1:30 AM. Target: Ruhr, Germany.

June 22, Thursday. My second anniversary in the Army. It seems like a long time. While the ships are away (they will be gone for several weeks) they are repairing the landing strip and cleaning up the base. We must furnish them men every other day for detail work while the planes are gone. Getting 6 hour night passes and 24 hour passes each week. Pas de Calais flying bomb ramps today with the 390th. Load: 12 500 # demolition bombs.

June 23 Friday. Having a vacation now that the ships are away. Some of the fellows are doing detail work each day. My turn comes Sunday, six men each day. 231530 is flying practice missions again. 231066 came back to the base today pretty well shot up. It will be repaired and returned to the 390th Group. Some of our mechanics are there on detached service. Buzz bomb ramps, Pas de Calais again today. 12 500 # demolition bombs.

June 24 Saturday. Still taking it easy, dodging details these days. 239867 is down at Woodbridge with the hydraulic system shot out. 231530 flew fluid and lines down this afternoon to repair her. Not many ships on the base at the present time. The 390th Group seems to be a terrible outfit. The 100 or "Century Bombers" seem to have quite a reputation and command respect there at least. Our ships with the 390th bombed an air field near Paris today with 12 500 # demolition bombs.

June 25 Sunday. Worked on the cement detail at the Officer's Club today, putting in a road. Furnishing six men a day for detail. One group goes in the morning, the next the following afternoon. We have been in operation one year today and have flown 151 missions to date, not a bad record. Target today: Airdromes and oil dump at Toulouse, France. Bomb load: 12 500 # demolition bombs

June 26 Monday. Still resting. Cloudy with occasional showers today. Weather has been rather nice lately, not too warm or too cool. Wrote several letters and played pinocle this afternoon, one of the several times I have played cards since I have been in the Army. Red Alert this afternoon. Sweating out these flying bombs on each alert now. Received Mom's cookies today. The Russia-based ships bombed Vienna and Poland today.

June 27 Tuesday. Heard that we lost several planes in Russia. Don't know how many. The air field was bombed by Germans. Still hearing and the time is sort of dragging. I would rather be working again. The fellows coming back from London seem to be glad to get back. The flying bombs seem to scare hell out of them. I think I will stay here. The Russia-base ships bombed a synthetic oil plant in Drohobycz, Poland.

June 28 Wednesday. Still sweating out the return of the ships and resting easy. Crawled out of the sack at 10:30 AM. The outfit gave 48 hour passes last week while the ships were away. Didn't take one myself. Loaned all my cash to Fred Granger and Willie Gorman. Will take a pass later on. Would like to get some pictures of London. Cloudy with showers today. Received citation ribbon today. Target today: Rail yards at Saarbrucken, Germany.

June 29 Thursday. Work on the cement detail again today. Five hours a day every three or four days isn't bad. We don't work too hard. It helps pass the time. What will the kids say when they ask me what I did to win the war and I answer mix concrete? The new Major Emberson wants flower gardens in front of the barracks now. What next? Base dance at the Red Cross tonight. Target today: Leipzig, Germany.

June 30 Friday. Payday again today. The ships are coming back from the 390th Group today. The other ships that went to Russia are now in Italy and are due back any day. Still taking it easy but I think those days are numbered. Checking equipment again today. Might move sometime but I don't think it will be very soon.

Another month gone. This month has brought my second anniversary in the Army, a hell of a long time to me. Made history this month. The Russia raid and the trip from Russia to Italy. Received the Presidential Citation from the first Regensburg raid August 17, 1943. We should have several clusters to add to it by now, according to the news going around. The entire Third Division received the citation. This month also brought the flying bomb, the new German weapon. It is not as effective as the Germans claim. The long-awaited invasion of France came this month. It seems to be going as well as, if not better than, expected. This should bring the end of the war sooner. New incomplete ramps, possibly for the launching of mammoth rockets, have been captured. This has been a month of historical significance.

July 1 Saturday. The vacation continues. The ships are back from the 390th Group. Stand down last night. Rained almost all night and early this morning. Worked on 231530 this afternoon. The armor plate has been removed from the

nose of the ship and it looks like we might be getting rid of it. 237800 "Piccadilly Lilly II" has been sent to Harrington for salvage.

July 2 Sunday. Pass today. Went to Norwich this noon and returned this evening. The town is crowded due to the 25-mile travel restriction. Took a few pictures and bought a couple of bracelets for my "girls". Haven't done a thing in the way of bombing since the ships came back from the 390th Group. Flew 231530 "Quitting Time" to Harrington for salvage today. The Russia-based ships bombed Arad, Romania today.

July 3 Monday. Rained most of last night and today. Should help the water shortage. We have had plenty of rain lately. Haven't loaded a bomb since the night of June 20. We are having quite a rest. Turned in all carbines today to be modified. All sorts of rumors going around now. Orders to pack up equipment and all that. Rumors we are going most anyplace. Kearney, Nebraska is supposed to have a sign "Welcome Home 100 Group".

July 4 Tuesday. Loaded three ships last night, first in two weeks. Two 2000 # demolition bombs. Takeoff: 4:20 AM. Target: Bridge near Paris. 10/10 clouds, couldn't find primary or secondary targets. Bombs brought back. Land: 10:35 AM. 231767 came back with a bad prop bearing. 231708 loaded for this afternoon. Three ships. Takeoff: 6:15 PM. Mission scrubbed just before takeoff. No hits, no runs, no errors. Free beer for the boys tonight by Special Service.

July 5 Wednesday. Nothing doing last night. The ships came back from the Russia raid this afternoon. They have been in Russia and Italy. Lost two ships from our squadron while they were gone, 232018 "Waticare" crashed in Italy. The ships bombed Beziers, France on the way back to England. Have heard that we go off operation July 7. We are going somewhere sometime.

July 6, Thursday. Loaded seven ships last night, one a ground spare. Twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:15 AM. Land: 10:15 AM. Target: Air field, Boulogne, France. No damage to ships, all returned safely. 230521 ran out of gas and landed in Russia. It could not take off from where it landed and is not expected back. Rather warm today. Washed some clothes. Takes about two weeks to get clothes back from the washer women. Had three ships, twenty 250 # demolition bombs this PM. Mission scrubbed.

July 7 Friday. More like old times last night. Loaded 12 ships, no spares. Ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 2:30 AM. Takeoff: 5:30 AM. Land: 12:01 PM. Target: Synthetic oil plant, Leipzig, Germany. From the reports the ships missed the target plenty. All ships returned, no damage. The squadron has another new ship to replace 237800, Hanna's old ship. It has all the new gadgets and it's a honey. Moving rumors still flying.

July 8 Saturday. Ten ships last night, lead ship ground spare and one flying spare. Loaded six 1000 # demolition bombs. The crews were out before the bombs. Briefing at 1 AM. Takeoff: 3:30 AM. Land: 9 AM. Target: Wood target, Pas de Calais, France. 230521 came back today. Seems the rumor that it wouldn't be back was incorrect as most rumors are. The ship was very dirty, full of red dust from Africa. Three gun barrels burned out and most of the ammo gone.

July 9 Sunday. Another pass today. Spending this one in camp. Raining and Norwich hasn't much to offer but drink and women which don't interest me. No mission today. The crew that flew 521 on the Russian deal left the guns in a terrible condition and went on pass. Got to clean them myself which makes me mad! Probably will have to clean the receivers, too. Must bore sight and harmonize the guns.

July 10 Monday. Another quiet night last night. Had a standby until 2200 which turned into no alert. Cleaned guns most of the day. Haven't had a letter for almost a week now. Delay somewhere. Loaded three ships this afternoon, six 1000 # demolition bombs. Takeoff was to be 5:30 PM. Mission scrubbed at 5 PM. Swank was in London on pass. He said the flying bombs are still landing there. He was knocked down by one this morning.

July 11 Tuesday. Had 11 ships last night. Had three ships loaded with six 1000 # demolition bombs. Took one off of each, leaving five 1000 # bombs. Loaded eight ships with 42 65 # incendiary bombs, changed 521 from incendiaries to 1000 # demolition bombs after we had the demolition bombs loaded. Had to unload and load two ships. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Land: 4:15 PM. Target: Munich, Germany. Missed the target. The ball turret gunner on 2107007 screwed up today. He ruined one ship, 231256 "King Bee II", shot up five more, and killed himself. Left the ammo in the chute.

July 12 Wednesday. Eleven ships again last night, one a ground spare. Six 500 # incendiary clusters and four 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:30 AM. Takeoff: 8:25 AM. Land: 5:30 PM. Target: Rocket assembly plant, Munich, Germany. Same target as yesterday. Bombed through the clouds. The gunner left the ammo in the feed way yesterday and started to take the gun out. The solenoid jammed the trigger bar, and the recoil of the gun turned the turret, setting fire to a ship.

July 13 Thursday. Ten ships again last night, one ground spare, 231066 again. Load: six 500 # incendiary clusters and four 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 2 AM. Takeoff: 5 AM. Land: 1:15 PM. Target: Munich, Germany, third day in succession. Have been missing the target. The gas load and target were changed twice last night. The ships took off in a mist with zero visibility. All ships returned OK. 521 flew the last three missions.

July 14 Friday. Working again tonight. Had ten ships to start. One ship scrubbed. Loaded 12 parachute supply cylinders on each ship. Three taxi times for the group: 3:45 AM, 3:55 AM, and 4:05 AM. The cylinders were dropped deep in

France for the civilian population. They contained mostly food. Do not know location. A military secret. 521 brought one back. Cockpit or bombardier trouble.

