

***** ——— PERSONAL PROPERTY *** ———**

OF

S/SGT. ROBERT L. ZELLER

ASN 15374438

**PLEASE RETURN TO
720 ½ W. MAIN CROSS ST.
FINDLAY, OH USA**

THANK YOU

June 18, 1944

Left Mitchel Field in the morning. Landed at Bangor early afternoon.

June 19, 1944

Was awakened at 0400 to brief. Took off at 1245z. Interphone amplifier burned. Had gas leak in catwalk of Bomb Bay. Landed in Goose Bay, Labrador at 1725z.

June 20/21/22, 1944

Hung around Goose Bay doing nothing but play ping pong, sleep and eat. Went to afternoon movie. Sleep in Plane and guarded it the night of the 22nd.

June 23, 1944

Briefed and took off at 1105z. Tank still leaks in Bomb Bay. Liason Dynamotor burns out near Greenland. Interphone acts up again. Landed at BW-1 in Greenland in early afternoon. Started to take off a couple hours later but was called back. Went to show with Cassidy and then

we went Bowling. I had 129 & 119. Greenland is a beautiful place. Dozens of icebergs floating around. It is very warm.

June 24, 1944

Got up real early (0300) and took off at 0730z. The static was terrible. Flew ...deck ... below stratus layer...the entire North...Atlantic always. Landed...2z in Iceland. ...1800z. Flew...

June 25, 1944

Bad weather so nobody took off. We had lost Dick at Bangor because he had a loose turn tab and the wing... Pulled 25 hour...last night.

June 26, 1944

The rest of our bunch takes off but they finally took our plane out to fix the gas leak. It has been leaking ever since...and now they pick a hole like this to fix it, such is life. Not a tree in all of Iceland. Hear we may go by C-54, hope so. Just loafed around.

June 27, 1944 (28-29)

Ship still tore apart. Dick landed here but I didn't get to see him. Spent all day at Red Cross Club 23 playing ping pong and eating doughnuts. Getting tired of it here now. Too much time to think, getting awful tiresome. It stays light ____ hours a day this time of the year.

June 30, 1944

Finally found something to break monotony. Went pony riding in Greenwich with the res of the E. ____ our crew. The Mayor of the town owns the ponies. Had plenty of fun but a lazy pony. Cost 7 ½ Krona and _____.

July 1, 1944

Went pony riding again and had a still better time. Had a swell pony, a big peppy white one. Climbed a real steep mountain.

July 2, 1944

Plane is all ready to go but the weather is bad over the U.K. & North Atlantic so we are still held up. I sold my sunglasses to a PFC in the Medics for \$20. We have been eating K rations ____ our ship all week because the food hasn't been very good.

July 3, 1944

Went pony riding again but it fizzled out because the ponies were tired and wouldn't move so we quit. The only direction we could make them go was home. I am tired of Iceland now, like a vacation only nothing to do. The whole crew (EM) monkeyed with our ship preflighting until 0300. Swiped some chicken legs from the mess hall and roasted them on our Hut stove. Went to sleep about 0500. Was feeling kind of sick & had a headache.

July 4, 1944

Never got up until _____ nearly 1400. Wrote letters & ate supper. Had a swell 4th meal. All the other crew went to Red Cross Club "23" except Bergent (?) & I was feeling lonely & blue. Heard that we are leaving tomorrow finally.

July 5, 1944

They woke us up at 0500. We preflighted & took off at 0800. We ran into icing conditions all along the route to Storonoway. From there we went to Prestwick then to Valley where we landed at 1700. Got put in a Bks about 5 miles from everywhere.

July 6, 1944

We lost our ship here as it goes to a modification center. We put about 28 hours on it, 50708. B24-J. We left Valley by train about 1300 to another replacement center. I don't even know the name of it. Reminds me of a little Salt Lake City. Had to sleep 5 deep in a dinky 2 by 4 Air Raid shelter in Duncan Hall. It got real cold at night & lots of rain.

July 7, 1944

Not much to do. Ran across Dick King over in Beatty Hall when I went over to exchange my money to English money. He was on KP in the Officers Mess. I hope we go out together. I went to the movie in Howard Hall & saw "The Cat & the Canary" with Bob Hope. Slept in Air Raid shelter again.

July 8, 1944

Finally got out of the Air Raid shelter into a room. It is very crowded, four of our crew are together in one room. Walked to Stone in eve. It is about 3 ½ miles each way & there is no transportation. There isn't anything to do there anyway. I ran across Dick in Stone & we walked home together. Have to sleep in British blankets & they are terrible, feel like a pin cushion.

July 9, 1944

Was issued a gas mask. Went to church with Bery (?) and took communion in Howard Hall. Still haven't received any mail since I left the USA. Wrote a lot of letters. Met Secor & King at the Aero Club & drank coffee. Rained as usual, every day I've spent in the U.K. it has rained.

July 10, 1944

Rained all day long again. I caught a bad cold & was feeling terrible, couldn't even breathe. It sure would help to get some mail. You miss it when you don't get it. Hadn't slept very good last night because of cold & thoughts of home so I spent most of the day trying to sleep. Was put on KP about 7:30 p.m. but didn't do much, the easiest KP I have ever performed. Guliano was on too.

July 11, 1944

Got off KP about 0500 & went to bed until 2:30 p.m. My cold is much better. Was the happiest man in the world when I received 9 letters. Got my rations for the week. Tex is on KP

tonight. I went to a dance in the Duncan Mess Hall but didn't dance & came back in an hour & wrote letters.

July 12, 1944

Slept through revellie & had to see the 1st Sgt. but he let it go. Went over to see Boom boom etc & played ball until supertime. We had come over with a formation but had to talk our way back. Went to movie at Howard Hall with Sargent & saw "True to Life." Bergen & Boscoe are on night KP. They slipped us some pie out of the window.

July 13, 1944

Finally put on ship_____ tomorrow. Tired of this. Lots of it is just like a boot camp. Still has been raining every day since we got to the U.K. Had to have bags ready by noon. Saw a truck ram a jeep.

July 14, 1944

Left Stone about 0730 & arrived by train in Warrington at noon. Got same kind of rooms at a place called Bruce Hall. Walked into Warrington in eve with Boom Harver but he couldn't go into Red Cross & I can't go into Officers Club so we walked back to camp.

