

384TH Bomb Group  
545 Squadron

GRAFTON-UNDERWOOD  
ENGLAND

TOUR OF DUTY - 30 MISSIONS  
8TH AIR FORCE - WORLD WAR II

Personal Diary  
of  
Lawrence J. Janovic

96 Neubauer Court  
West Seneca, NY 14224

September 11, 1989

Dear Sir or Madam:

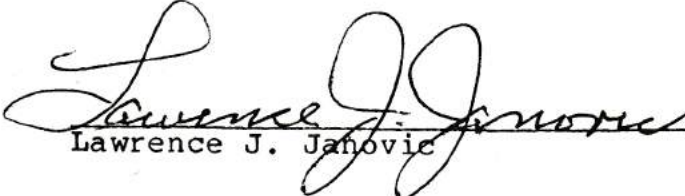
I am writing to many organizations trying to get any information possible on my former crew members who I flew with in combat during World War II (B-17 Flying Fortresses). Anything in the way of pertinent data that might be forwarded in tracing my buddies, would be greatly appreciated.

I submit the following which could be valuable for our search:

<u>SERVICE:</u>	8th Air Force - England
<u>STATION:</u>	Grafton Underwood 384th Bomb Group 545th Squadron
<u>TOUR OF DUTY:</u>	Approximately August, 1944 - April, 1945
<u>CREW MEMBERS:</u>	<i>William DORAN</i> BILL DORAN - Pilot FRED HOLLINGSWORTH - Co-Pilot BOB WEHE - Bombardier LARRY JANOVIC - Navigator(myself) ROBERT GISSING - Engineer <i>Walter</i> REED - Radioman <i>Ed</i> MCMORROW - Armor Gunner <i>Mel</i> HOLTWICK - Ball Turret Gunner <i>Dave</i> Wright - Assistant Engineer (DECEASED) Clyde Batte <i>Talk</i> Task Gunner

Thank you in advance for any assistance you may offer.

Very truly yours,

  
Lawrence J. Janovic

# TOUR OF OPERATIONS

## MISSION #1

### Tour of Ops.

① Monday - Sept 25.

First Mission.

Target - ~~Frankfurt~~ <sup>Frankfurt</sup>

Plenty of fighter support. ~~Flak~~ <sup>Flak</sup>

Flak concentrated and moderate.

with pretty good accuracy. Received

one flak hole in plexiglass nose.

Missed Wehe but small flying pieces

just scratched his throat. Saw.

B-17 just ahead of us get the direct hit

in waist and split in two. Tail end

went right under us.

Front end nosed straight down. No

chutes seen. Made two runs

on the target. Never dropped bombs. Saw

B-24 & B-17 collide. Not very serious though.

Really made a boner coming back. Were an H.C. ship

and peeled out of formation 45 minutes too early.

Really sweated it out. Found home base alright though.

(No. one now a thing of the past).

Monday, September 25, 1944

7:00

First Mission - Target: Frankfurt  
Marshalling Yards. Plenty of  
fighter support. Flak fairly  
concentrated and moderate with pretty  
good accuracy. Received one flak  
hole in plexiglass nose. Missed Wehe  
but small flying pieces just scratched  
his throat. Saw B-17 just ahead of  
us get direct hit in waist and split  
in two. Tail end went right under  
us. Front end nosed straight down.  
No chutes seen, Made two runs on  
the target. Never dropped bombs.  
Saw B-24 & B-17 collide. Not very  
serious though. Really made a  
boner coming back. Were an H.C. ship  
and peeled out of formation 45 minutes  
too early. Really sweated it out..  
found home base alright though.  
(No. one now a thing of the past)

# MISSION #2

6:30  
 (2) Tuesday - Sept. 26.  
 Target - Osnabruck -  
 Steel Mills.  
 Fighter support good  
 plenty of little friends around.  
 Made one bomb  
 run. Dropped  
 5-1,000 lb. G.P.  
 Plenty of barrage flak  
 at target. Inaccurate though  
 and no hits were scored by  
 Jerry on our wing. He also  
 sent up smoke trails. Could  
 see ground today and thought  
 it quite an experience to watch  
 the ack ack guns firing at us  
 and see the red flame come out  
 of the guns. All in all, mission  
 ran very smooth.  
 (No. 2 now a thing of the past.  
 Getting to be quite a veteran  
 at this game.)

Tuesday, September 26, 1944

6:30

Target: Osnabruck Steel Mills.  
 Fighter support good again. Plenty  
 of little friends around. Made one  
 bomb run. Dropped 5-1,000 lb. G.P.  
 Plenty of barrage flak at target.  
 Inaccurate though and no hits were  
 scored by Jerry on our wing. He  
 also sent up smoke trails. Could  
 see ground today and thought it  
 quite an experience to watch the  
 ack ack guns firing at us and see  
 the red flame come out of the guns.  
 All in all, mission ran very smooth.