July 15 Saturday. Stand down last night. Released for training, something new. The rest of the division flew a mission today. Spend the day in the barracks reading and taking life easy. Crawled out of the sack at noon, just in time for chow. Have work to do but lack the ambition to do it. Have sights to harmonize, etc. A bomb revetment at a B-24 base near here blew up this afternoon. We heard the explosion here.

July 16 Sunday. Another pass today. Spending it on the base again. Norwich holds no charms for me. Did see Edith Cavell's grave in the church yard last trip to Norwich. Bombs are still going off at the B-24 base today. Heard explosions several times today. Heard that one squadron was wiped out there. Don't know what started it off. Willie Gorman heard that his son, five years old, was killed in an accident on July 7. That was a hard blow.

July 17 Monday. The boys were busy last night. Eleven ships, one ground spare and an air spare. 521 was the air spare and went on the mission. The ships carried two 2000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:45 AM. Land: 1:30 PM. Target: Rilly la Montaigne, France. Had two ships for another mission this PM. Two 2000 # demolition bombs. Takeoff: 1:15 PM and called back at 1:45 PM. Takeoff again at 6:30 PM Land: 10:40 PM. Target: Pas de Calais area.

July 18 Tuesday. Eleven ships last night, one ground spare which was used by the 350th. The fire marshal ran into the prop with a jeep and set it on fire. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 2:30 AM Takeoff: 4:45 AM. Land: 10:45 AM. Target: Kiel, Germany. Held up fusing for several hours last night. Don't know the reason unless they couldn't decide on the detonators. All ships returned. Two Groups, two targets today.

July 19 Wednesday. Had the same 11 ships again last night. One ground spare and two air spares. Loaded five 1000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:15 AM Takeoff: 5:30 AM. Land: 12:30 PM. Target: Schweinfurt, Germany. The ships were fairly well shot up today. They ran into a lot of flak. Several engine changes. 521 got 13 holes. Had to pull out around half the ammo in the ships this afternoon. A new order from Division.

July 20 Thursday. Started out with eight ships and ended up with ten last night. Three air spares, 521 was one of them. Loaded twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:40 AM. Land: 2:10 PM. Target: Synthetic oil plants in Leipzig, Germany. Missed the target. Unloaded the spares this afternoon, smashed two fingers in the process of unloading 521. Two smashed fingers and a chipped tooth are my "wounds" to date.

July 21 Friday. Had two ships added to the original list again last night. Nine ships loaded, no spares for once. Load was ten 500 # incendiary clusters. Briefing: 3:30 AM Takeoff: 5:35 AM. Land: 1:30 PM. All ships returned. Target: Ingolstadt, Germany. Had to report to the hospital (65th General) today to have my fingers X-rayed. The ends of both are fractured but the chips are in favorable position so the report states. They are sore as hell!

July 22 Saturday. Stand down last night. No mission. Had a swell night's sleep for a change. Got up at noon today in time for chow. Caught up on some work today. Harmonized four guns. Have the tail turret and radio gun left to do. Some of the "Commandos" from London have shown up on the base lately and going into business. The MP's escort them off the base when they find them. They were doing a big business.

July 23 Sunday. Had another night off. Had a standby until 2330 changed to stand down at midnight. On pass today. Spending it in camp. Norwich is about the only place to go now and it is worse than ever on Sunday. Missed church again today. Beginning to feel ashamed about it. Haven't been there for several months. No excuse for it. News on the German situation sounds very favorable. Hope it is true. (civil war in Germany) **NOTE: This rumor about a civil war in Germany is probably the result of the failed assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler on July 20, 1944.**

July 24 Monday. Twelve ships loaded last night, two ground spares. Thirty-eight 100 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 8 AM. Takeoff: 10 AM. Land: 2:30 PM. Target: German lines in Cherbourg, France. Bombs returned, target overcast. Close to American lines so the bombs were not dropped for fear of hitting our troops. We now have a speaker in the barracks hooked up with the radio in the communications barrack. Sounds great for a change.

July 25 Tuesday. Two tactical missions today. Had the same 12 ships as yesterday, save one. Same bomb load, 38 100 # demolition bombs. The ships were not unloaded yesterday. Briefing: 5 AM. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Land: 12:45 PM. Lost one ship from the Group. Target: German lines, St. Lo, France. Second mission, 12 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4 PM. Takeoff: 5:15 PM. Land: 5:45 PM. Mission scrubbed.

July 26 Wednesday. Had ten ships last night, ten 500 # demolition bombs. This mission was scrubbed just as we started to load. Had six ships this afternoon, two 2000 # demolition bombs. The mission was delayed a half hour at taxi time and then scrubbed shortly after. Unloaded at 7 PM. Two missions scrubbed in 24 hours. This has been a rather warm day, one of the worst this year. Called out to load again at 8 PM.

July 27 Thursday. Started with ten ships, had one scrubbed and a pathfinder put in its place. Nine ships loaded, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Finished at 9 PM, the earliest in a long time. Briefing at 2:45 AM. Mission scrubbed just before taxi time, 4:45 Am. Ships are still loaded. Rained several times today and it really poured down for the last half hour. Haven't been near the line for the rest of the day.

July 28 Friday. Flew the mission scheduled for yesterday. Nine ships, ten 500 # demolition bombs, same as yesterday. Briefing: 2:45 AM. Takeoff: 4:30 AM. Land: 1:10 PM. Target: Merseburg, Germany. Lost five ships today. Pathfinder went down near the target (Daniel Boone 555), two ships from the 350th crashed in the air over the English coast, one of our ships crashed on the field (598), the copilot tripped the landing gear switch instead of the flaps. A 349th ship did the same.

July 29 Saturday. Loaded 11 ships last night, one ground spare. The 349th flew one of our ships. Loaded twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 2:30 AM Takeoff: 4:30 AM. Land: 1:20 PM Target: Synthetic oil plant Merseburg, Germany. Target left in flames. The Group lost nine ships today. We lost two, 2102667 "Yankee Wahine" Lt. Schompf crew and 2107007 "She Hasta" Lt. Greiner crew. The 418th lost four ships. Met jet fighters and flak. Lost Lt. Schompf on his 32nd mission and Lt. Greiner on his 35th, his last.

July 30 Sunday. Stand down last night, released for training. Correction on the score yesterday. Three ships were lost in the 350th, four ships by the 349th and two by the 351st. A B-24 blew up at Eye with a bomb load. It shook the barracks over here. A ship from the 385th Group landed on our base yesterday and the bombardier let two bursts across the field. It's getting to be a common occurrence. Went to church today, been a long time since I last attended. Pass again today.

July 31 Monday. Payday again. Loaded eight ships last night, 11 500 # incendiary clusters. Briefing: 5:30 AM. Takeoff: 8:15 AM. Land: 5:20 PM. Target: Munich, Germany. 521 was pretty well shot up on the last raid to Merseburg. Had to change the vertical stabilizer, rudder, and the left elevator. Had several holes in the right wing tip and a hole through the nose made by flak which tore the bombardier's pants. Taking nose guns out of lead ships.

Ten missions this month. One ship lost and quite a bit of damage to the others. Doesn't seem like much for a month. Had another ship salvaged this month, the fourth ship I have had since coming over. Have lost only one ship in enemy territory and no crew of my own. Have had both strategic and tactical missions this month. Rumors have been flying of all sorts. It seems everyone gets a big kick out of starting rumors. I only wish that some of them in particular were true, such as going back to the States again.

August 1 Tuesday. Started this month with a stand down. Practice missions all day. Weather cloudy with complete overcast. Left the barrack today only for chow and the Red Cross. Caught up on my correspondence this afternoon, pounding out three letters. The paper games are still going strong. The moved the game in here from next door. We will move it out tonight or have an argument.

August 2 Wednesday. Had a standby last night until 2300 which turned into a night off. Called at 9:15 AM to load. Loaded nine ships, six 1,000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 11:45 AM. Takeoff: 2:35 PM. Land: 9:15 PM. Target: Bridge, Paris, France. All ships returned safely. Several B-24's were knocked down by British flak in France. Overcast is solid over the field. The ships broke formation one by one and came down through the overcast.

August 3 Thursday. Standby until 2300 last night. Waited until 1:30 AM and went to bed. Called out at 5:10 AM to load. Had breakfast and loaded ten ships, 20 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 9 AM. Takeoff: 11:45 AM. Land: 9:15 PM. Target: Rail yard, Tours, France, a secondary target. All ships returned. 521 was out for 100 hour inspection, back in tonight. 530 returned today. It has been re-built and assigned to Russ Stieler.

August 4 Friday. Eleven ships last night. 530 had to be reloaded with ammunition for the mission. Losing no time with her. Russ is sort of angry about getting 530. He sort of razed me when it didn't fly. Loaded 20 250 # demolition bombs last night. Briefing: 5:15 – 5:45 AM. Takeoff: 8:15 AM and 8:45 AM. Two groups. Land: 3:40 PM. Target: Hamburg, Germany. Rather heavy flak today. Several men wounded, none in our outfit.

August 5 Saturday. Ten ships last night. Started with nine. Hand one added after we finished loading. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:45 AM. Takeoff: 8 AM. Land: 2:40 PM. Target: Krupp tank works, Magdeburg, Germany. All our ships returned. The 349th lost two ships again today. Two were killed in the 350th. One 418th ship lost a prop on the approach to the field, one lost a ball turret due to flak. It was salvaged later.

August 6 Sunday. Eight ships last night. Started with seven and had another added this morning. Didn't have to load, those sweating out ships stayed in the "sack". Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5 AM. Takeoff: 7:20 AM. Land: 3:15 PM. Target: Berlin, Germany. Pass again today. Have another night off tonight. Had a shower this afternoon and have been taking it easy since. Two packages today.