July 15, 1944

I thought we would leave today but didn't so loafed around playing ping pong with Boom & in eve walked to town with the whole crew. I went to Red Cross dance but only danced twice.

Wish I knew how to do better. Made it back to camp in 20 min. but was ____ min late. The MP didn't say a word.

July 16, 1944

It is Sun. so they let us sleep till 1030, felt good too. One guy fell out for breakfast. Still haven't done any work, plenty easy life. Wrote a couple letters then walked to town. All I did was walk around then walk back. Bet I covered a good 20 miles. Took a shower and went to bed. Sargent thinks he has caught the crabs from these crummy British blankets. I'm praying that I don't catch 'em, never had 'em yet & don't either.

July 17, 1944

Taken in a truck over to Modification Center at 0800. Took off in a converted B-24 (?) at 1330. There were 40 men packed in without chutes, plus 4 crew members. Landed in Northern Ireland at 1500. All the rest of my original gang has left except King.

July 18, 1944

Haven't started school yet. Had dental exam. Cut grass in afternoon with a big knife. Second straight day it hasn't rained, must be a miracle.

July 19, 1944

The darn rains start in again, everything as damp as ever. Your clothes stuck right to you. General Hodges is supposed to come but never does. Had machination lecture by a Capt. at 1400. Got eight letters. ~~Wrote that long-awaited letter to ____.~~

July 20, 1944

Started school at 0830. Had lectures on Geography of Targets in France & Germany & intelligence. Very interesting. Lectures on Fighters & Flac. Looks like a rough life ahead. Received five letters. Happy now.

July 21, 1944

Had some swell lectures on Ditching and flax suits & other equipment. This is by far the best school I have ever been at. They really know their business. Saw a B-24 land with nose gear up. Looks like a tough deal. Got three letters.

July 22, 1944

Had lectures on Evasion & Prisoner of War interrogation. Really good interesting lectures. Test on intelligence. One letter.

July 23, 1944

About 150 officers were taken to the Hospital last night & this morning with ptomaine poisoning. The ambulance was picking them up all over the base. Some are really bad. Rudh (?) our Bombardier had it too but is ok. Dick finished his school today & is assigned to the same Grp. as Cassedy (362nd). We had a class on 8th Air Force & RAF procedure. No mail darn it. Oh for a big chocolate malt or sundae, yum. Went to church this morn.

July 24, 1944

Classes on beacons, splashers, and procedures. Got rations. No mail again darn it. Dick leaves tomorrow.

July 25, 1944

Passed a 20 WPM Code check. Still haven't got any more mail. It rained hard on & off all day. Dick flew to his Group the 467th APO #558, the same one Cassedy is in. Was gonna take a shower but it is raining & you have to walk about 4 blocks so I won't take any, can't fool me.

July 26, 1944

Poured practically all day as usual. Spent the morning with Navigator in "Grove Trainer" on a simulated mission over Frankfurt, Germany. Had Harwell (?) trainers in afternoon. I got 95% in it. We sent to grd. (?) station for QOM's, ATF's, etc. No mail again. Took a shower with ice cold water.

July 27, 1944

Thick fog, thunderstorms & heavy rains all day again. Had final test for Radio Op. It was really a complete exam on operations in the E.T.O. Finally received five letters but only one from my sweet heart, I'm a little worried about her. I found out that the name of this school is "____" & is on "Loch Neaugh." Some Irish men comes around most eve & sells hard boiled eggs for 10 shillings 6 pence so I usually buy a couple. _____.

July 28, 1944

I made 92% on the final exam yesterday. Only 4 in the class had higher. I had 95% on procedure in the ____ trainers & a 20 WPM Code sand(?). No mail & no rain today. All the other crews except ours flew, don't ask me why, as I don't know. Had ice cream the second time since I left the USA a month & a half ago. Just loafed around all day. We are assigned to the 445th Bomb Group.

July 29, 1944

It pounded again last nite. Our crew & three others flew in a B-24 to the 445th Bomb Group and were put in the 701st Squadron, APO #558. Our gunners haven't arrived from Green Castle yet so I am still by myself. The bks is awful crowded & dirty but the fellas are very friendly & helpful. A very good day happened today as they decreased the required # of missions from 35 to 30 again. Swell news too.

July 30, 1944

Our gunners never got here last night so our school for today was called off. They came in at 1700 tonight. The R.O. & officers still have to pull 35 missions, a raw deal too. They are short of Radio Operators. The rest of crew is in another bks so I am among strangers.

July 31, 1944

Our crew had lectures on 1st Aid, equip., etc. Our A-3 bags haven't come in yet. The boys raided Ludwigshafen [Ludwigshafen] today. One crew bailed out near Norwich when they

lost an engine. The pilot had lost his head so the co-pilot brought it in. One of the gunners broke his leg when he bailed out. Light rains again. Still haven't been paid for 2 months.

AUG 1, 1944

The boys bombed targets near Paris. So far 4 crews haven't come in yet. The new crews had lectures on ditching, communications, etc. No mail. I have a terrific headache. Nearly all the crews were running short of gasoline because they had to make 4 runs over the target.

AUG 2, 1944

Light rains again. The Group bombed southwest of Paris again. The rest of the planes came in yesterday. Our crew had classes on turrets and engineering. Played ping pong with Bergen & Juliano & did lousy. Still no mail. I got a steel helmet and heavy underwear from supply. We are all done with school now. I went to the Base theatre last night & saw "High diddle diddle."

AUG 3, 1944

Slept until 10:00 then had Prisoner of War lectures in afternoon. Drew flying equip. & got locker. Got three 8th AF patches. Targets near Paris were bombed again & the fella sleeping next to me was hit in the leg by flak. Was issued several small compasses & language card in case of getting shot down over Germany or France. A beautiful day out. No mail.