(No. 2 now a thing of the past.  
 Getting to be quite a veteran  
 at this game)



MISSION #3

③ <sup>7:05</sup> Wednesday - Sept 27.  
Target - Cologne  
Happy Valley.  
Fighter support  
there. Light flak.  
Nobody got hurt.  
Dropped 12-500 lb G.P.  
Really hit target.  
Flew No. 3 position.  
Off Col. Smith's  
wing. Another  
smooth mission.

Wednesday, September 27, 1944

7:05

Target: Cologne Marshalling Yards -  
Happy Valley. Fighter support  
there. Light flak - nobody got  
hurt. Dropped 12-500 lb. G.P.  
Really hit target. Flew No. 3  
position off Col. Smith's wing.  
Another smooth mission.

MISSION #4

④ Thursday - Sept 28  
 9:00  
 Target - Magdeburg.  
 Flak and tank  
 manufacturing factory.  
 Fighter support  
 really all around.  
 Plenty of flak, one  
 hit in No. one  
 engine. Made  
 two bomb runs on  
 target. Dropped  
 10-500 M-17 I.B.  
 Intercepted another  
 B-17 sqdn just  
 after target. Two  
 of our ships collided  
 in mid-air. Lead  
 ship had two  
 engines out and  
 forced down in  
 Belgium. Saw  
 B-17 get direct hit,  
 explode, and disinte-  
 grate into nothing.  
 On way back, we  
 feathered No. one  
 engine when over  
 English coast. Really  
 glad to get back  
 from this one.

Thursday, September 28, 1944

9:00

Target: Magdeburg - Flak and tank  
 manufacturing factory. Fighter  
 support really all around. Plenty  
 of flak. One hit in No. one engine.  
 Made two bomb runs on target. Dropped  
 10-500 M-17 I.B. Intercepted another  
 B-17 squadron just after target. Two  
 of our ships collided in mid-air.  
 Lead ship had two engines out and  
 forced down in Belgium. Saw B-17  
 get direct hit, explode and  
 disintegrate into nothing. On way  
 back, we feathered No. one engine  
 when over English coast. Really  
 glad to get back from this one.

MISSION #5

⑤ Tuesday, Oct. 3.  
Cologne-Synthetic  
Oil Plant. Very  
little fighter support.  
Plenty of flak all  
around our ship.  
One flak hole  
in left wing tip.  
Bandits reported  
in the area but  
never attacked us.  
Dropped 10-500 G.P.  
Made a real  
mess out of the  
target.

Tuesday, October 3, 1944

7:20

Cologne-Synthetic Oil Plant. Very  
little fighter support. Plenty of  
flak all around our ship. One flak  
hole in left wing tip. Bandits  
reported in the area but never  
attacked us. Dropped 10-500 G.P.  
Made a real mess out of the target.



⑥ Thursday - Oct 5.  
 7:25  
 Cologne - Ford Motor Plant. Plenty of fighter support visible by dense contrails. Roughest mission ever been on or hope to be on. Went thru about 30 minutes of continuous flak in center of Happy Valley due to lead navigator being off course. Got plenty of flak holes. One shell went completely through No. 4 engine knocking out supercharger. Two holes in plexiglass nose. One small hole and flak embedded in chest of Wehe's flak suit. Other piece of flak completely knocked out nose ventilator door and embedded in ammunition box. Plexiglass really flew

in all directions. One big chunk hit me square in the head. Thank my lucky stars I had my flak helmet on. Kept three pieces of glass as souvenirs. Some flak ripped through left wing and embedded in radio room. Also got piece of flak through glass of tail. Wright got little glass in his eye but nothing serious. Dropped 12-500 G.P. Really surprised we came out of this one. Expected to walk back from this mission. We lost two planes, of which one landed in Belgium. Jerry really threw up everything he had. Luckily no fighter hit us. Forgot to mention we made three bomb runs. Sweated out gas on way back. Came in alone. Glad to have landed.

