

The Fatal Day - weather date etc

Preparations for take off - briefing

Take off - Wing formation & weather

Crew condition & morale

Over channel ships aborting #2 TURBO OUT - HYDRAULIC SYSTEM BLEED

1st flak & fighters - contrails ships aborting

more flak & fighters ships hit - ME. 109's

28000 Target Bomb away, flak, fighters, ships hit. - BOMB BAY DOORS JAMMED LOSING SPEED, FAST

flak & fighters GUNNERS CALLING OUT JERRIES - 190's

We're hit - #1 Eng throwing oil & vibrating Eng. RIGHT WING COVERED WITH OIL SHAKING BADLY

Instruments & gauges - eq. OK.

#4 Eng feathered ^{F4 190's} fighters attack from high 6 o'clock

#4 windmilling. OIL gone 1 1/2" hole in running. 7 + 8 o'clock

Called leader - LEAVING - NAV GAVE SHORTEST HEADING TO ENG. FLARES FIRED TO CALL 38'S

losing speed & altitude - leaving formation Card #1 + #3 GIVEN MAX. MERCURY + R.P.M. NO 38'S

500 LB. BOMB CAUGHT IN BAY RELEASED BY BOMBARDIER. CLOUD COVER 100 FT THICK NO GOOD.

Running fight for fellow #1 + #3 - 12:40 P.M. DEC. 1, 43. - 2 FIGHTERS HIT DOWN IN FLAMES.

HEARD AGONIZING CRY - ON IT THEY GOT ME BAD! #2 ENG HIT - SMOKING BADLY + VIBRATING

BALL TURRET MAN HIT BAD - GAVE ORDER TO RESCUE COLOANE FROM TURRET. RADIO OUT

EXTRACTED FROM TURRET - MORTALLY WOUNDED. - INTERPHONE SHOT OUT - FUSE BOX SHATTERED

ATTEMPT TO FEATHER #2 - FAILED

FIGHTERS CONTINUE ATTACK VICIOUSLY - TAIL SHOT TO HELL - RUDDER USELESS

OXYGEN SYSTEM HIT LEAKING FREELY - CLOUD COVER REACHED 100 FT THICK NO GOOD.

GUNNERS THROWING LEAD IN CONSTANT STREAM - 2 JAMMED HIT - DISINTEGRATED.

RADIO MAN HIT BY FLAK + BULLETS - INSTRUMENT PANEL HIT - AFCE HIT - PARACHUTES DOWNED

FIGHTERS AGAIN ATTACK TAIL - CONTROL CABLES HIT - SHIP OUT OF CONTROL STARTING TO LOOP.

ALTITUDE APPROX 5000 FT. - PLAN TO REACH ENG ABANDONED - TO DITCH IF POSSIBLE

WHILE FIGHTING CONTROLS - PARTIAL CONTROL OF SHIP GAINED BY PUSHING STICK ALL

LEFT AILERON HIT by fighters. THE WAY FORWARD + AILERON TO MAX. LEFT BANK - #2 ENG ON

AT THIS TIME - #1 ENG WINDMILLING - #2 ON FIRE - #3 + #1 ENG PULLING MAX MERCURY + RPM. FIRE.

ENTIRE SHIP VIBRATING BADLY - RUDDER + TAIL SHOT TO PEICES - OXYGEN OUT -

INTERPHONE OUT - BALL TURRET GUNS CRIPPLED - TAIL + WAIST GUNS SHOT OUT

JAMMED OR GUNNERS DEAD - RADIO MAN WOUNDED SEVERLY - B. BAY DOORS OPEN

+ JAMMED - 1 TOP TURRET GUN JAMMED - 1 WORKING - NAV. WOUNDED -

IMMEDIATE DANGER OF GAS EXPLODING SHIP. A.S. 90-100 MPH FLUCUATING.

ALT. APPROX. 2800 FT. + STILL NO SIGHT OF CHANNEL SHIP GETTING MORE DIFFICULT

FIGHTERS STILL FIRING HELLISHLY - NO GUNS FIRING - DITCHING ABANDONED - CRASH LANDING PLANNED.

VELLED + SCREAMED ORDER TO BAIL OUT TO ENGINEER, REAR + FORWARD

HATCHWAY - ENGINEER BAILED OUT - ALSO RADIO MAN AFTER SENDING SOS by

SUPERHUMAN EFFORT WHILE SEVERLY WOUNDED - P + C.P. thought to be only men REMAINING

ABOARD + ALIVE - FIGHTERS CONTINUE ATTACK - CRASH LANDING ABANDONED -

REMAINING CREW BAIL OUT. - FIGHTERS LAUNCH FINAL ATTACK WHILE SHIP IS DIVING

HOPELESSLY SHATTERED TO EARTH WITH DEAD ABOARD.

AFCE CHECKED. EVASIVE ACTION STARTED.

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WHILE BAILING OUT a 3 plane attack piddling Bombay & Top turret upon entering Bombay a burst of bullets came flying, there I tumbled back to top turret & partially closed bulkhead door as bullets hit my helmet & tore it from my head, more bullets hit my parachute. When burst ended I again jumped into bay & unlatched one leg of chute & attempted to get thru bomb structure uprights in bay, but impossible. I then attempted to climb around struts, then plane lurched & I fell into space. I knew I was very close to ground so after clearing plane I pulled rip-cord but only 1/2 pin released. I said to myself "this is it, sorry to let you down Elvira." How ever after checking chute I found that one of the slugs that hit chute cut pilot chute pin in two with other 1/2 pin holding chute intact. I worked & pried furiously at other 1/2 pin & finally released pilot chute with ground coming up fast. I looked skyward & saw 5 or 6 panels of chute missing. Chute opened, I swung once & then hit side of barn 25 ft high & fell backwards on disc farm implement knocking wind out of me. I lay there for a few mins regaining my wits & strength unlatched chute & marvelling pulled down chute from barn & gave them to farmers to hide. Men women & children surrounded me that I was in terrific pain in my groin. I thought both my testicles were missing, not realizing my company I opened my heavy leather flying pants & extracted my jewels & tried to examine same. However they were there but badly bruised bleeding with unbearable pain. My head & back ached badly also. A well meaning Belgian grandmother & two aged men offered help - the men holding me up because I couldn't, with my back injured the grandmother attempted to bandage my jewels & render help but I was doubtful of her intentions not have probab that she wasn't a German woman with destructive intentions. I smiled as difficult as it was & passed out again. The women poured water over me & kissed & cried as I came to again they knew I was Amer. The children were sent away in the meantime. After regaining my wits I knew I must get moving I but fast I asked direction & started shuffling down road every step felt like a knife in my groin but I had to evade the Germans that must have seen plane crash. About 200 yds down road I heard her call halt. I turned & saw five Germans with portable 30 cal machine guns. With a small village ahead I thought I could make it before they got accurate aim. I kept running & falling & finally passing out again. When I came to I was laying at side of road. They then searched me & approx 1/2 hr. passed then never came my road under guard.