AUG 4, 1944

Spent the day getting helmet & oxygen mask fixed & other equip. The 8th bombed Kiel & Pas de Calais. A swell day out. Bergen, Boscoe, Sargent, & Juliano have to guard the planes tonight so I imagine the rest of us will fly tomorrow. A few facts – On the 1st Schweinfurt raid in Oct. “43” the papers said 60 heavy bombers were lost while in reality according to intelligence records the 8th lost 151 heavy bombers. Also on the 1st Berlin raid we lost 86 B-24s & B-19s on a raid on Gotha. Our group lost 13 out of 25 due to the fact that our formation was 20 min early over the target & fighters jumped them before our escort got there. Drew a duffle bag. No mail again. Signed payroll.

AUG 5, 1944

Gray & I flew a couple of officers down to London & landed on a grass field. We really sweated the take off as it was a short bumpy field. Missed trees & houses about ten feet. The rest of our crew is on guard duty again tonight. I got 2 QTFs & 1 QOM and the WX today. They sure have a swell D/F system here in the U.K. The group bombed Brunswick today. Nice day but no mail.

AUG 6, 1944

Flew a little while & shot landings. Was supposed to fly again in afternoon but our ship was late in coming in so we didn't get up. Had a long day. Still no mail so I feel plenty lonesome. Rest of crew on guard again. The Grp. bombed Hamburg.

AUG 7, 1944

My toughest day yet in the E.T.O. [European Theatre of Operations]. We flew in the morning with the Squadron Co., a Major, and formed with the formation that bombed the Pas de Calais. Landed about noon & went up again about one on a x-country formation. Both were high altitude. Finally got some mail, 3 letters from Toni. Our gunners are on guard again tonight, the 4th day in a row. They put another crew in our bks so now the bunks are so close together you can't even turn around.

AUG 8, 1944

Had a very easy day. Just spent the day fixing my baggage up. The Group bombed somewhere in Calais. Will go on operational status in a couple of days. I wish they would hurry up, this waiting gets on my nerves. No mail.

AUG 9, 1944

Just played ping pong & rode a bike around all day. Our whole crew was put on guard duty at 2130 but Gray & I were taken off at 2215 so we will probably fly in the morning. Got one letter. The boys bombed Saarbrucken today & one crew in our Sqd. bailed out over Germany & the Co-Pilot brought the ship back & ditched it in the Channel. He is back on Camp already. Sewed an 8th Air Force patch on my blouse.

AUG 10, 1944

I flew a 4 hr. high altitude practice formation at 20,000 ft. We are now on operational status. I got my July & July's back pay & it is my biggest one so far. I got almost 55 pounds.

We also signed the Aug. payroll. I hope I can get to the post office tomorrow & send it home. I'm scared carrying that much around on me. I sure hope I can get it off to home before I get shot down. No darn mail again, gee but I miss that. I do more worrying when I don't hear from the ones that are so close to you.

AUG 11, 1944

They bombed Strasbourg & got shot up pretty bad. Our group didn't lose any planes but had several wounded men and shot up planes. There has been a water shortage so we can't even take a shower now. Our whole crew was on guard tonight, including me. For some reason the searchlights are blazing away in the sky. I sent a money order for \$150 home to Mom to put in the bank. Cashed in my American money for British. I sure hope we start our mission tomorrow. Taylor flew as Co-Pilot.

AUG 12, 1944

No missions as today is a standdown. I finally got a bunch of back mail, 9 to be exact but still none from the right person. I'm worrying myself sick now. We can hear the RAF going over in force tonight. They go over several nights a week. I can imagine how the Germans feel now.

AUG 13, 1944

Another day of leisure. Wills flew as Co-Pilot with another crew. Our Group bombed the small islands off Bellamy namely Guernsey & Jersey. They really gave it a plastering too. The rest of the crews' A-3 bags came except mine. I'm almost sure we fly a mission tomorrow. I

got 9 more letters, my back mail is coming through now. Saw 2 B-17's collide in mid-air & explode.

AUG 14, 1944

Still no mission. Got some...octane gas & cleaned a lot of clothes. I even aired my bed. Was called out in the morning for a practice mission but then nobody knew why so we came back. Spent about an hour & half practicing _____ bug(?). Received a letter.

AUG 15, 1944

Finally flew my first mission. We bombed 3 _____ an air field 15 miles from Oldenburgh [Oldenburg] Germany. Made a mess of it. Will never forget the feeling I got when we dropped our first bombs. I was standing in the open Bombay watching them hit. It makes you realize what war really is. We flew over the Frisian Islands and the Zussler Zel. There wasn't any flak near us at all. I hope all the rest are like that one.

AUG 16, 1944

We flew our 2nd mission today & bombed a Junkers Air Craft assembly plant at Dessau Germany. We really took a flak beating to. It is by far the closest I ever came to death or hope to come. The flak was terrific all during the bomb run & just as we had Bombs away our left rudder was shot away & the ship started to vibrate something terrific. We lost our formation & came home alone tagging along with other formations when we found home. We were all ready to bail out when the plane got under _____

_____...is by far..._____most accurate flak they have seen. Our group lost three ships over the target & another crash landed in England. The rest were all shot up. We had several other holes too. Our Deputy Lead was hit & crashed into the lead ship & both went down in flames. I sure said my prayers up there to & I'm wasn't the only one. It's a funny feeling hearing dull thuds of the bursts & seeing dozens of puffs of black smoke all over.

AUG. 17, 1944

A stand down today thank heaven. I sure can use the rest after yesterdays raid. Played tennis for the first time in the Army. To many ships were shot up today or rather yesterday so hence the stand down.

AUG. 18, 1944

We didn't fly again in a mission that is. We test hopped a ship in the afternoon though. I guess the ship bombed Metz. Had my first picture taken in Civilian clothes. Sure feels strange.

AUG. 19, 1944

A standdown for training. Our skeleton crew flew a test hop to slow time an engine. Never will get our missions in at this rate.

AUG. 20, 1944

Another standdown, this time for weather. It really poured. I went to church this morning. Our crew has a Pub Pass but I'd rather stay here & pass the time away. The photos of our two raids should be hit pretty good.

AUG.21, 1944

Another standdown because of rain & bad weather. The ceiling is only a couple hundred feet. We never will get our missions on at this rate. Time hangs heavy when we don't fly so many days in a row.

AUG 22, 1944

Still lousy weather so another standdown. I'm getting lazy now. Hope we get a 48 hr. pass soon. Looks like Tex may get off of our crew. Had to see Major ____ about my 45 _____Sgt.Ruth about a bike. I get in more trouble minding my own business.