Thursday, October 5, 1944 - 7:25

Cologne - Ford Motor Plant. Plenty of fighter support visible by dense contrails. Roughest mission ever been on or hope to be on. Went through about 30 minutes of continuous flak in center of Happy Valley due to lead navigator being off course. Got plenty of flak holes. One shell went completely through No. 4 engine knocking out supercharger. Two holes in plexiglass nose. One small hole and flak embedded in chest of Wehe's flak suit. Other piece of flak completely knocked out nose ventilator door and embedded in ammunition box. Plexiglass really flew in all directions. One big chunk hit me square in the head. Thank my lucky stars I had my flak helmet on. Kept three pieces of glass as souvenirs. Some more flak ripped through left wing and embedded in radio room. Also got pieces of flak through glass of tail. Wright got little glass in his eye but nothing serious. Dropped 12-500 G.P. Really surprised we came out of this one. Expected to walk back from this mission. We lost two planes, of which one landed in Belgium. Jerry really threw up everything he had. Luckily no fighter hit us. Forgot to mention we made three bomb runs. Sweated out gas on way back. Came in alone. Glad to have landed.



MISSION #7

⑦ Monday - Oct 9, 8:00  
Target - Schweinfurt  
Aircraft Factory  
Flew off Colonel  
Smith's Wing  
Missed all of the  
Best fighter support  
ever seen. Sky was  
filled with little friends  
flak area. No  
hits scored  
by Jerry. No  
enemy fighters.  
Dropped 10-500 G.P.  
A dream mission.  
Wish they could  
all be this  
smooth and easy.

Monday, October 9, 1944

8:00

Target: Schweinfurt Aircraft Factory.

Flew off Colonel Smith's Wing.

Missed all of the flak area. Best  
fighter support ever seen. Sky was  
filled with little friends. No

hits scored by Jerry. No. enemy  
fighters. Dropped 10-500 lb. G.P.

A dream mission. Wish they could  
all be this smooth and easy.

MISSION #8

Wednesday Oct 11  
 Target - Koblenz  
 Marshalling Yds.  
 Little flak around  
 our ship and no  
 hits on our plane.  
 But engines going to  
 Cologne got pretty  
 well shot up. &  
 lost four aircraft  
 out of our bomb group.  
 On bomb run No. 4  
 supercharger gave out  
 and we really lagged  
 behind formation.  
 I caught up though  
 after bombs away.  
 Dropped 5-1,000 lb G.P.  
 Coming back got  
 our first glimpse of a  
 jet plane in the  
 distance climbing  
 straight up then  
 attack us though  
 Jerry also threw up  
 some smoke bombs  
 but never scored  
 any hits. Another  
 smooth mission  
 for us, but not so  
 for some of the other  
 boys. We really  
 were lucky.

Wednesday, October 11, 1944

7:15

Target: Koblenz Marshalling Yards.  
 Little flak around our ship and no  
 hits on our plane. But squadrons  
 going to Cologne got pretty well shot  
 up. Lost four aircraft out of our  
 bomb group. On bomb run No. 4,  
 supercharger gave out and we really  
 lagged behind formation. Caught up  
 though after bombs away. Dropped  
 5-1,000 lb. G.P. Coming back got  
 our first glimpse of a jet plane in  
 the distance climbing straight up.  
 Never attacked us though. Jerry also  
 threw up some smoke bombs but never  
 scored any hits. Another smooth  
 mission for us but not so for some  
 of the other boys. We've really  
 been lucky.

# MISSION #9

7:50  
 (9) Thursday - Oct 19.  
 Target: Mannheim  
 Tank Factory.  
 Had trouble  
 going over. Siphoning  
 of gas in No. 2  
 engine. Right hand  
 oxygen ran out  
 in about five  
 minutes at  
 target. Flak  
 intense. Only  
 got two hits. One  
 piece in waist  
 bouncing off gunner's  
 helmet. Other went  
 through side window  
 of pilot's side. Missed  
 Fred who was  
 flying first pilot  
 today. Otherwise  
 everything went  
 okay. Plenty of  
 fighter support.  
 Went to 30,000  
 today to avoid clouds.  
 Highest altitude  
 yet.

Thursday, October 19, 1944

7:50

Target: Mannheim Tank Factory. Had  
 trouble going over. Siphoning of  
 gas in No. 2 engine. Right hand  
 oxygen ran out in about 5 minutes.  
 At target, flak intense. Only got  
 two hits. One piece in waist  
 bouncing off gunner's helmet. Other  
 went through side window of pilot's  
 side. Missed Fred who was flying  
 first pilot today. Otherwise,  
 everything went okay. Plenty of  
 fighter support. Went to 30,000  
 today to avoid clouds. Highest  
 altitude yet.



MISSION #10

6:35  
⑩ Monday - Oct-30  
Target - Hamm  
Marshalling Yds  
Dropped 18-250 G.P.  
Bombed P.F.F. Ten  
tenths coverage.  
Moderate flak.  
Plenty of fighter  
support. Mission  
was a milk run.