August 7 Monday. Only four ships last night. Load: six 1,000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:30 AM. Takeoff: 8:30 AM. Land: 12:45 PM. Target: Tactical, somewhere in France. Bombs were brought back. Counted as a mission. Have a useless pilot now. He lost his crew for incompetence and is back at his old tricks again. Was made a co-pilot for aborting five missions in succession. One else has trouble with the ship.

August 8 Tuesday. Busy last night. Worked until 3:30 AM putting external racks on eight ships. Load: 12 500 # demolition bombs and two 1,000 # demolition bombs on the external racks. Briefing: 6 AM. Takeoff: 8:15 AM. Land: 2:15 PM. Target: Front lines at Caen, France. Most of the ships received battle damage today from flak. The 349th squadron lost two more ships. Saw more red flares than ever before today. 521 has a couple of fractured tanks and other damage.

August 9 Wednesday. Just three ships last night, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing was scheduled for 3:45 AM but the mission was scrubbed during the night. Had to remove the external racks from the ships flying the mission. The other ships still have them installed. 521 still is undergoing repairs. Practice missions this afternoon. Spent the afternoon writing to Irma and to Edna and Mel. One of those lazy days.

August 10 Thursday. Stand down last night. Released for training. Practice missions today. 521 is still out of commission. Spent the morning on the line and the afternoon in the sack. Been reading a bit lately. Special Service has been putting out special editions of novels. Another stand down tonight.

August 11 Friday. Pulled a fast one on us last night. Called on alert at 1 AM and us at 3:15 AM. Loaded seven ships for a tactical mission, 38 100 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5 AM. Takeoff: 9 AM. Land: 2:20 PM. Target: Air field on the outskirts of Paris, France. Heard that the Group last two more ships today. One was the 418th oldest ship. Our ships all returned with no damage. 521 is back in operation today.

August 12 Saturday. Had a stand down again last night, and this one stuck. Practice missions this afternoon. 521 on this one again. Rather hot today. It has been warm for the past week or so. We are getting some of the hot weather from home. The 418th lost their oldest ship on its 75th mission. Most any ship in this Group has made to date. We have several in the 60's and two in the 50's.

August 13 Sunday. Loaded six ships with 38 clusters, six each 20 # fragmentation clusters. Didn't take off. Load changed and seven more ships loaded with 38 100 # demolition bombs at briefing time. Briefing: 6:30 AM. Takeoff: 9:50 AM. Land: 3:30 PM. Target: Roads between Paris and the fighting front in Brittany, France. All ships returned safely. Several groups flying with ours were hit by flak and lost ships. Two crashed near here today.

August 14 Monday. Had nine ships last night, 20 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:15 AM. Takeoff: 8 AM. Land: 1:50 PM. Target: Ludwigshafen, Germany. The 350th lost their oldest ship, "Hard Luck," with 70 missions. Our "All American Girl" now has the lead with 69 missions. Very little damage to our ships. Went to London today, the first time in months. Left the base at 8 AM and signed out at noon.

August 15 Tuesday. Nine ships last night, 38 100 # demolition bombs. Takeoff: 8:10 AM. Land: 1:30 PM. Target: Air fields, Holland. All ships returned safely, no fighters or flak. Returned from London this afternoon. Three alerts were all I heard. Didn't see or hear a flying bomb although I heard one go off in the distance. One alert at six AM, one at 10:30 AM, one on the train.

August 16 Wednesday. Had a night off again. "Released for training." These new crews really need it. They must send them over with just a few hours flying time now. We turned in our carbines today. We don't need them anyway, and haven't since we have been here. A ship from P Group landed on the field returning from a mission. Ground looped, hydraulic system shot out, tail gunner dead.

August 17 Thursday. Still released for training. This bunch of rookies certainly need it. 521 flew two practice missions today. The ship sure can take it. The beating these new pilots give it sure is rough on planes. There is good news from all fronts. It shouldn't be much longer now. I'm getting anxious to be back home again.

August 18 Friday. Standby until 22:30 last night changed to stand down until 8 AM. Loaded four ships, one ground spare, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 8 AM. Takeoff: 10:15 AM. Land: 6:30 PM. Target: Air fields south of Paris, France. All ships returned safely. No damage to ships. A milk run, no fighter opposition or flak. There has not been much opposition for some time. Some groups have run into fighters but we have been lucky.

August 19 Saturday. Stand down again last night. Standby until 22:00 changed to stand down at that time. Haven't had much of anything for the past week. Another new ship came in the other day. It replaced 256, Jim Morbito's old ship that burned on the field. 338124 the new ship serial number. Spent the day relaxing in the sack. Getting a 48 hour pass again. Another buzz bomb went over today. I heard it explode in the distance. No alert again tonight.

August 20 Sunday. Had another night off. Stand down again. Went to the Red Cross and the base movie last night. Had two shots today, typhus and cholera. Made church this morning with Fred Granger. It has been raining most of the afternoon. On pass again. Rumors flying again. Swank came in with one this afternoon. Supposed to be alerted for shipment after the 26th. Probably Pacific. A practice mission was scrubbed. No gas.

August 21 Monday. Still resting. It rained all night and all through today. Mist and light rain. No practice missions lately. There is not even enough gas on the field for practice missions. Rumor lately that furloughs are to be given again. Which is right, furloughs or are we moving? I believe we are moving when we get on a train or a boat. Standby until 23:00 tonight. Had an alert today which was called off shortly thereafter.

August 22 Tuesday. Another standby until 23:00 that turned into a stand down. Still cloudy with light mist and rather cool. Haven't done a thing since last Friday. Have had sort of a vacation lately. Spent a half hour at the shop today. Just went out for my laundry today. Got my ballot off today after stalking the voting officer for three days. Getting in a lot of sack time lately.

August 23 Wednesday. Had nine ships to load last night, one ground spare, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Mission scrubbed about the time we had the ships half loaded. Had instructions to finish loading and have the loading and fusing

complete by noon today. Unloaded the ships after dinner for a practice mission. A P-47 crashed into a B-24 in the overcast yesterday afternoon. The P-47 crashed on the field near our shop. The B-24 lost the nose turret and one man.

August 24 Thursday. Same nine ships, one ground spare, as yesterday, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:45 AM. Takeoff: 8 AM. Land: 4 PM. Target: Ruhland, Germany, synthetic oil plants and armament works. Several ships damaged by flak. All ships returned. Had a new crew on 521 today, making their first mission. The boys got their double shot after the mission today. It is still raining so I thought the mission would be scrubbed today.

August 25 Friday. Had a workout last night. Twelve ships, one spare for the lead ship, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:45 & 5 AM. Two groups. Takeoff: 8 AM. Land: 4:30 PM. Target: Oil plant, Politz, Germany. Lots of flak today. Two ships out tonight. Short one man last night and Shep and I finished loading first and I was elected. Have another new ship today, 337915. 521 came in with a feathered prop. Oil line shot out, back in tonight.

August 26 Saturday. Ten ships last night, no spares, 38 100 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:15 and 5 AM. Takeoff: 7:05 AM. Land: 1:45 PM. Target: Gun emplacements, Brest, France. Three groups today, two, B & C, dropped their bombs. A brought theirs back. Clouds covered the target as they passed on the bomb run. All ships returned, no damage. A squadron beer party tonight five barrels, cake, corned beef sandwiches, and chips. Sold a few bonds on the side.

August 27 Sunday. Another busy night. Eleven ships, eight loaded with ten 500 # demolition bombs and three with ten 500 # incendiary clusters. Briefing: 6 AM. Takeoff: 9:50 AM. Land: 3:45 PM. Target was to be Berlin and landing time 6:15 PM. The Group ran into a storm over Europe and turned back. The field was closed in by fog at takeoff time. Sweated them out on takeoff. Ships carrying incendiaries were unloaded this evening.

August 28 Monday. Standby until 8 AM this morning. It rained last night and this morning but cleared at noon, with high winds and cool temperatures. Unloaded one more ship this afternoon. Still have six ships loaded, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Spent the day loafing in the barrack. Saw "Lady in the Dark" with Ginger Rogers this evening. I'll be glad when the new 35 mm projectors are in operation. Alerted this evening. Sweating out the ships. Hope it is the same ships and load.

August 29 Tuesday. Released for training again today. Unloaded the seven ships we had loaded for a practice mission this morning. The mission was scrubbed. Flew a practice mission this afternoon. 521 was out today for 100 hour inspection. Loaded three cases of ammo in the turrets, cleaned the bomb bay doors and flare pistol, the most work I have done for sometime. The doughnut wagon was around again today.

August 30 Wednesday. Standby until 10:30 last night which lasted until 1:30 this morning. Six ships, six 1,000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 11 AM. Takeoff: 12:15 PM. Land: 7:15 PM. Target: Bremen, Germany. All ships returned, no damage. Saw "Memphis Belle" today. It is very true and no propaganda. The Flying Yanks Band was on the base with a Special Service show. Very good. Also had a Limey show at the Red Cross.

August 31 Thursday. Another stand by that turned into a stand down last night. Spent the day resting. Payroll at 1 PM. Practice mission this afternoon. Pass again today, 48 hours. Spending this one on the base. Saving money for that furlough coming up. Stieler and I plan on visiting the Isle of Mann in the Irish Sea between Ireland and Scotland. Will know definitely when Swank returns.

The boys have really been rolling through France this past month. They really are moving right along. Shouldn't be too long now. Heard a good rumor the other day that each group is sending home 12 men each month, the older men. I hope this is true. Should be my turn fairly soon. Hear that some groups are already sending men 26, 27 and 28 years old. This month has brought the end of the war much nearer. (Note: Earl turned 34 on August 2, 1944)

September 1 Friday. Five ships last night, two of them ground spares, four 1,000 # demolition bombs and four 500 # incendiary clusters. Briefing: 4 AM. Takeoff: 6:30 AM. Land: 1:30 PM. They were due back at 4 PM but were called back early. One spare took off this morning with a 418th crew. Also had a weather ship. Glenn Miller and his band are playing on the base tonight, 50 regular members and a 20-piece string section. Still on pass so I will be sure to see it.