AUG. 23, 1944

Standdown again, the weather cleared up a little, probably fly in the morning. Felt sick to my stomach so I didn't eat either breakfast or dinner. Still feel pretty bad & weak. Played my first game of badminton with Boom boom. I like tennis better myself but it's O.K. Still haven't got my A-3 bag.

AUG 24, 1944

Flew my third mission to bomb some Aero Engine works at Brunswick Germany. There was very heavy flak but wasn't half as accurate as at Dessau. We got about three holes is all. I saw more Planes in the Air than I ever have before in my life. The sky is literally black with them. It sure is a gratifying sight. When we got up at 0300 it was pouring down rain & lightening & thundering.

AUG 25, 1944

For some reason our crew didn't fly today although our Group put up 13 ships in every squadron. They bombed _____ I guess. I got my P/w pictures and they sure are lousy. I look better as a soldier. Met Moffit (?) & had a long talk. Washed a bunch of clothes & played lots of ping pong. I can't understand why we don't fly more than we do but I won't complain, just so I come back ok.

AUG 26, 1944

I was surprised when we didn't fly again today. I can't understand what the deal is. I am tired of loafing around all day. _____ some Oil _____. I got a sun tan _____ Boom Boom for \$2.00. I've been wanting one for a long time.

AUG 27, 1944

The whole eighth Air Force started out to Bomb Berlin but ran into thunderheads. Donmark (Denmark?) and I got a recall. Ran into a little flak from Denmark & Heligoland Island. I hope we get credit for a mission but I doubt it. We were _____ 6 hrs. There were

some ____ size Cumulus Cloud formations all (?) the way past 20,000 ft. Prettiest (?) I've ever seen. I hope we _____ big "B" tomorrow, though (?) _____ place. Bergen volunteered _____ Sargent's place & was _____ when he found me were headed for _____.

AUG 28, 1944

A standdown because of weather. Rain & stormy. I don't know what's the matter but I'm sick again. Hope I feel better tomorrow. Went to the _____ after supper and saw "The _____." It's the only good picture I've seen here. Most of them you can't even (?) hear (?). I guess we got credit ____ mission yesterday so I have ____ now. We thought we were going to get a 48 hr. pass tomorrow but we are flying according to operations. Everybody wants to borrow money. They're all boobs (?).

AUG 29, 1944

No mission but whole Grp. flew a practice formation. Sarg & Juliano had to see the Major Kriede (?) about their fight & Juliano is taken off of our crew. Wills cancelled 48 hr. pass to darn it. Guess we never will get off the Base. He sure d_____ after the Crew, we haven't _____ our per deum yet.

AUG 30, 1944

Got number 5 in today & it _____ a milk run. Bombed _____ sites in the Pas De Calais in France. It is my first trip to France. We ran into very _____ flak & Bombed by 6h. There was a 500 ft. ceiling _____ cloud formations all the way up to 11,000 ft. between _____ 10/10 the entire trip. _____ to make & instruments _____ over the Channel & flew

between 300 & 500 ft. alternating all the way to the base just ____ over(?)cast. I saw the wh(?) ____, they are pretty in a we(ird?) _____. Can see the coast of France & the coast of England at the same time from the Air. More crew tr(ansfers?) as Taylor, Boom & Gray try to get off the crew as they don't want to fly with Wills because he had Juliano taken off the crew. Gray wants the rest of us to get off to but I (don't?) _____ will. I don't think they _____.

AUG 31, 1944

A standdown so I spent the day washing clothes, fixing Bergen's bike & playing ping pong. Got paid about 23 ½ lbs. I sent \$125 home again. That makes \$275 this month, pretty good if I say so myself. Sargent & Juliano were _____ to Puto the other day.

SEPT. 1, 1944

Our crew is all busted up now, Tayler, Boomhower, & Gray wanted to get off so I guess they got disgusted with us & broke it up. They act like a bunch of [babies? ladies?]. The whole crew is guarding Airplanes tonight except me. I can't figure that out unless I'm flying tomorrow. Major Glen Miller & his band played here today & was pretty good. Ray McKinley is his drummer. They sure cost us the Planes though as we sent several ships to a B-17 base to pick them up. On the way there one ship taxied into another one wrecking the wing of one & the Cockpit of the other. At the B-17 base another of our Planes rammed the Control Tower & 2 B-17's watching him taxied into each other. All for one band too. ha. I hope I don't get on a lead crew now. I sure hope the war keeps on like it is, the Yanks reached the Belgian Border today. Our Grouped abandon a mission to France.

SEPT. 2, 1944

Heavy rains last night & today so another standdown. Wills has another crew, Tayler is on Pelton's Crew & Boom is on Golden's. So far the rest of us are extras. Went to the Base show & saw "Dixie Dugan" after supper.

SEPT. 3, 1944

No mission again on account of lousy weather. There was a heavy downpour & storm all afternoon & Eve. I was supposed to fly a practice mission this AM but I went to church & they couldn't find me. Heard the R.A.F. going overhead, I believe there were doing a mission tonight.

SEPT. 4, 1944

It poured all day long again. I got soaked half a dozen times. I hear that I am assigned to another crew but no official notice yet. I have been wearing another fella's shoes for a month now & he is leaving tomorrow so I had to have these taken off his record & put on mine. I wish my bags would hurry & get here so I could have some clothes. Went to Base theatre after supper & saw "Double Indemnity."

SEPT. 5, 1944

I had the most exciting flight of my life today. An experience I'll never forget. I flew with a Pilot named Nucci(?) on his 35th mission & bombed Railroad yards at Karlsruhe, Germany. It was a messed up affair because there was a formation below us over the target so we couldn't drop our Bombs. We finally let them go in a woods. Our lead ship dropped out of

formation & dropped his bombs on some village. It was my longest flight so far, 8 hrs. & 35 min. Half way back across France we hit the deck & buzzed France all the way back across Dieppe. I'll never forget the sight of hundreds of French waving anything they could find & of the hundreds of ruined homes & buildings & shell holes. It is a war torn nation for sure. We were less than a hundred feet most of the way & had to climb for High Tension Lines & trees. If we would have put the gear down we would have hit the tree tops. The French men sure were thrilled at the sight. I even felt a little like crying at the spectacle. I saw a column of British Tanks/Trucks as far as the eye could see. I earned the Air Medal today to, won't get it for a while though. All in all it is a day to remember. We saw German Fighters attacking the formation ahead of us.