Monday, October 30, 1944

6:35

Target: Hamm Marshalling Yards.  
Dropped 18-250 G.P. Bombed P.F.F.  
ten-tenths coverage. Moderate  
flak. Plenty of fighter support.  
Mission was a milk run.

MISSION #11

⑪ <sup>7:20</sup> Wednesday - Nov. 1.  
Target - Hamm  
Marshalling Yards.

Dropped 20-250 G.P.  
Bombed P.F.F.  
Moderate flak.  
Plenty of fighter  
support. Spotted  
three jet propelled  
planes. ~~Never~~  
One shot down  
a P-51. Never  
attack our forma-  
tion though.  
No flak hits in  
our ship. Really  
nice mission  
and comparatively easy.

Wednesday, November 1, 1944

7:20

Target: Hamm Marshalling Yards.  
Dropped 20-250 G.P. Bombed P.F.F.  
Moderate flak. Plenty of fighter  
support. Spotted three jet  
propelled planes. One shot down  
a P-51. Never attacked our formation  
though. No flak hits in our ship.  
Pretty nice mission and comparatively  
easy.

MISSION #12

⑫ <sup>6:35</sup> Thursday Nov. 2.  
Target - Duisburg  
Synthetic Oil Plant.  
Dropped 20-250 G.P.  
Bombed S.H.

Moderate flak.  
No hits on our  
plane. Really a  
nice smooth  
mission. Should  
be all like this.  
Today makes an  
even dozen missions  
though. Getting up  
there slow but sure.

Thursday, November 2, 1944

6:35

Target: Duisburg Synthetic Oil  
Plant. Dropped 20-250 G.P. Bombed  
G.H. Moderate flak. No hits on  
our plane. Really a nice smooth  
mission. Should all be like this.  
Today makes an even dozen missions.  
Getting up there slow but sure.

MISSION #13

⑬ <sup>6:55</sup> Saturday Nov. 4.  
Target - Essen  
Synthetic Oil Plant  
Dropped 20-250 G.P.  
Bombed G.H.  
Fairly intense flak  
Plenty of bursts by  
the nose, but  
no hits scored.  
Coming back spotted  
about 14 jet  
propelled planes.  
Eight of them were  
at 10 o'clock ~~at~~  
~~ready~~ ready to  
dive in at us,  
but instead  
peeled off and  
headed back to  
Germany. My nose  
guns were charged  
and was really  
ready to pour lead  
in their direction.  
Got back okay.  
Feel relieved now  
that No. 13 is  
past.

Saturday, November 4, 1944

6:55

Target: Essen Synthetic Oil Plant.

Dropped 20-250 G.P. Bombed G.H.

Fairly intense flak. Plenty of  
bursts by the nose, but no hits  
scored. Coming back, spotted about  
14 jet propelled planes. Eight of  
them were at ten o'clock, ready to  
dive in at us, but instead peeled off  
and headed back to Germany. My  
nose guns were charged and was  
really ready to pour lead in their  
direction. Got back okay.

Feel relieved now that No. 13 is past.



# MISSION #14

(14) <sup>7:00</sup> Monday - Nov. 6  
 Target - Essen  
 Synthetic Oil Plant  
 Dropped 20-250 G.P.  
 Bombed G.H.  
 Loads of flak.  
 but plenty inaccurate.  
 Maybe Jerry is  
 losing his grip, but  
 I'm thankful for it.  
 Spotted one jet in  
 the distance, coming  
 over Zuider Zee, but  
 never bothered us.  
 Fairly smooth mission.

Monday, November 6, 1944

7:00

Target: Essen Synthetic Oil Plant.  
 Dropped 20-250 G.P. Bombed G.H.  
 Loads of flak but plenty inaccurate.  
 Maybe Jerry is losing his grip but  
 I'm thankful for it. Spotted one  
 jet in the distance, coming over  
 Zuider Zee but never bothered us.  
 Fairly smooth mission.

# MISSION #15

(15) <sup>5:23</sup> Saturday - Nov. 11  
 Target - Gelsenkirchen  
 Synthetic Oil Plant  
 Dropped 20-250 G.P.  
 Bombed G.H.  
 Moderate flak and  
 inaccurate.  
 Plenty of P-51  
 fighter support.  
 No hits scored.  
 Tail gunner  
 though seen  
 a plane go down.  
 Didn't know whether  
 fighter or B-17.

Saturday, November 11, 1944

5:20

Target: Gelsenkirchen Synthetic Oil  
 Plant. Dropped 20-250 G.P. Bombed  
 G.H. Moderate flak and inaccurate.  
 Plenty of P-51 fighter support.  
 No hits scored. Tail gunner though  
 seen a plane go down. Didn't know  
 whether fighter or B-17.