September 2 Saturday. Standby until 9 this morning. Rained quite hard last night and today, clearing around 11 AM. Called on alert and four ships to load. The mission was scrubbed within a half hour. Had make picture taken by Dailey today, a friend of John Hibbard. The negative came out good. I hope the pictures do as well. Miller had only half his band last night due to an accident while flying them here. They were great. The band is made up of former members of name bands.

September 3 Sunday. Ten ships last night, one ground spare, ten 500 # armor-piercing and demolition bombs. Briefing: 3 AM. Takeoff: 5:40 AM. Land: 12:50 PM. Target: Brest, France. The Germans are still holding on there. All ships returned with no damage, no flak or fighters. The target was hit with good strikes. Finished loading about 10 minutes before briefing. Had to wait for ordnance to find armor-piercing bombs. Still raining today off and on. The 350th lost one ship.

September 4 Monday. Another Labor Day in the E.T.O. It rained all day again. Stand down last night. Standby until 22:00 tonight. Spent the morning in the sack. Went out to the line for a couple of hours this afternoon. The Allies are still moving right along through France and Belgium. Hope they keep right on rolling until they hit Berlin! I plan on spending another evening at the base movie.

September 5 Tuesday. Standby until 22:00 last night. Called out at 2 AM. Loaded ten ships, ten 500 # incendiary clusters. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:30 AM. Land: 3:40 PM. Target: Stuttgart, Germany. Finished loading at 4 AM. All ships returned. Had some flak over the target. Holes in some of the ships. One ship from the 350th blew a tire on landing. 521 sat this one out. Moved the ship to Steiler's dispersal while repairing ours.

September 6 Wednesday. Had nine ships to load last night, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Full Tokios. Briefing: 4:15 AM. Takeoff was to be at 6:30 AM. Takeoff was delayed 4-1/2 hours and then scrubbed. Then another mission was scheduled with the same ships, load and gas load. The mission was recalled shortly after takeoff. They then had a practice mission before they landed at 4 PM. Some of the boys had only three hours' sleep. I was lucky, I had ten.

September 7 Thursday. Standby until 22:30 changed to standby until 08:30. Rained all day again. What a hell of a country! Today's paper sounded very encouraging. Had the Army's plan for demobilization after Germany. It sounds as though we will be out of the Army after the Pacific war with Japan is finished. Age and being married doesn't mean a thing unless you have children. Rather unfair, I believe. Should give the older men a break.

September 8 Friday. Nine ships last night. Used six that were loaded for Wednesday's mission and had three to change. Tokio valves lead on one and the other two were due for 100 hour inspection. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5 AM. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Land: 2:15 PM. Target: Mainz, Germany. Troop concentrations. All ships returned, some flak damage. 521 had five holes and brought back five bombs. Checked OK. Bombardier trouble. Still raining again today with hail thrown in.

September 9 Saturday. They gave us the works last night, 12 ships, one ground spare, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:45 AM. Takeoff: 7:20 AM. Land: 1:20 PM. Target: Dusseldorf, Germany. The P.F.F screwed up and they brought the bombs back. Some of the ships were hit by flak. 521 picked up a few more holes and an aileron shot up enough to be changed. Counted as a mission. Tex Daniels wanted to dive bomb the flak guns.

September 10 Sunday. Ten ships today, one ground spare, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Target: Nurnberg, Germany. Taking off today on furlough. Left Diss on the 3 PM train to London. Arrived London at 6:15 PM. Had a couple of drinks with Russ Steiler. Left London, Charing Cross Station, at 10 PM for Edinburgh, Scotland. Furlough starts at midnight tonight. Have a 12 hour start.

September 11 Monday. Ten ships again today, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:15 AM. Takeoff: 7:40 AM. Land: 4 PM. Target: Leipzig, Germany. 915 lead ship ground spare. Arrived Edinburgh at 7:30, registered at the Red Cross Club and cleaned up after the trip. Nine and a half hours are rough on these English trains. Had breakfast at the Brown Derby. Saw part of the town and visited a few pubs. Have to look up a good restaurant.

September 12 Tuesday. Nine ships today, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:30 AM. Land: 2:05 PM. Target: Magdeburg, Germany. Saw Edinburgh Castle today. Met Capt. Mitchell on the way to the castle and went through it with him. Took pictures of the guns, Russ Steiler, Mitchell, and me. Mitchell took us to dinner, chops, tomatoes, and chips. Also had a few drinks on him. Sort of a nice guy. Saw a few more pubs with Steiler.

September 13 Wednesday. Seven ships, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:15 AM. Takeoff: 6:30 AM. Land: 1:15 PM. Target: Ruhland, Germany. Went to Glasgow and Loch Lomond today. Took a boat ride around Loch Lomond and took pictures of the hills surrounding it. Really a beautiful place. The boat made four stops at docks and stayed at the last one for one and a half hours. I'm glad that we took the trip.

September 14 Thursday. Twelve ships, 412 a ground spare. Load: 12 supply cylinders. Mission delayed. Saw Holyrood Palace, the birthplace and home of Mary, Queen of Scots. It seems as though all they used to do was kill each other in these places. Had chops and steak with beans and chips for dinner and supper today. Also had two glasses of real milk with each meal. How I have missed it. Had to take in a few more pubs.

September 15 Friday. Tried the shuttle mission again today. Eleven ships this time. 530 developed trouble on takeoff. Mission was recalled over the North Sea. Rendezvous with fighters screwed up on time. Left Edinburgh today for London at 10 AM. Arrived London at 7:30 PM. Got a room for two at the Columbia Club. Had to have a few more drinks with Steiler as usual. What a difference between London and Edinburgh.

September 16 Saturday. Still sweating out the Russian mission. 412 has been substituted for 530. 047 is now the ground spare. I never saw much of London before. Never could get Smitty to through St. Paul's or Westminster Abbey. Saw them both and the Tower of London today. Bought a few pictures as souvenirs. Steiler took a few more pictures. Went to a show and a few more pubs. Three buzz bombs last night.

September 17 Sunday. Still sweating out the shuttle raid to Russia. Returned from London at 2 PM today. My furlough is over officially at midnight tonight. Had a wonderful time. Wish I had taken a furlough last spring. Just not enough time and it passes quickly. Scotland is a beautiful place and the people treated us royally. They are much more friendly than the English. Plenty of scotch and beer.

September 18 Monday. The Russia shuttle raid took off this morning. Twelve ships, one a ground spare. Load: 12 supply containers and four fighter belly tanks per ship. They also carried bomb hoists, slings, and shackles. This was the fourth attempt. Briefing: 3:30 AM. Takeoff: 5:40 AM. Land: Should have landed at Russian bases around 4 PM. Don't know when they are due back here. Went to the movie this evening. It broke down again, the second time in a row.

September 19 Tuesday. Nothing doing last night. Practice mission today. Sweating out the return of the ships from Russia. Heard a rumor today that 521 was shot down on the way to Russia. Hope it isn't true. There was a bunch of swell fellows in her this trip. Spent the afternoon posing for more pictures at the photo lab. The first ones were not so hot. I talked John Hibbard into printing the pictures we took on furlough.

September 20 Wednesday. The ships are still away on the Russia shuttle mission. Heard they were in Italy yesterday. Haven't shown up here as yet. Went to the movie yesterday and saw "The Sullivans" the true movie of the five Sullivan boys of Waterloo, Iowa who lost their lives on the Juneau. Very good picture. Haven't had much to do for the past few days. Ships landed at Novgorod, Russia and Foggia, Italy.

September 21 Thursday. Still no ships back from Russia. Getting quite a rest. Loaded two ships the other night. Mission delayed and then scrubbed. Unloaded the ships this morning. Saw a USO show at the Special Service building last night. Three girls and three fellows, one a magician. Not too bad. A N.F.S. show at the Red Cross. This wasn't bad either from the reports. Another practice mission was scrubbed today.

September 22 Friday. The ships returned from Russia today. Three didn't make it. They were damaged by flak over Rumania on the way to Italy. Two will be repaired and returned and one salvaged. One landed with the hydraulic system out and wrecked several buildings and piles of supplies. One ship from C Group came back to replace 915. Made one mission while gone, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Marshalling yard, Szolnok, Rumania. May get credit for three missions. Landed here at 5:40 PM. May get credit for recall.

September 23 Saturday. Standby which turned into a stand down. Rained most of the night. Had a practice mission today. Cleaned up 521 today. Just a rumor that she was lost. Removed extra equipment and checked bomb racks. Had trouble with them again on Rumanian mission. They check out OK on the ground, don't know what could be wrong with them. Have an alert on since before noon today. Maximum effort which means all ships.

September 24 Sunday. Alerted at noon today. Nothing doing last night. Alert changed to stand down. Rained all day. Went to the movie this afternoon, Joan Davis in "Beautiful but Broke". I got a lot of laughs out of it. Got my first letter in a week from Irma today. Had a letter from the folks a few days ago and one from Marge Freeman, a birthday card. Have been having quite a rest for the past two weeks due to the furlough and the ships in Russia.

September 25 Monday. Loaded 11 ships last night, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:30 AM and 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:55 AM. Land: 1:40 PM. Target: Marshalling yard, Ludwigshafen, Germany. All ships returned OK, no flak or fighters. The Group got eight new ships today. We have two out of the eight to replace 915 and 867. Another U.S.O. show tonight and the Red Cross Club is celebrating their first anniversary here. Everything is free.