SEPT. 6, 1944

Got up at 0300 & ready to bomb Hanover but first the mission was delayed 4 ½ hrs. then at 0930 it was cancelled. I have had a slight fever, headache & felt weak for two days now so I'm glad I didn't fly. I don't get enough exercise anymore. I was put on Zenner's crew as R.O. today but it looks as though I'm going to be put on Wolfgang's crew as they asked for me. That'd be ok but they are lead crew & I don't care for that. I'm proud they picked me anyway. I played Settle in a set of Tennis & won 7-5. sure feels good to get back at the old game even if I'm not any good. Saw "Sullivans Travels" after supper.

SEPT. 7, 1944

Rained all day long again as usual. I got soaked through & through. Looks as though I may get out of that lead crew deal yet, I hope so, I'm trying any way. It's awful damp & chilly out, guess winter is here. Saw "Ladies in Washington" at Base movie.

SEPT. 8, 1944

Flew #7 today & went to the same place as we did three days ago. Hit the Marshelling yds. at Karlsruhe Germany on the Siegfried Line. It was very cold, 38 below at 26,000 ft. Light flak around us in Low Left Sqd. The entire 2nd Division hit it today & it looked pretty good. Our Nose gunner's oxygen mask froze up on him over the target & he passed out. We couldn't get the turret around to get him out so we smashed in the side of the turret. We were afraid he was dead but he came around OK. He got frost bitten fingers though. On top of that we lost our formation in the clouds & got lost ourselves. I got a fix near Paris & a QOM over the Channel. I sure had a busy day. Just so I come back I'm willing to work. There was severe icing & heavy contrails. I have 1 more mission than our old officers & 2 more than the gunners. I am on Zenner's crew now.

SEPT. 9, 1944

_____ me _____ second _____ the Mars____(?) _____ Germany _____ the target though _____ day at Coblenz. The flak _____ accurate & I heard _____ bursting they were so _____ lost three ships _____ the nose turret knocked(?) off(?) by the wing of another _____. Now(?) Brussels & Antwerp in Belgium(?).

SEPT. 10, 1944

Put in #9 today, another 8__ hour mission. Bombed Ordansin(?) Depot at Ulm Germany. The Navigator of the ship on our right wi____ shot off _____. _____ at another _____. We saw lots of _____ning up but not to near. On the way home we passed Stuttgart & B-17's were bombing. We could see hundreds of exploding bombs. Smoke was pouring up to 15,000 ft. They _____ it on the nose, what ____ along the German border _____ rising _____ Bombers. Signed _____. Flew over Luxembourg.

SEPT. 11, 1944

Still(?) going strong. _____ at Hanover Germany _____ Oil Refineries. The missions(?) are getting tougher, enemy _____ on the formations today _____. Most every Grp. _____. We were lucky _____ a few but _____ flak was very accurate _____ today & we had a _____ through the de ic(er?). _____ a hunch out of the _____ wheel it just _____ messed up again, just _____ we turned on the IP _____cased & half of the other ships. The Sqd. dropped theirs on _____ were at least 20 miles from the target. I sure am a busy boy(?). The past week, all I get done is really(?) eat & sleep, & not much of the(?) eating or sleeping. Now _____ fighters _____. One whole Sqd. of them(?) were shot down.

SEPT. 12, 1944

I got a rest today, the Grp. hit Hanover again. I caught up on my sleep, went to bed at 8 last night & never got up till 11 today. I had(?) a big lunch of _____. _____ bought a bike from _____ in Ordnance for 9 _____ pretty good one. Went to theatre(?) after(?) supper & saw "Uncertain Glory." We are scheduled to fly again tomorrow.

SEPT. 13, 1944

The Grp. bombed Ulm again but I didn't go. Played 2 sets of tennis with Juliano & won both(?).

SEPT. 14, 1944

Started out for Berlin again but never made it. A heavy fog settled in until noon so it was scrubbed. It looks ____ not supposed to go to Berlin. ____ sure I won't complain.

SEPT. 15, 1944

No fly again, bad weather. Hear that I am getting T/Sgt. Sure hope so. Saw "It Happened Tomorrow" in Base theatre, pretty good.

SEPT. 16, 1944

Our Grp. is off operational status now and will ferry supplies for about 10 days. We went over to Southern England today to pick up a load of gasoline. We loaded 235 – 5 gal cans in our ship. Boy I sure hate to carry that stuff. I'd rather carry incendiarys. It so crowded we never would be able to bail out if we had to. We were going to France but it got to late so we came back here & will continue tomorrow.

SEPT. 17, 1944

Got up at 0200 & took the Gas load to St. Quentin France. We unloaded ourselves then took off for South Hampton in Southern England where we loaded up with stretchers & blankets

for the medic. We carried hundreds of them. We took them also to St. Quentin and then the fun started. Hundreds of French men, women & kids swarmed all over the ship. They sure got a thrill out of it. It was the first B-24 they ever saw close up. We could hardly get them out of the ship. We gave them all of our K-rations and they went crazy. On the way back we buzzed clear to the coast. That country sure is one mess. Shell holes & bomb craters all over. The field on which we landed had hundreds of holes in it. We ran off the runway & got stuck in the mud. It's been a long day & I'm tired.

SEPT. 18, 1944

Another standdown for bad weather. Played 8 games of ping pong with Bergen & won 6-2. My old crew may be shipped out. Find I have finally got a 48 hr. pass tomorrow.

SEPT. 19, 1944

Got up about 0600 & got the 0830 train to London with my new Nav., Forrest. We got there about 1130 & got a bad in the Red Cross. Parts of London is all bombed out whole sections. Most is from the 1940 Blitz but a lot from the buzz bombs. I ate at the officer's club. Saw Picadilly Circus. Slept at the "Hans Crescent" Red A(?) Club. Went to & movie & walked around.