# MISSION #16

①⑥ <sup>7:15</sup> Thursday - Nov. 16.  
Target - Eschweiler  
In support of  
ground troops.  
Dropped 30-260  
Frag. Bombs.  
Bombed G.H.  
Flew first  
mission deputy  
lead. Smooth  
mission with  
1st left wing chewed off

meager flak.  
Coming back our  
field was closed  
in so we  
landed at Stratford  
Shakespeare's home.  
Stayed there for  
two days until  
our field opened up.

Thursday, November 16, 1944

7:15

Target: Eschweiler. In support of  
ground troops. Dropped 30-260 Frag.  
bombs. Bombed G.H. Flew first  
mission deputy lead. Smooth mission  
with meager flak. Got left wing  
chewed off. Coming back, our field  
was closed in so we landed at  
Stratford Shakespeare's home. Stayed  
there for two days until our field  
opened up.

# MISSION #17

①⑦ <sup>8:30</sup> Monday - Nov 20.  
Target - Munster  
Marshalling Yds.  
Dropped 20-250 G.P.  
Moderate flak.  
with no hits  
scored. Saw a  
V-2 on the way  
back. Again our  
field was closed  
in, so after making  
two unsuccessful  
tries to land  
we were  
diverted to  
Bassingbourne.  
Stayed there 2  
hours, then came  
back. Second deputy  
lead.

Monday, November 20, 1944

8:30

Target: Munster Marshalling Yards.  
Dropped 20-250 G.P. Moderate flak  
with no hits scored. Saw a V-2 on  
the way back. Again our field was  
closed in, so after making two  
unsuccessful tries to land, we were  
diverted to Bassingbourne. Stayed  
there 2 hours then came back. Second  
deputy lead.



# MISSION #18

①8 Saturday 11:00 NOV. 25.  
Target - Mersburg  
Synthetic oil  
plant. Dropped  
10-500 G.P. Bombed  
P.F.F. Loads upon  
loads of barrage  
flak but inaccurate.  
Thankful  
for that because  
it could have been  
very rough.  
Expected fighter  
opposition but didn't  
get any. For third  
time our field was  
closed in, so were  
diverted to Aldermaston  
which is 8 MI. S.W.  
of Reading. Stayed  
there over night  
and what a night.  
Slept in tents and  
just about froze  
to death.

Saturday, November 25, 1944

11:00

Target: Mersburg Synthetic Oil  
Plant. Dropped 10-500 G.P. Bombed  
P.F.F. Loads upon loads of barrage  
flak but inaccurate. Thankful for  
that because it could have been very  
rough. Expected fighter opposition  
but didn't get any. For third time,  
our field was closed in, so were  
diverted to Aldermaston which is  
8 mi. S.W. of Reading. Stayed there  
overnight and what a night. Slept  
in tents and just about froze to  
death.

# MISSION #19

①9 Wednesday 7:50 NOV. 29.  
Target - Hannover  
Oil refining plant.  
Bombed P.F.F.  
Dropped 12-500 G.P.  
Expected Luftwaffe  
in strength so had  
plenty of fighter cover.  
Flak at target was  
meager and was  
surprising since we  
were briefed for  
intense. Little  
friends certainly  
do look good.  
Pretty good mission  
all around. Bill  
flew his first lead  
and did a good job.

Wednesday, November 29, 1944

7:50

Target: Hannover Oil Refining Plant.  
Bombed P.F.F. Dropped 12-500 G.P.  
Expected luftwaffe in strength so  
had plenty of fighter cover. Flak  
at target was meager and was  
surprising since we were briefed  
for intense. Little friends  
certainly do look good. Pretty  
good mission all around. Bill flew  
his first lead and did a good job.



# MISSION #20

20 Monday - Dec. 11.  
Target - Ludwigshafen  
Railroad Bridge.  
Bombed P.F.F. 7:00  
Dropped 2 - 2000 lb.  
2 - 1000 lb.  
Flak meager  
and not too  
accurate.

Really sweated  
plenty of weather  
on way back. Flew  
through front, got  
plenty of ice on  
plane and lost  
formation twice.  
Find them later  
and came back okay.

Monday, December 11, 1944

7:00

Target: Ludwigshafen Railroad  
Bridge. Bombed P.F.F. Dropped  
2-2,000 lb. flak meager and not  
too accurate. Really sweated plenty  
of weather on way back. Flew  
through a front, got plenty of ice  
on plane and lost formation twice.  
Find them later and came back okay.