September 26 Tuesday. Had six ships last night, 521 was flying so I had the night off. The men with ships flying didn't have to load. Load: six 1000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 9 AM. Takeoff: 11:55 AM. Land: 6:35 PM. Target: Marshalling yards in Bremen, Germany. All ships returned, no damage, flak, or fighters. A chin turret barrel jacket bent by an ordnance truck last night. Hope I don't have to change it. Racks are screwed up again. Boeing technical inspector is going over them tomorrow.

September 27 Wednesday. Seven ships last night, one a ground spare, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:05 AM. Land: 12:10 PM. Target: Mainz, Germany. All ships returned, no damage, flak, or fighters. Changed chin turret gun today, adjusted safety switches and checked wiring of bomb racks at the suggestion of the Boeing representative. Hope they work! Buzz bombs and rockets have been flying over the base lately. One fell about four miles away. Another went over this afternoon.

September 28 Thursday. Seven ships, one a ground spare, 066 again, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:30 AM. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Land: 3:20 PM. Target: Synthetic oil plant in Merseburg, Germany. A few flak holes in the ships. Sweating out 936 this afternoon. She reported with two feathered engines over the target and returned after the rest of the ships with all engines turning. Number one was smoking. Col. Jeffries received the Polish D.F.C. today at the 95th, 200 fellows for guard of honor.

September 29 Friday. Stand down last night. My day's work consisted of washing my flight jacket and pulling the hobnails out of a pair of shoes. Payday today, early because of the party for our 200th mission tomorrow. More buzz bombs this morning, coming over the base regularly now. I hope none of them stop over here. Another new ship day before yesterday, 338610 replacing 708, Smitty's ship.

September 30 Saturday. Seven ships last night, one a ground spare, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6 AM. Takeoff: 9:20 AM, delayed by one hour. Land: 3:20 PM. Target: Rail yards in Bielefeld, Germany. No flak or fighters, no damage. Contrary to all promises for a two-day stand down we had a mission today. The 200th mission party started this afternoon. Generals Doolittle and Partridge are here. So far the party is a "bust", I think.

Celebrated our 200th combat mission this month. Dropped 10,465 tons of bombs on Germany and occupied countries. Had a party to celebrate the occasion. One barrels of beer, hot dogs, ice cream cones, barbecue, dances, and a carnival which really clipped the boys. Plenty of girls and a lot of all night parties on the line in the tents and ships. They had beds at the Red Cross and at the Special Service building for the girls who stayed the night. Had dinner at the mess hall, steak for everyone, the first the mess hall has served over here. A tea dance Sunday afternoon and the party was officially over

in the afternoon. There are still girls on the base on Sunday night. It took the 95th several weeks to get rid of the girls. The fellows kept them in the barracks.

October 1 Sunday. The party got a bit rough last night. A few fights broke out and there are a few black eyes and several bruises today. Quite a few of the girls spent the night on the base and quite a few of them spent the night in the line tents and in the ships. The party was a big success in the eyes of most of the fellows. The party was officially over in the afternoon and the girls should be gone.

October 2 Monday. Nine ships today, no spares, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:15 AM. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Land: 2:30 PM. Target: Heinkel engine plant, Kassel, Germany. Some flak, all ships returned. Still have girls on the base from the party. Major Emberson found two in a combat barrack. One A.T.S. girl was killed by a truck Saturday night. The driver was drunk. One girl was raped and beaten in the hospital and is not expected to live. 349th photo.

October 3 Tuesday. Seven ships last night, one ground spare, ten 500 # incendiary clusters. Ground spare: ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 7:05 AM. Land: 3:10 PM. Target: Stuttgart, Germany. Several feathered engines today, 066 had two. Went to Cambridge today, attended Sheppard's funeral. Twenty-four were buried today. They bury them three times a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday. POW's take care of the cemetery. Saw Cambridge and a lot of pubs.

October 4 Wednesday. Originally had ten ships to load last night. First mission was scrubbed and another mission with seven ships, one a ground spare, ten 500 # M-17 incendiary clusters. The spare had six 1000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:30 AM. This mission was scrubbed at 6 AM. The ships are still loaded this evening. I hope they don't change the load. A three-ship practice mission tonight. Paul Vahle left for home yesterday. I'm glad he made it.

October 5 Thursday. Same seven ships as yesterday, same load. Briefing originally set up for 8:30 AM moved up to 4:45 AM. Takeoff: 8:05 AM. Land: 2 PM. This mission screwed up. The lead ship flown by Major Emberson ran low on oxygen. The lead was taken over by the deputy lead. The Group toured Germany. No one knew where they were. Groups all around them dropped their bombs but our Group brought theirs back. Got a mission out of it. The girl was not killed the night of the party.

October 6 Friday. Ten ships for today's mission. Called at 2 AM. Had to unload four ships ten 500 # incendiary clusters and load ten with five 1000 # demolition bombs. Finished at 4:20 AM. Briefing at 4:30 and 5:15 AM. Three groups. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Land: 2:50 PM. Target: Engine plant, Berlin, Germany. Not much damage to ships. The 349th lost another ship today, a direct hit by flak. It almost took two other ships with it. The navigator on night mission counted 18 buzz bombs over the base.

October 7 Saturday. Eleven ships, ten 500 # demolition bombs, R.D.X. Briefing: 4:15 AM. Takeoff: 7:05 AM. Land: 2:50 PM. All ships returned, some flak damage. Target: Leipzig, Germany. The lead group dropped on Leipzig, the other ships dropped their bombs on various parts of Germany. Another screw up, as usual. Wish I could get rid of this cough. Had it for several weeks. I cough most of the night. I got some pills from the dispensary yesterday.

October 8 Sunday. Started with ten ships last night and ended with 13 ships, five 1,000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:15 AM. Mission delayed one hour and then scrubbed at taxi time. Target was to be Merseburg, Germany. Ships are still loaded for this mission. Hope the load is not changed tonight. No coke for the stoves until the 28th of this month. A fuel shortage, they say. We have a helluva time keeping from freezing and are burning anything we can find.

October 9 Monday. They used 12 of the ships from yesterday for this mission. Briefing: 8:30 AM. Takeoff: 11:10 AM. Land: 5:15 PM. The ships took an hour to land tonight due to the overcast. Target: Wiesbaden, Germany. No flak or fighters. Plenty of buzz bombs are coming over these cloudy nights. We heard five or six go off last night, and several shook the barrack. The war seems to be getting closer to us.

October 10 Tuesday. Another mess last night. Had ten ships at first then one added, four scrubbed, and one added again. Ended with eight ships. Spent five hours getting them loaded, twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:30 AM. Mission scrubbed just before takeoff at 8:30 AM. Unloaded the ships this afternoon. This was expected from the way things were going last night. 521 was not scheduled for this mission so I got in a few modifications today.

October 11 Wednesday. Stand down last night. No mission today. Changed bomb bay switches, both on left side now. A.M.'s changed door solenoids to the cockpit. Had fried potatoes at the tent this afternoon with Terrell and Loomis, Jenkins's crew. They are a good bunch of fellows. I dropped my watch in the washroom today, really fixed it this time. Jimmy Ball can do nothing to fix it. The balance staff is bent. I will have to send it home.

October 12 Thursday. Ten ships today, no spares, five 1,000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:30 AM. Takeoff: 7:45 AM. Land: 2:10 PM. Target: Bremen, Germany (factories in town). A milk run, no fighters or flak. 521 has its first engine change after this mission, at 530 hours. Pass today. Spending this one on the base. It rained all afternoon and evening. The stand down last night changed to an alert at 11 PM. Called at 2 AM. Stand down again tonight.

October 13 Friday. Stand down last night. Practice missions today, both morning and afternoon. Rain again today. Still on pass today. Sent my watch home for repair this afternoon. I hope it won't take too long. I miss it already. Buzz bombs flew over again last night. One came over at 100 feet. I don't mind as long as they keep going. Several of the fellows from Oakes crew, 080, came back yesterday. More should be along soon.

October 14 Saturday. Another stand down last night, the second night in succession. I feel that my pass was a failure the past two days. I didn't get out of a thing. More buzz bombs last night. Those things seem to be getting closer each night. We must be in a new "Buzz Bomb Alley". We are burning bomb packing rings made of pressed paper for heat now. I wonder what is next. There is no coke until the 28th of this month. Back to work tonight.

October 15 Sunday. Ten ships for today's mission, one a ground spare for the lead ship, four 500 # incendiary clusters and sixteen 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3 AM. Takeoff: 5:15 AM. Land: 11:50 AM. Target: Cologne, Germany. The Group was pretty well shot up today. Two of our ships landed at other bases due to damage. They are changing all four engines on 521. Forty-seven missions on the original engines. The other three are OK. They are being changed due to the number of hours and T.O.

October 16 Monday. Another stand down last night and today. Rain, quite hard this morning. The weather cleared this afternoon and there were practice missions. It is cloudy again this evening with a few showers. I gave a pint of blood for the E.T.O. blood bank today. An outfit is on the base for the next several days collecting type "O" blood. I had a shot of rye in exchange for the pint of blood. More buzz bombs last night.

October 17 Tuesday. Twelve ships last night, one a pathfinder and one ground spare, six 500 # demolition bombs and two 100 # smoke bombs on the pathfinder. Two 500 # incendiary clusters, 34 100 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3 AM. Takeoff: 5:15 AM. Land: 11:40 AM. Target: Cologne, Germany. Bombs were dropped in the center of town and the target was missed. Flak again today, and a 418th ship crash landed in France. One ship took a direct hit on the bomb bay and brought back the bombs.