SEPT. 20, 1944

Got up about 0645 – as I couldn't sleep. I went over & got "Woody" & we went to see "Westminster Abbey," "Lord Nelsons statue," & "Buckingham Palace." We also saw #10 Downing St. where Churchill lives. Saw the Thames River, rode the underground & everything.

I never walked so much in my life I do believe. Went to another movie in the afternoon. Was gonna buy some grapes but they wanted 20 shillings (\$4.00) per lb. One peach cost 8 shillings (\$1.60). The food is awful skimpy & not too good. Saw a lot of bombed buildings. There were several alerts and I heard a few doodle bugs go over. Ate supper at the "Regent Place Hotel" & it cost a pound for two of us. Saw a lot of sights but still am not impressed with England. They sure cheat a soldier, if you have an American uniform on it cost you about double the ordinary price. They can keep their rotten little Island.

SEPT. 21, 1944

Got up again at 0645 & took the underground to the Liverpool station where I met Forrest & we got on the train for the Base at 10:00. Changed trains at Ipswich & got back at 1355. Bergen, Boscoe, Sargeant, & Juliano left yesterday for Italy. I'll kinda miss Bergen & Boscoe darn it. They only have 5 missions in so far & are extras over here. I forgot to write it on the 18th but I found out then that I made Technical Sergeant (T/Sgt) on Sept. 16th. Pretty nice huh. I have been S/Sgt for 10 ½ months so it's about time. The Grp. Bombed Coblenz today. A whole Group of B-17 are on the Base now. They made an emergency landing here two days ago because of the weather & are still here. Makes the chow lines a mile long.

SEPT. 22, 1944

I am a T/Sgt without a crew now. Zenner has his old crew back he had before he went to the Hospital. Darn it I never will finish like this. The Grp. Bombed Casper, Germany. The Sqd of B-17's finally left. They sure made a long chow line. Worked on my Bike. Raided a Black Berry Patch. It rained again tonight.

SEPT. 23, 1944

(?) ____ mission today but we ____ to parade & celebrat(?) ____ Grp. completing ____ mission. It looked ____ they have plenty of ____ formations. Nuts I got ____ guard duty tonight guarding ____ planes. I made 3 ____ sewing stripes & ____ one for the ____ some more to do tomorrow. I hear I am on Odegu ____ now. His R.O. still ____ mission to put in _____. It poured all night again. I stayed in the cabin all ____ guard duty & never saw the ship I was supposed to be guarding.

SEPT. 24, 1944

Got off guard about 0400 & got to bed at 0430 & got up at _____. It has poured all day spent all day sewing and writing letters. Received 4 letters today.

SEPT. 25, 1944

I slow timed a ship today at ____hrs. I got in a hour or so ____ time, it's lots of fun. The Grp hit Coblenz again, ____ get a few of these ____ darn it. We chased a ____ clear to the Channel ____ finally caught him. W ____ 190 & 210 to catch ____ pulled away like ____ standing still. Rain _____. I volunteered ____ to, guess I must ____ nuts.

SEPT. 26, 1944

____ Grp hit Hamm today ____ I didn't fly. I sp ____ and was ____ really scru ____ they look ____ bunch of ____.

SEPT. 27, 1944

Oh my God be with us! Today the worst tragedy that ever has hit this Group or camp near to me by a long ways. Really thank God that I did not fly today. The Grp. bombed Kassel Ger. again & just after the target was hit they were attacked by swarms of F? 190's. I _____ have been _____ll for those poor devils. There are scores of empty beds in the Base tonight. Our grp. lost 28 Bombers. Only 9 came back plus 3 aborts. Our _____ lost(?) 5 Planes but one crew crash landed in England with _____ & 20 – 20mm. shells. That's the pilot I flew with a couple days ago. They losy all 10 ships sent out _____ know the exact number _____ Sqd's losses. _____ 12 empty bunks _____ alone. Sheehan, _____ Gray, Danner, Lars_, _____, Berquist, Twist, _____. Sheehan & Danners wives _____ had babies a short _____ they had seen them _____ week ago _____ Cable gram telling _____ & they used to _____ grew the most. I lost _____ former crew, Engineer _____ Boomhower P_____ was a swell guy & _____him best of all. _____ & Weiner also went _____ checked Weiner out _____ Feb at Westover as a Radio Operator. The worst previous day for this group was in Feb at Gotha when 13 of 26 bombers went down. I guess _____ shows the "arm _____ that the Luftwaffe isn't dead yet, hope they _____fied. At least 260 men were lost today, many of them may be alive yet & P.W., at least we _____ pray they are. B-24's were going down in flames everywhere(?) you looked. You should have(?) seen(?) the solomness _____ght, this won't be _____ for a long time. No _____ scared & no one's _____ it either. May _____ll including the _____ down today. _____ again (?) will I complain _____ don't fly because _____ there is a reason

_____ supposed(?) to fly with Swafford now who knows? _____ is next. We'll _____
_____ now. For _____ may be _____ this book. 260 _____
_____ never fly again _____ is going one _____ bag (?) finally sh____long enough
_____ stole my bike. _____ If I go down I _____ send this book home.

SEPT. 28, 1944

I was supposed to fly today, but we didn't have enough Planes left. Our Grp was only
able to get(?) 12 planes up, 3 in our Sqd. _____ bombed Kassel again _____
_____ today thank heaven. We _____ sweating them out. A big bunch(?) of new Planes &
crews came in as replacements today. Some are spares from other Grps. We miss the poor old
_____. Their(?) empty bunks seem to _____ at you. We lost 12 _____ yesterday. I
have _____ today, it sure hi_____ hope I don't fly tomorrow _____
take care of _____ headache & _____.

SEPT. 29, 1944

Golly we heard a lot of buzz bombs go over early this morning between midnight & 0600
A.M. They sure sound funny. One we could hear for a long time as though it were circling. I
felt pretty bad this A.M. so I got up at 0730 & went to the hospital. I had a slight fever so he
grounded me & fixed me up. I have to go back tomorrow. There was no mission today. I went
to the 2030 show on the base & saw "Gildersleeves Ghost." It really was screwy. The 8th Air
Force lost 49 Bombers yesterday & 42 the day before in all, it's really getting rough now. A
whole flock of new B-24's flew in yesterday, also a number of new crews. Only one in our Sqd.
however.