# MISSION #21

21 Tuesday - Jan. 2.  
7:35  
Target - Gerolstein  
Marshalling Yards.  
Just east of enemy  
salient and was  
in support of ground  
troops. Bombed  
visually and  
dropped 18-250 G.P. &  
and 2 M-17 - I.B.  
Really plastered  
the target.  
Flew deputy lead  
again. Encountered  
only about 6-8  
bursts of flak.  
Made two bomb  
runs. Nice  
mission.

Tuesday, January 2, 1945

7:35

Target: Gerolstein Marshalling  
Yards. Just east of enemy salient  
and was in support of ground troops.  
Bombed visually and dropped 18-250  
G.P. and 2 M-17 - I.B. Really  
plastered the target. Flew deputy  
lead again. Encountered only  
about 6-8 bursts of flak. Made <sup>Two</sup> ~~the~~  
bomb runs. Nice mission.

MISSION #22

23 <sup>7:00</sup> Wednesday Jan 3.  
Target - St. Vith,  
About 7 miles  
from the battle  
front. Carried  
20-250 G.P.'s  
Turned from I.P.  
and proceeded on  
bomb run when  
a cylinder in  
No. 3 engine

Had to feather engine  
blew out and  
ripped off the  
cowling. Some of  
the cowling stuck  
to wing between no.  
3 & 4. Other pieces  
flew back and hit  
stabilizer cutting  
it. Plane vibrated  
violently and we  
were losing altitude.  
After about 15  
miles down the  
bomb run we  
decided to abort.  
Coming back, plane  
settled down a bit  
and we made it  
home alone although  
arriving after the  
mission since we  
couldn't make  
much speed.  
Really thought we  
were going to  
hit the silk today.  
Came back over  
England at about  
200 ft. Made a  
good landing with  
full bomb load  
and only three  
engines. Flew  
deputy again today.

Wednesday, January 3, 1944

7:00

Target: St. Vith - about 7 miles from  
the battle front. Carried 20-250 G.P.'s  
Turned from I.P. and proceeded on  
bomb run when a cylinder in No. 3  
engine blew out and ripped off the  
cowling. Had to feather engine. Some  
of the cowling stuck to wing between  
No. 3 and No. 4. Other pieces flew  
back and hit stabilizer cutting it.  
Plane vibrated violently and we were  
losing altitude. After about 15 miles  
down the bomb run, we decided to abort.  
Coming back, plane settles down a bit  
and we made it home alone although  
arriving after the mission since we  
couldn't make much speed. Really  
thought we were going to hit the silk  
today. Came back over England at about  
200 ft. Made a good landing with full  
bomb load and only three engines. Flew  
deputy again today.



23 Sunday - Jan. 5.  
 Target - Nieder  
 Breisig - Landing  
 field. Carried  
 38-100 G.P. Bombed  
 G.H. No flak at  
 target but coming  
 back over Rhine  
 we received very  
 accurate flak. Couple of bursts really  
 lifted up the plane.  
 Piece of flak came  
 through bottom of  
 Plexiglass nose  
 missing Wehe's foot,  
 coming past and  
 knocking off my  
 oxygen mask, plus  
 puncturing a hole in  
 it. I had just moved  
 back from the Gee  
 box when it hit.  
 Just about a second  
 early and I  
 would have had it  
 through the head.  
 Certainly, it was  
 my lucky day.  
 Kept the piece of  
 flak, also the  
 torn oxygen mask.  
 Rest of mission was  
 all right. Came  
 back alone sweating  
 out a little  
 weather plus gas  
 which ~~was~~ really  
 wasn't bad. Flew  
 deputy again.

Friday, January 5, 1945

8:45

Target: Nieder Breisig Landing Field.  
 Carried 38-100 G.P. Bombed G.H. No  
 flak at target but coming back over  
 Rhine, we received very accurate  
 flak. Couple of bursts really lifted  
 up the plane. Piece of flak came  
 through bottom of plexiglass nose  
 missing Wehe's foot, coming past and  
 knocking off my oxygen mask, plus  
 puncturing a hole in it. I had just  
 moved back from the Gee box when it  
 hit. Just about a second early and I  
 probably would have had it through  
 the head. Today certainly was my  
 lucky day. Kept the piece of flak,  
 also the torn oxygen mask. Rest of  
 mission was alright. Came back  
 alone sweating out a little weather  
 plus gas which really wasn't bad.  
 Flew deputy again.