October 18 Wednesday. Had eight ships and a pathfinder for today's mission. The pathfinder was scrubbed. Pathfinders are now assigned to each squadron. Load: five 500 # demolition bombs and five 500 # M-17 incendiary clusters. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:15 AM. Land: 2:15 PM. Target: Kassel, Germany. No opposition, flak or fighters. 521 is ready to fly again. She was slow timed this afternoon. There is a U.S.O. show tonight. Saw "Destination Tokyo" with Cary Grant this afternoon.

October 19 Thursday. Seven ships for today, one pathfinder. Pathfinder was scrubbed due to a leaking Tokio valve. Load: three 500 # M-17 incendiary clusters, fourteen 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 9:20 AM (delayed twice from 7 AM, two hours the first time and 20 minutes the second time). Land: 4 PM. Target: Ludwigshafen, Germany. No fighters or flak. All ships returned early. They were due back at 5 PM or later. It rained most of the day.

October 20 Friday. Stand down again last night. Rain all day and still raining tonight. Spent the day in the barrack. Went to the show this afternoon, "The Sky is the Limit" with Fred Astaire. I saw it in London sometime ago. Mac McGrath came back from Switzerland the other day. Several more of the crew are still there, some in the jug for helping other guys escape. The fellows had quite a time there.

October 21 Saturday. Had a mission scheduled, six ships, for a while last night. They scrubbed it at 10:30 PM and then had a stand down for the night. Practice missions this morning and afternoon. Spent the day in the sack resting and reading. Went out to the line for an hour or so this afternoon. Today is Irma's and my fifth anniversary. The happiest five years of my life and Irma made them so. I hope we are together next year.

October 22 Sunday. Originally had seven ships for today, one pathfinder, which was scrubbed after it was loaded. Six ships and a spare was the final count. Load: four 500 # M-17 incendiary clusters, fourteen 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 8 AM. Takeoff: 10:15 AM. Land: 4:45 PM. Target: Muenster, Germany. The flak was inaccurate, no damage to ships. New radar equipment on the ships help to throw off the flak batteries. Bombs were dropped through the clouds.

October 23 Monday. Had an alert last night which turned into a stand down. We have been having quite a few lately. It rained most of the day, as usual, and it is still raining this evening. Two practice missions scheduled for today were cancelled. Spent the afternoon at the show. Another propaganda film, "Purple Heart". More buzz bombs coming over at night.

October 24 Tuesday. Seven ships for today, one a pathfinder, five 100 # M-17 incendiary clusters and five 100 # demolition bombs. Called at 1:30 AM and loaded in the rain. Briefing was to be at 7 AM. Mission scrubbed shortly before. Unloaded the ships at 9:45 AM. Practice mission today. Got the furlough pictures last night. Jake helped Hibbard print them. Getting them ready to send to Irma tonight.

October 25 Wednesday. Seven ships today with the pathfinder, thirty 260 # fragmentation bombs, R.D.X. Briefing: 8:30 AM. Takeoff: 10:15 AM. The mission was called back and landed at 1:45 PM. Unloaded the ships at 3:30 PM. Only our group was called back, and the only group carrying fragmentation bombs. Still have the first time to drop them. I hope we don't have the same load tonight.

October 26 Thursday. Eleven ships for today, one a pathfinder, twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 7:15 AM. Takeoff: 10:15 AM (delayed one half hour). Land: 4:30 PM. Target: Hanover, Germany. No opposition, flak, or fighters. All ships returned. I mailed the furlough pictures and two pairs of sunglasses to Irma today along with a scarf that I picked up in Scotland. I hope they get there OK.

October 27 Friday. Ten ships today, one a ground spare, twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:30 AM. Takeoff: 8:40 AM, delayed one hour. Mission scrubbed before takeoff. Ships were unloaded at 9:30 AM. A group picture was taken of the armament section this afternoon for a diary of the Group. I'm glad I was on pass last night and today. The fellows are all tired out and in the sack this evening.

October 28 Saturday. Standby and then a stand down. Practice mission this afternoon. Some groups flew a mission today. I heard them go over the base. We haven't heard any buzz bombs lately. It rained again today as has been usual for some time. It seems that we have had more rain lately than at any time since we have been here. The puddles haven't dried up for weeks. Standby until 22:30 tonight.

October 29 Sunday. Another stand down last night. I fully intended to go to church this morning but over slept. I was awake at 8 AM, went back to sleep and didn't wake up again until 9:45 AM. I guess I didn't make too big an effort to go. Had fried chicken for dinner, the most terrible stuff I have had. I'll have to wait until I get home for real fried chicken. I saw "For Whom the Bell Tolls" for the second time today. I still like Ingrid Bergman.

October 30 Monday. Ten ships for today, one ground spare and a pathfinder. Load: Twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 7:15 AM. Takeoff: 9:40 AM. Land: 4:30 PM. Mission was called back and landed at 1:30 PM. Weather conditions were the reason for the recall. The ships were one hour from the target. The crews were credited for a mission. The weather was clear here but cloudy and icing conditions over the continent. It rained while we were loading.

October 31 Tuesday. Twelve ships for the mission today. The pathfinder and two ships from yesterday were scrubbed and five more were loaded. The ships were not unloaded yesterday. Loaded twenty 250 # demolition bombs on the five ships last night. Briefing: 5:15 AM. Takeoff was to be 8:40 AM. Mission scrubbed at 8 AM. Ships are still loaded, 15 in all. My turn last night to be C.Q. at the shop. The target for the past two days: Merseburg, Germany.

Fifteen missions this month. Quite a few scrubbed missions and stand downs. The weather has been very poor with rain almost every day for the past month. This war is going to take longer than most people figure. I wish I could get over this futile and bitter feeling which I have at times. This seems to be an awful way to spend one's married life. Married five years this month with half of it spent in the Army!

November 1 Wednesday. Standby changed to stand down last night. Had 15 ships out of 37 loaded in the Group. Unloaded six ships today for a practice mission. One more fellow from Lt. Turner's crew lost on the Paris raid of September 3, 1943 came back this evening. He spent 14 months in Switzerland. Seven of the crew are still there. I finally got some money together for Irma's birthday and Christmas gifts. Sent it on to her sister Leonore this evening.

November 2 Thursday. Twelve ships for today's mission, one a ground spare flown by the 418th. Seven ships from yesterday's mission, five loaded last night, twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:45 AM. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Land: 3:30 PM. Target: Merseburg, Germany. Plenty of flak today, no fighters. Several ships are out of commission. 523 is pretty well shot up, and 521 has a few holes. A 418th ship came in minus most of its tail and the gunner dead.

November 3 Friday. Eleven ships with a pathfinder, ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6 AM. Takeoff: 8:40 AM. Mission scrubbed at 8:15 AM. Fog and rain. Didn't unload the ships. I hope they don't change the load tonight. Spent the afternoon in the barrack. We have a new stove. The old one is all shot. The new one isn't worth a damn. You get 18 inches from the stove and freeze.

November 4 Saturday. The ships are still loaded from yesterday's scrub job. Had an alert, standby, and stand down last night. Spent most of today in the barrack. I picked up my O.D.'s today. They fit now after the alterations. They really needed letting out. Four buzz bombs went over the base tonight. One crashed some miles away and the explosion was clearly audible from the squadron area. The Red Alert lasted about 45 minutes.

November 5 Sunday. Eleven ships for today's mission, one pathfinder. Six 1000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 7 AM. Target: Chemical plant. The pathfinder is down in France. Land: 1:45 PM or 6 PM. The ships landed during a storm and straggled in. Eight B-24's set down here. We put external racks on the ships last night and then took them off again. The same ships as the day before yesterday. We had to unload them and worked 9 PM to 7 AM.

November 6 Monday. Ten ships, one a ground spare, twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 3:30 AM. Takeoff: 7 AM. Land: 2:15 PM. Target: Air field in Neumuenster, Germany. No fighters and very little flak. 521 landed at the 390th base at Framingham with other ships from our Group. 521 has an engine change and battle damage. Two ships landed in Belgium. The crews are back here at the base OK. The ships will be back later.

November 7 Tuesday. Standby and stand down last night. 521 is still at Framingham. A practice mission this afternoon. One letter today from Irma. I don't have too many from her lately. The 350th lost a pathfinder on a practice mission today. It caught fire and crash landed. I've been in the barrack all day taking it easy. I haven't had too much to do lately.

November 8 Wednesday. Standby and stand down again last night. My ship isn't back yet. They must be doing a lot of work on it at Framingham. I don't know when it will be back again. I went out to the line for a while this morning and fried potatoes and saw the movie this afternoon. Rough life! I can't understand why I am not receiving any of the packages that I have on the way. Packages are coming in every day but not for me.

November 9 Thursday. Eleven ships for today's mission. The other three squadrons used external racks, our squadron loaded six 1000 # demolition bombs, the others loaded eight. Briefing: 3:45 AM. Takeoff: 6 AM. Land: 12:45 PM. Target: Saarbrücken, Germany, a secondary target. Three ships were lost from the Group. All our ships returned safely. They landed during a storm with both rain and snow. I am on pass tonight.

November 10 Friday. On pass this noon. Eleven ships for today, one ground spare, thirty-eight 100 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:30 AM. Takeoff: 8:10 AM. The ships were due back at 3 PM but were called back and landed at 1:30 PM. The ships were unloaded this evening. Ten of our ships took off today, nine of them were lost from the formation. Lt. Gaye was leading and screwed up. The 418th lost a pathfinder. The target was Koenigsmacker, France. 521 came back today.