SEPT. 30, 1944

Hamm was bombed again & our Grp. sure put up a big effort. Our Sqd. could only get 2 Planes up. We were really hit hard the other day. I am still grounded. Settle and I played 5 sets of tennis & I won 8-6 2-6 6-2 6-1 3-6. Got Paid 23 lbs 7 shillings. My fever is gone & my cold feels better. Went to Base movie & saw "Show Business." Last night I saw "Gildersleeves Ghost" & both were very good. A light rain tonight. The official score was a total of 91 heavy Bombers lost the 27th & 28th. 28 of them from our Grp. We were nearly wiped out. In a 4 day period from the 25th. No heavies were lost. It's getting rough.

OCT. 1, 1944

I am still grounded, for a sore throat now. Went to church & took Communion. Played 3 sets of tennis with Settle, lost 2-6 6-3 2-6. Rained last night. No mission.

OCT. 2, 1944

The Grp bombed Hamm again. Hamm has the largest railroad yards in Germany. I am back on flying status again & my cold is practical better. Lost a set of tennis with Settle 6-3. Saw "Tarzan's Desert Victory." Am supposed to fly with Odeguard tomorrow here's hoping. We sweat em all out now that the Luftwaffe comes up every day. They were out again today but none hit our Grp. I sent a money order home for \$62.50. I have nearly \$700 in the bank now.

OCT. 3, 1944

I finally put in mission #11 and it was nice one. We bombed an Airfield near Mannheim & Ludwigshaven used for ground support. There was flak all along the route near the big cities but none to near us except a little on the bomb run.

OCT. 4, 1944

No mission today as it rained all day as usual. The Browns just beat the Cards 2-1 in the World Series. I met Lt. snow, Weiners old Pilot. Weiner, Rackis, Erickson and a lot of other fellas I knew are all gone, went down on the 27th of Sept. in that big disaster of our Grp. The Grp is almost back up to where it was again. We got in a bunch of new crews.

OCT. 5, 1944

Oh boy! Flew #12 today and was it only a pip. It was my shortest one yet, only 5 hrs 10 min. and there wasn't any flak near us at all. quite a bit off to the right & left, way off. we bombed Rheine Germany, some marsheling yds in support of Arnhern. Most of our Sqd released early & hit a field & some farm houses. Only about 2 ships dropped on the target in our Sqd. The buzz bombs are going over again tonight. We just heard another blow up in the distance. It passed over head a few minutes ago.

OCT. 6, 1944

Flew #13 today and drew another rough one. We bombed an ordanance Depot in Hamburg, Germany. Our Grp ledd the whole 2nd Division & were the first in. Just as we released our Bombs a terrific barrage of flak let loose on our left. We got out in good shape but

the Grps. behind us must have taken a beating as the sky was black with flak bursts, it looked heavier than Dessau was. Boy but it was solid. The B-17s were hitting targets in the center of Hamburg at the same time & were about ____ feet above us. The 1st & 3rd divisions bombed Berlin & Palitz today. I was sweating out #13 to but it's all over now. The Cards beat the Browns last night 3 to 2 in eleven innings. A Bombardier had his fingers shot off by flak today in another Sqd.

OCT. 7, 1944

I started out on #14 today but we flew as a spare with the 700th Sqd on the lead. No one aborted so we turned back halfway across the North Sea. Our Grp. bombed the same tank works at Kassel as the day the fighters swamped them Sept. 27th. They all came back today. Today was a maximum effort and there were nearly 2500 heavy bombers over Germany today. Even the RAF sent 500 planes out this afternoon. The Brownies beat the Cards last night 6 to 2. Tomorrow is another max. effort & we are flying again. Every so often we hear a buzz bomb hit somewhere. It is supposed to be the new secret weapon VII.

OCT. 8, 1944

Nearly put in #14 again but failed again. We were all set to go to Eisenaugh but first they delayed take off an hour then cancelled it. We were waiting out at the ships & everything. This afternoon our crew had to test hop #509 Q, a new ship. The Cards won yesterday 5 to 1. The mission was scrubbed for a heavy fog.

OCT. 9, 1944

Finally got in #14 after the 3rd trip in 3 days. Bombed the marshalling yards at Coblenz Germany PFF. There wasn't much flak while we were over the target. We carried mostly propaganda leaflets. We flew a real old plane that has 66 missions on it. I guess they are going to ground it permanently for combat flying as there have been many complaints about it, 358 U. The buzz bombs are hitting awful close lately. Several shook all the bks here last night & today, hope none get to close.

OCT. 10, 1944

A mission to Hamm was scrubbed before it got started. I wasn't going to fly anyway. I finally got a hair cut as they just got some barbers on the Base, 2 of them. It is only my 2nd one since I left the U.S. I also took a shower so I hope I don't catch another cold, the shower room is a long way from the bks & you have to go right out in the cold. A big practice mission was on today, with practice attacks by jet propelled fighters. We signed the payroll for Oct & it will be my first time for T/Sgt pay.

OCT. 11, 1944

Got up early & had to fly a practice mission with the new crews. It was high altitude to. We had simulated fighter attacks from jet propelled planes and P-51's. It rained hard all late afternoon and evening. From now on the gunners have to clean and install their own guns, that's a dirty deed after flying a tough mission all day your in no shape to clean the things. The buzz bombs are hitting around here pretty regular, most every night.

OCT. 12, 1944

Flew #15 today to Osnabruck Ger. We hit the marshalling yards there. I flew with Swofford, they lost their R.O. on the Sept. 27th mission to Kassel when we lost all our Bombers. We saw a ship explode & go down in flame from the Sqd in front of us from the 96th combat wing. Hope it wasn't Dick, he's in that wing. It was raining when we landed at the Base. At this rate I'll be home for Xmas yet, nearly half way done now.

OCT. 13, 1944

FRI

Got up to fly but it was scrubbed even before we got to the Plane. Sure glad it was to as we were going to go hit Cologne. The entire 8th AF was bombing the railroad yards there loaded with supplies for the Western Front. There are plenty of flak guns there, it is a very heavily defended city. Hope we don't go there tomorrow. It has poured(?) all afternoon again, as per usual. Lt. Col. Jimmy Stewart was at our Briefing this morning.