34) <sup>9:20</sup> Saturday - Feb. 3.  
 Target - Berlin  
 Carried 10-500 G.P.  
 Was a beautiful  
 visual target.  
 Could see Berlin  
 for at least 30  
 miles away.  
 Our group was the  
 second over the  
 target. Led our  
 squadron. Really  
 pranged our target.  
 S-2 reports we hit  
 Gestapo headquarters  
 seen all the  
 bombs hit with  
 plenty of buildings  
 and railroad going up  
 in smoke and  
 fire. Flak was  
 pretty intense and  
 fairly accurate.  
 After bombs away,  
 flak hit oil line  
 in No. 2 engine and  
 spurted oil all  
 over the engine  
 causing a little flame  
 which rapidly  
 extinguished. Had  
 to feather the  
 engine and came  
 back on three,  
 leading the squadron.  
 If trouble would  
 occurred, was  
 set to head for  
 Russia, since the  
 lines weren't  
 far away. A nice  
 mission and one  
 of the best targets  
 we've had yet.

Saturday, February 3, 1945

9:20

Target: Berlin. Carried 10-500  
 G.P. Was a beautiful visual target.  
 Could see Berlin for at least 30  
 miles away. Our group was the  
 second over the target. Led our  
 squadron. Really pranged our  
 target. S-2 reports we hit Gestapo  
 headquarters. Seen all the bombs  
 hit with plenty of buildings and  
 railroad going up in smoke and  
 fire. Flak was pretty intense and  
 fairly accurate. After bombs away,  
 flak hit oil line in No. 2 engine  
 and spurted oil all over the engine  
 causing a little flame which rapidly  
 extinguished. Had to feather the  
 engine and came back on three,  
 leading the squadron. If trouble  
 would have occurred, was set to head  
 for Russia since the lines weren't  
 far away. A nice mission and one  
 of the best targets we've had yet.

25) <sup>10:10</sup> Thursday Feb. 15.  
 Target - Dresden  
 Carried 18-250 G.P.  
 10-10 clouds most  
 of the way. Target  
 was obscured so  
 we bombed P.F.F.  
 Was a long mission  
 but we had  
 good fighter  
 support. Were up  
 for about 10 hours  
 and 7 being on  
 oxygen. ~~Only~~  
 Only had one flak  
 burst over the  
 target, but had a  
 few when crossing  
 the Rhine + front lines.  
 Nobody got hit, coming  
 back our field was  
 soaked in so we  
 were diverted to  
 Bassingbourne for  
 two days. Had a  
 good time one night.  
 ✓ FLEW DEPUTY  
 in Cambridge. Now  
 have only 5 more  
 missions to go.

Thursday, February 15, 1945

10:10

Target: Dresden. Carried 18-250  
 G.P. 10-10 clouds most of the way.  
 Target was obscured so we bombed  
 P.F.F. Was a long mission but we  
 had good fighter support. Were up  
 for about 10 hours and 7 being on  
 oxygen. Only had one flak burst  
 over the target but had a few when  
 crossing the Rhine and front lines.  
 Nobody got hurt coming back. Our  
 field was soaked in so we were  
 diverted to Bassingbourne for two  
 days. Had a good time one night  
 in Cambridge. Now have only 5  
 more missions to go. Flew deputy.



(26) Friday Feb. 23.  
 Target: Plauen  
 Carried 11-500 G.P.  
 and one smoke  
 bomb. Most  
 of Germany ob-  
 scured by clouds  
 so bombing was  
 done P.F.F.  
 New tactics used  
 today in that we  
 bombed from 13,000'  
 After bombs away  
 our ship lurched  
 meaning we had  
 felt the concussion  
 of the bombs  
 hitting.  
 No flak on the  
 whole trip, not  
 even at the target.  
 Flew lead again  
 today. Had little  
 trouble with weather  
 over England on  
 return, but made  
 it back okay.  
 4 more to go.

Friday, February 23, 1945

10:20

Target: Plauen. Carried 11-500  
 G.P. and one smoke bomb. Most of  
 Germany obscured by clouds so  
 bombing was done P.F.F. New tactics  
 used today in that we bombed from  
 13,000'. After bombs away, our ship  
 lurched, meaning we had felt the  
 concussion of the bombs hitting.  
 No flak on the whole trip, not even  
 at the target. Flew lead again  
 today. Had little trouble with  
 weather over England on return, but  
 made it back okay.

4 more to go.



27 8:00  
 Wednesday - Mar. 7,  
 Target - Giessen  
 Center of town  
 with railroad yds.  
 Carried 12-500 G.P.  
 Flew high sqdn.  
 lead. The whole  
 trip was overcast  
 not being able to  
 see the ground  
 once. ~~Our~~  
 Our primary was  
 I.P. near Dortmund  
 After hitting I.P.  
 lead reported into  
 Gee out, so we  
 took over group.  
 Were going swell  
 half way down  
 bomb run when  
 Gee acted up.  
 consequently went  
 way past target.  
 Decided to give it  
 up and go bomb  
 secondary P.F.F. which  
 was Giessen.  
 Encountered scattered  
 flak over primary  
 with no flak at  
 secondary. P.F.F.  
 bombing believed to  
 be good and center  
 of city hit. Came  
 back alright  
 avoiding little weather.  
 Just 3 left.