November 11 Saturday. Had an alert last night, eleven ships. The mission was scrubbed at 1 AM. We had been sweating out the call from 8 PM on. Practice mission this afternoon, nine ships, ten practice bombs. Scrubbed. We had an exhibition of German booby traps this afternoon. They set off charges while the fellows were walking over them, not knowing they were there. They set off charges of R.D.X., TNT, and dynamite. I am off pass this PM.

November 12 Sunday. Twelve ships for today, one pathfinder and one ground spare. Load: thirty-four 100 # demolition bombs and two 500 # M-17 incendiary clusters. Briefing: 7:15 AM. Mission scrubbed just after briefing. Finished loading and had breakfast at 6 AM. We just got to bed and were called out again to unload the ships for a practice mission. Worked all afternoon changing the bomb bay motor on 521 and having the intervalometer checked.

November 13 Monday. Standby and stand down last night. Practice mission this afternoon. Changed a ring sight and entered a few things on the form A today, things that I was supposed to do! Went to the show this afternoon. Saw Rita Hayworth and Gene Kelly in "Cover Girl" for the second time. I saw it before in London. Rain again tonight. We are having frost just about every night now.

November 14 Tuesday. Loaded 11 ships last night, one pathfinder, no spares. 521 was listed as a ground spare and scrubbed. Load: two 2000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 7:15 AM. Mission scrubbed just before taxi time. We are getting plenty of stand downs and scrubs lately. It is raining hard tonight. Unloaded the ships at 6 PM. Got quite wet. Quite a few buzz bombs landed near here tonight. We saw several go over the base.

November 15 Wednesday. Alerted and 11 ships listed for today's mission. Mission scrubbed at 11:30 PM. Got a break on this one. I was still in the sack when the mission was scrubbed. Had to change another bomb bay motor today. The clutch screwed up on the first practice mission today. The trouble is starting with this fooling with those motors. I saw "Target for Today" this evening. Only our briefing room, Col. Kidd, and Col. Harding in the film.

November 16 Thursday. Ten ships today, one pathfinder, no spares, thirty 260 # R.D.X. fragmentation bombs. Briefing: 5:45 AM. Takeoff: 7:15 AM. The fourth ship off ran off the runway and bogged down in the mud. Land: The ships were over the field at 1 PM but couldn't land until 3:30 PM due to the fog. It took several hours to get them all in. Target: Front lines near Duren, Germany. All ships but one returned. No opposition.

November 17 Friday. Released for training today but no training. Rain poured down all day. We swept it out of the barrack doorway several times today. Spent the afternoon reading "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn". It's quite a story, a bit off color in some spots but funny in others. It's a nice night to spend by the fire in the barrack reading. I hope we don't have to work tonight.

November 18 Saturday. Had an alert and ten ships last night which turned into a stand down. Had a practice mission scheduled for today but not a ship left the ground. It rained all day and is still raining tonight. I spend the day reading and at the movie. I saw "Hello Frisco, Hello" with Alice Faye and Jack Oakie. Had a package from the folks today with candy, candy bars, olives, and cookies. No mail today. Not much mail lately.

November 19 Sunday. Standby and stand down last night. Getting quite regular lately. I put a heated boot on the bomb bay motor on 521 today. Spent the afternoon at the movie, "Frontier Marshal" with Randolph Scott. Quite a few packages came in again this afternoon, a whole truckload, but no mail, dammit! The Allied Armies, four American and one English, seem to be pushing into Germany along the Rhine.

November 20 Monday. Ten ships today, two spares, pathfinder and lead ship ground spare. Load: twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5 AM. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Target: Ships were recalled three minutes from the I.P. Land: 12:30 PM. The weather ship crashed this morning after takeoff and burned about a mile from the base. Four officers and two enlisted men were killed. Capt. Milns (?) was killed in the crash. He was back for a second tour.

November 21 Tuesday. Eleven ships for today, one pathfinder, one ground spare, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5 AM. Takeoff: 7:30 AM. Land: 1:30 PM. The ships were due back at 3:45 PM. The bombs were dropped on a secondary target, Osnabrück, Germany. The primary target was Merseburg, Germany. The ships ran into a weather front and couldn't reach the primary target. Three abortions in the squadron and one ship is missing. Minor flak damage. Three ships are out.

November 22 Wednesday. Stand down again last night. After yesterday's nice weather it started to rain again last night. It was cloudy all day but it didn't rain. No ships left the ground today. The mystery of the missing ship was solved today.

The crew bailed out over France and the ship crashed. One other ship crashed. One landing strut collapsed when the ship landed and the ship may be damaged beyond repair.

November 23 Thursday. Thanksgiving Day. Stand down last night again. Turkey and all the trimmings for dinner today. Mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, cranberries, dressing, gravy, Boston cream pie, mince meat pie, fruit cake, bread, butter, and coffee. I had plenty of everything! I took off for London at 2 PM. Dittman rode in with us. I have a room for two at the Columbia Club with Smitty. Saw "Lady, Let's Dance" tonight.

November 24 Friday. Still in London. I saw a couple more good shows, "Rainbow Island" with Dorothy Lamour and Eddie Bracken. "The Thief of Baghdad" was also good. It is a re-make of an old picture with Technicolor and sound. I also saw quite a few newsreels, one about three times. The Limeys certainly don't give the Yanks any credit. No mission.

November 25 Saturday. Back on the base at 2 PM. Waited for the bus for an hour, which is usual. The boys haven't been doing a thing since we left on Thursday. I don't care much for London anymore. It's just a place to go to get away from the base for awhile. I had a package and four letters when I got back today. I'll be busy answering them tonight.

November 26 Sunday. Eleven ships for today's mission, six 1000 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6 AM. Takeoff: 8:30 AM. Land: 2 PM. Target: Hamm, Germany. All ships returned safely, no damage. We had the ships loaded at midnight and got some sleep this time. This is only the sixth mission so far this month, one of the poorest if not the worst month for us in the number of missions.

November 27 Monday. Six ships for today. I had a pathfinder but it was scrubbed. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs, two M-17 incendiary clusters. Briefing: 5:45 AM. Mission scrubbed shortly before taxi time. It seemed a sure scrub job when we loaded at 3 AM. Saw "Sweet and Low Down" this afternoon with Benny Goodman. Unloaded the ships this AM. Have another package from Irma today. C.Q. at the shop tonight.

November 28 Tuesday. Standby and stand down last night. My turn at C.Q. only lasted 5-1/2 hours. Fog last night and rain all day. There was a big fire somewhere last night, the sky in the west was a bright pink. The RAF was coming back from that direction at that time. It might have been their target for last night. Our ships haven't been off the ground for two days. There is a USO show tonight.

November 29 Wednesday. Eleven ships for today, one ground spare. 521 was listed and scrubbed. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs and two 500 # incendiary clusters. Briefing: 5:45 AM. Takeoff: 9:30 AM, delayed from 8:30 AM. Land: 3:30 PM. Target: Hamm, Germany. No fighters or flak. One ship aborted on the ground because the generator went out. I received another package from Irma today. Gosh, how I love that gal! A wonderful day today.

November 30 Thursday. Eleven ships today, two pathfinders. Load: twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:30 AM. Takeoff: 8:30 AM, delayed from 7:30 AM. Land: 4:30 PM. Target: Merseburg, Germany. One of our ships landed at Brussels, Belgium. Several ships were lost over the target. Quite a few malfunctions: turrets, doors, and a couple of guns. Payday again today and the usual games of chance.

The end of another month in the E.T.O. I wonder how many more. Eighteen months here so far. The past month seems to have been our poorest here with only eight missions. Plenty of rain, fog, and cloudy weather. This war has lasted much longer than I first thought it would. Who knows when it will end? I thought a year at the most would be the length of my service. What a dream! Buzz bombs and rockets seem to be going over quite often. I saw several rockets a few days ago, rather the contrails from the rockets. I learned later that they landed in London, wrecking a Woolworth store and killed quite a few people and injured many more. Such things just show the ruthlessness of the German people. Still, the American people have parties and dances for the war prisoners' morale.

December 1 Friday. The first day of another month of this war. I hope sincerely that it is the last! Released for training today. Rain at intervals throughout the day. Last night's rest was really appreciated after having only a few hours' sleep the night before. I didn't get up until noon and spend the afternoon at the movie. Saw "Hitler's Gang". It is supposed to be an authentic depiction of Hitler's rise to power. A package came from the Minkes.

December 2 Saturday. Ten ships today, one ground spare, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6:45 AM. Takeoff: 8:55 AM. Land: 3:15 PM. The mission was called back several minutes from the target and landed at the original ETA. The target was to be marshalling yards in Koblenz, Germany. The ships ran into a weather front. The ships all returned safely with several engines out. The ships are still loaded. I hope they don't change it. I got another shot this morning.

December 3 Sunday. Nine ships for today, only one change since yesterday's lineup, no ground spare. Load: twelve 500 # demolition bombs. The ships were not unloaded from yesterday with one exception which was the spare. Briefing: 5:45 AM. The mission was scrubbed shortly after briefing due to a weather front rolling in. Spent the afternoon reading. Attended church this morning, the first time in quite a while.

December 4 Monday. Ten ships today, one ground spare, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6 AM. Takeoff: 9:10, delayed one hour. Land: 4:30 PM. Target: Marshalling yard in Giessen, Germany, a secondary target. No flak or fighters. We still had eight ships loaded from December 3. 708 was unloaded for a brake change and reloaded last night. I received my old watch today, although it's not much good. I also received a box of candy from Irma.

December 5 Tuesday. Eleven ships again today, two pathfinders, twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 6:45 AM. Land: 2:45 AM. Target: a tank plant in Berlin, Germany. All ships returned but they saw fighters and flak. The boys seem to sweat all Berlin raids. We had trouble loading last night due to short arming wires and the like. I received four packages today from Irma, the Sullins, the Whitakers, and the Fleeners.