Wednesday, March 7, 1945

8:00

Target: Giessen - Center of Town  
 with Railroad Yards. Carried  
 12-500 G.P. Flew high squadron  
 lead. The whole trip was overcast  
 not being able to see the ground  
 once. Our primary was G.H. near  
 Dortmund. After hitting I.P., lead  
 reported its Gee out, so we took  
 over group. Were going swell half  
 way down bomb run when Gee acted up;  
 consequently, went way past target.  
 Decided to give it up and go bomb  
 secondary P.F.F. which was Giessen.  
 Encountered scattered flak over  
 primary with no flak at secondary  
 P.F.F.. Bombing believed to be  
 good and center of city hit.  
 Came back alright avoiding little  
 weather.

Just 3 left.

MISSION #28

28) Monday - March 12.  
 Betzdorf  
 Harbor marshalling  
 Yds. Carried  
 34-100 G.P. and  
 2-500 I.B. Flown  
 low squadron  
 lead. All of continent  
 obscured by clouds, so bombed  
 G.H. No fighters or flak. Really  
 a smooth dream mission. Need  
 couple more like this.  
 Only 2 left.

Monday, March 12, 1945

7:30

Target: Betzdorf Railroad  
 Marshalling Yards. Carried 34-100  
 G.P. and 2-500 I.B. Flew low  
 squadron lead. All of continent  
 obscured by clouds, so bombed  
 G.H. No fighters or flak. Really  
 a smooth dream mission. Need  
 couple more like this.  
 Only 2 left.



(29) ~~Friday~~ <sup>Friday</sup> March 23  
 Target - Gladbeck  
 marshalling yards.  
 Carried 34-150 G.P.  
 and 2-500 I.B.  
 Flew high squadron  
 lead. From base  
 to target and  
 back was visual  
 with no clouds.  
 Really pranged our  
 target and knocked  
 it out. Could see  
 good results where  
 other groups  
 bombed. Saw  
 the biggest smoke  
 screen reported in  
 history laid down  
 by our troops along  
 the front beside  
 the Rhine. Big  
 push will probably  
 come any day.  
 Flak at target  
 was moderate but  
 accurate. Ship  
 of leads left wing  
 got direct hit, spun  
 a little, then ex-  
 ploded. No chutes  
 seen.  
 Doran and McMorrow  
 finished up  
 today and I  
 only have 1 last  
 one to go today.  
 was most beautiful  
 weather ever seen.  
 Visual all the way.  
 Jerry really took  
 a beating today.

Friday, March 23, 1945

6:15

Target: Gladbeck Marshalling Yards.  
 Carried 34-150 G.P. and 2-500 I.B.  
 Flew high squadron lead. From  
 base to target and back was visual  
 with no clouds. Really pranged  
 our target and knocked it out.  
 Could see good results where other  
 groups bombed. Saw the biggest  
 smoke screen reported in history  
 laid down by our troops along the  
 front beside the Rhine. Big push  
 will probably come any day. Flak  
 at target was moderate but accurate.  
 Ship of leads left wing got direct  
 hit, spun a little, then exploded.  
 No chutes seen. Doran and McMorrow  
 finished up today and I only have  
 one last one to go. Today was  
 most beautiful weather ever seen.  
 Visual all the way. Jerry really  
 took a beating today.



MISSION #30

(30) <sup>84/0</sup> Saturday March 31  
Target - Halle  
Railroad Yds.  
Carried 20-300  
G.P.'s. Flew low  
squadron lead.  
Most of mission  
covered by 10/10  
clouds. Bombed  
target P.F.F. with  
scattered bursts  
of flak. On  
way back seen  
Remagen bridge  
down and 4 or 5  
pontoon bridges  
up over the  
Rhine. Seen  
loads of truck  
convoys heading  
for the front.  
Can now end  
this diary.  
Tour of operations  
now completed.

Finale

Happy  
Warrior

Saturday, March 31, 1945

8:40

Target: Halle Railroad Yards.  
Carried 20-300 G.P.'s. Flew low  
squadron lead. Most of mission  
covered by 10/10 clouds. Bombed  
target P.F.F. with scattered bursts  
of flak. On way back, seen Remagen  
bridge down and 4 or 5 pontoon  
bridges up over the Rhine. Seen  
loads of truck convoys heading for  
the front. Can now end this diary.  
Tour of operations now completed.

FINALE

HAPPY WARRIOR!