December 6 Wednesday. Stand down today with a practice mission this morning. These gunners don't know enough to take care of themselves although they are better trained than our original crews. Those boys were helpless. Another boy came back from Switzerland this evening and quite a few of them are back now.

December 7 Thursday. Stand down again, no flying at all today. I loaded some ammo in ships this morning. Another sex lecture and semi-annual reading of the Articles of War. I received a cablegram from Irma this evening that Dad is critically ill. I couldn't contact anyone at the Red Cross this evening. I must have their confirmation before anything can be done. I wish I had explained that to her. I cabled her tonight to contact the Red Cross there.

December 8 Friday. Another night off. Stand down again. We have been having quite a few lately. I contacted the Red Cross this morning. They are cabling for additional information. The Army will not act without confirmation by the Red Cross. I don't have much hope for a furlough. I sincerely hope Dad is better. The news was quite a shock. I am on pass starting this noon.

December 9 Saturday. Still having stand downs. A practice mission today. I missed out on a chance to fly over France yesterday. The practice formation took a swing over France. Still no more news of Dad's condition. I probably won't hear from the Red Cross for several days yet. I spent the afternoon reading and lying in the sack.

December 10 Sunday. Another stand down. Went to church this morning. Another cablegram from Irma today. Dad has passed on, as I feared. He is now in God's hands and He knows best. I wish I could have been there. I hope that Mother doesn't take it too hard. Today is Irma's birthday, another reason why I would have liked to be home. Maybe next year.

December 11 Monday. Thirteen ships last night, two pathfinders, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6:15 Am. Takeoff: 8:15 AM. Land: 3:45 PM. Target: A marshalling yard in Koblenz, Germany. All ships returned safely. No fighters, some flak. I still haven't heard from the Red Cross. They seem to take their time. I received a V-Mail from Irma today, the first in over a week.

December 12 Tuesday. Twelve ships today, one pathfinder, ten 500 # demolition bombs and two 500 # incendiary clusters. Briefing: 6:05 AM. Takeoff: 8:30 AM. Land: 4:15 PM. Target: A marshalling yard near Darmstadt, Germany. I called over to the chaplain's office this afternoon. He seemed sort of relieved to find that I already knew of Dad's passing. The Red Cross left it to him to break the news to me. We had quite a time talking about our families.

December 13 Wednesday. Had a squadron stand down last night for the benefit of the combat crews only. We loaded nine ships for the other squadrons. The 349th, 350th, and 418th flew our ships. Each squadron has a stand down every fourth night. Load: ten 500 # demolition bombs and two 500 # incendiary clusters. Briefing: 6 AM. Takeoff: 8 AM. The ships were recalled at 11 AM and landed at another field. We are fog-bound here. It started this morning.

December 14 Thursday. The ships returned this afternoon. They were scattered all over England at different bases and several are not back yet. One has an engine out and one has a smashed wing tip due to a taxi accident. They should be back in several days. Seven out of nine ships are back, all loaded. We only have two more that we can load. Our squadron is still on stand down.

December 15 Friday. Group stand down today. We unloaded three ships leaving four still loaded. We have a standby until 22:30 this evening. More pork again for dinner and fish for supper. The food is getting worse again. I saw "Standing Room Only" this afternoon with Paulette Goddard and Fred MacMurray. Good show. I have a package from the Ruppels and letters, four from Irma and one from Shirley.

December 16 Saturday. Another stand down last night. We unloaded the four ships this morning. Spent the afternoon reading in the barrack. I've been reading a lot of detective stories and western stories lately. There is nothing like good literature to improve the mind! I have been hearing about all the Air Corps men being put into the infantry. I hope they don't put me there. What a life!

December 17 Sunday. Stand down again last night. It seems like it has been a week since we loaded bombs, but really only four days. I made church this morning three Sundays in succession now. I am sort of reforming lately and I feel better after going. Chicken today for the first time in several weeks. The food is still getting worse. I hope it improves soon, but it was never very good at any time.

December 18 Monday. Still had a crew stand down today. Loaded nine ships, two pathfinders and two ground spares, two 500 # M-17 incendiary clusters and eighteen 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6:45 AM. Takeoff: 9 AM. Land: 3:45 PM. I don't know where they went or if they were recalled. A 350th crew flew 521. They brought back the bombs. The bombardier screwed up. According to later information this was counted as a mission.

December 19 Tuesday. Twelve ships, two pathfinders and one ground spare, two 500 # incendiary clusters and eighteen 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6 AM. Mission scrubbed at engine time. Fog started to roll in at 2 AM and steadily

grew thicker, so thick this evening that you can't see over several feet in any direction. 521 was the ground spare today, the first time in over 60 missions. Spent the afternoon in the sack.

December 20 Wednesday. Fourteen ships, two 500 # incendiary clusters and eighteen 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:45 AM. Mission scrubbed at 8:15 AM. Unloaded one of the pathfinders and loaded it with chaff and six 260 # fragmentation bombs. The ship was flying a chaff sortie. Unloaded all the ships this afternoon. They are checking the light bulbs. It seems we are using too much power on the base. To hell with them and their peanut bulbs!

December 21 Thursday. Standby and stand down last night. Had a tentative lineup of 12 ships. The fog lifted somewhat today, but it is back in again, thick as ever, this evening. No mail again today. Mail is a rare thing around here lately. I spent the day in the barrack. I wish this fog would lift as I have a bit of painting to do on sights and barrel jackets. It is hard to keep rust under control.

December 22 Friday. For variety we were "released for training" today. The fog lifted and the clouds cleared this afternoon. Another fog is rolling in tonight. I wish we would get some clear weather for a change and speed this war along. I saw "Dragon Seed" this afternoon with Kathryn Hepburn and Walter Huston. It was rather like "The Good Earth". I didn't care much for the picture. I am on pass again today. We have a new C.O. again, Major Kruener (?).

December 23 Saturday. Another stand down last night and today. For all the good we have been doing the past several weeks we might as well be home. The weather is still closed in. It cleared a bit yesterday and closed in again last night. I received six letters from Irma today, five of them I had received before. I also have two letters from the folks, funny to receive letters from Dad now. I also received a card and note from Kathryn Cooper.

December 24 Sunday. Fifteen ships for today, thirty-eight 100 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6 AM. Takeoff: 8:50 AM. Land: 4:45 PM. Target: A marshalling yard in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The ships bombed by squadrons, targets of opportunity. All ships returned. A limit switch on the bomb bay doors burned out on 521. C.Q. at the shop tonight. The phone rang all night and I got very little sleep. Alerted again tonight.

December 25 Monday. Christmas Day. I hope to be with Irma the next one! Thirteen ships for today, two 500 # M-17 incendiary clusters and ten 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6:15 AM. Takeoff: 8:15 AM. Land: 2:45 PM. Target: A marshalling yard in Kaiserslautern, Germany. All bombs fell in the target area, the best job of bombing for a long time. The field was closed in by fog making landing rough. It was closed in completely later.

December 26 Tuesday. This is Boxing Day in England. I don't know what it stands for outside of an old tradition. No one seems to know. Stand down last night and today. After today's menu at the mess hall it seems that we are going to have a lot of poor meals to make up for yesterday. I had a few drinks at the non-com's club last night in the spirit of Christmas.

December 27 Wednesday. Thirteen ships today, one pathfinder, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 7:55 AM, delayed one hour. Land: 3 PM. Target: A marshalling yard near Frankfurt in Fulda, Germany. All ships returned safely, no flak or fighters. Good strike on the target area. Some ships from the 490th Group landed here this afternoon. We started the 100 hour armament inspection this PM. It is already ten hours overdue.

December 28 Thursday. Twelve ships today, twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 6:30 AM. Takeoff: 9:05 AM. Land: 3:20 PM. Target: A marshalling yard in Koblenz, Germany. The rail yards have been receiving a lot of attention lately, especially since the breakthrough into Belgium earlier this month. It seems that the drive has been stopped. It seems they think the war will last much longer due to the breakthrough. I hope they are wrong.

December 29 Friday. Squadron crews had a stand down last night. We loaded nine ships for the Group. Loaded five ships first and then unloaded them for chaff ships. Loaded a pathfinder later and this morning loaded three more ships making a total of nine. Briefing: 5 AM. Takeoff: 8:30 AM. Land: 3 PM. Target: Marshalling yards in Frankfurt, Germany. I had the night off because I had the 100 hour inspection today.

December 30 Saturday. Another mission today, thirteen ships, twelve 500 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 5:15 AM. Takeoff: 8:30 AM. Target: Marshalling yards, Kosel, Germany. All ships returned safely. 521 has an engine change and will be out another day or so. We found it on the 100 hour inspection in the oil cooler tank. I spent the day around the barrack and the area. Had a shower this PM. No mail again today.

December 31 Sunday. The last day of another year in the E.T.O. Twelve ships today, twenty 250 # demolition bombs. Briefing: 4:30 AM. Takeoff: 7:15 AM. Land: 2:15 PM. Target: Synthetic oil plants in Hamburg, Germany. The Group lost 13 ships today. Our squadron lost three ships, 231066 "Fools Rush In", Lt. Henderson crew, 338124, Lt. Williams crew, and 2107233, "Humpty Dumpty", Lt. Wilson crew. The Group was attacked by German fighters. The co-pilot on 338610 was killed by a 20 mm shell and the radio man was wounded. I lost my crew on 338124.

Another year in the Army finished. I hope there won't be too many more. I was optimistic enough to think that I would be home long before this. Now I am not saying when we will get home. It might be several more years although I hope not. The last day of this year has been costly to our Group and our squadron. It has been a long time since we lost a ship in combat. I was hoping we wouldn't lose any more. We lost some good men!