OCT. 14, 1944

Wow!! What an exciting life this is getting to be. If I get any more thrills I'll go nuts. Last night the buzz bombs were really buzzing. They came directly over the Base at about a hundred feet. They sure are loud. We jumped out of bed half a dozen times. This morning I flew my 16th mission to Cologne, right over the center of it. It was another Dessau for me. We had two gaping holes in our stabilizer & rudder and a few in the waiste. Our waiste gunner had a piece of flak skim along his hand and split his glove in two & nick his fingertip. One control cable & our electrical system was also shot away. To top it off we stalled out & started to spin a few minutes after Bombs away. We got flak from Coblenz & along the Rhiene & Moselle

Rivers on the battle front. Several Planes had heavy battle damage. We hit the marshalling yards suppl[y]ing the Western front. I'm catching up with Settle fast now & am 2 ahead of Lesley.

OCT. 15, 1944

SUN

It was 2 months ago today that I flew my first mission. Tisk Tisk, I'm only averaging 8 missions per month so far. I didn't fly today although the Sqd put up only 5 ships & hit somewhere along the Abiene(?) _____. I went to church this am & played tennis this afternoon with Settle, I won 6-1 & 6-0. Hope I fly tomorrow cause I sure want to finish.

OCT. 16, 1944

Nothing new, rained all day so no mission. Looks like I'm out again as Swoffords Radio Op is back. I will fly tomorrow though if there's a mission, we are 4th priority. Had a Sqd. meeting tonight, same old stuff. A ship came in on its' belly tonight so there is a lot of activity out on the Runway, leaving it up no []rail.

OCT. 17, 1944

Going to town now, got in #17 at the marshalling yards in the center of Cologne again. I had a feeling before take off that I should stay on the ground today and it nearly was right. First our original ship had a prop governor out before we even left the ground. We changed ships & got to the target OK but lost #3 Engine right after Bombs away & feathered it. #1 was hit & started to fibrate but got OK. Then #4 had been running cold all day. Luckily they all held out except #3 though can't do much on only one engine. To top it off after we lost the formation,

word came that enemy fighters were around. I fired GG flares for fighter support and boy did we get it. About 20 P-51's covered us to Belgium across the Siegfried line. After that 4 P-51 took us to the Channel. What a gratifying fight to have them boys with you. We made back ok our 3 Engines. I got 3 fixes(?) for the Navigator. One over Dunkirk.

OCT. 18, 1944

Only two ships in our Sqd. flew & bombed the chemical plant at Cologne. I almost flew with Capt. Bowen this am but the May on #1 went out before we took off. I am on guard tonight darn it. Swoffords R.O. is back so I am without a crew again. Will's crew finishes up in 2 more missions so I may fly with wills again. I asked for a 48 hour pass for tomorrow, hope I get it.

OCT. 19, 1944

Got off guard about 5:30 AM & slept until 10 AM. I guarded "Sweetest Rose of Texas." It poured all night. I get my 48 hr. pass tomorrow. I saw about getting my per dium for flying overseas, looks like I may get it.

OCT. 20, 1944

Left for Norwich in the 1300 ____ truck. It poured continuously all day & was very cold. I wore my overcoat. I just walked around in the rain & loafed around in the Red Cross. I slept at the RC and ate there to. Looked for Dick but didn't run across him.

OCT. 21, 1944

Got up at 0800, ate breakfast at the Red Cross then inquired how to get out to Rackheath where Dick is. I got there about 1100 & found both Dick & Bill. A bunch of the old boys are there. Kelly, Diebell etc. We looked all around the Base then the 3 of us went to a Movie in Norwich. I came back to camp at 2300. Just after I came into the Bks. some wise guy fired a .45 through the Bks & bullets were flying all over the place. It isn't even safe in the bks any more. They should boil those guys in Oil. Just missed a couple of fellas. It sure felt good to see Dick & Bill. I kinda miss them, there pretty nice guys. Dick has 16 missions in & Bill has 25 in. They haven't had any close calls yet. The Americans took Aachen today & invaded the Philipine Islands in the Pacific.

CONTINUED FROM BOOK # ONE

**PROPERTY OF
T/SGT ROBERT L. ZELLER
15374438**

OCT. 22, 1944

SUN

Went to church with Settle this AM then wrote letters. I have to guard the Planes again tonight. I hate that. I want to fly my missions and get home. Put in for my Per Deum again.

OCT. 23, 1944

It rained all day again so there was no mission. I had to guard the “larger Type Aircraft” last night & again tonight. It sure is a lonely job. Got me a smoke bomb & am fixing it up. Hope I can send it home.

OCT. 24, 1944

Another stand down because of bad weather, rain & more rain. Got to bed at six & got up about ten this AM. I sure am losing out on my sleep. I have to guard the durn planes again tonight. This ole stuff has got to come to a focus. I am taking some K rations along tonight cause I always get hungry in the wee hours of the morning.

OCT. 25, 1944

It poured kittys & pups again last night but I kept dry as I got in a tent near the planes & built a nice fire from bomb boxes. There is a mission somewhere today, they never took off till ten. I can hear them circling over head now, just come back. I feel like a pig & all the EM showers all closed or else ice water so Cris & I went into the officers shower & took one. When I’m dirty I take a shower, heck with the officers, they aren’t any better than anyone else. There is quite a fuel shortage over here. The other night we heard two RAF planes crash in mid air & dive to the ground. You could hear an awful explosion when they hit then a weird screeching power dive to the earth. Poor fellas.

OCT. 26, 1944

Well well, no guard again tonight. I slept eleven hours last night so I caught up again. I don't know where the Group went today but it was a mills run. We heard a tremendous explosion this morning that almost lifted the bks two feet. I don't know if it was a Buzz Bomb or what. Rumors have it that we go off operations Sun. ____ 6 days while our Runways are repaired. Hear that some fellas may get 7 day furloughs.

OCT. 27, 1944

Nearly flew to Frankfurt today to bomb some Gasoline storage dump but it was scrubbed after waiting from 4 AM to 10 AM. It rained all morning. Boy am I taking a gyping now. They raised the number of missions to 35 now. A couple of days ago it was raised from 31 to 33 & now up again. I am sure losing ground fast. Of all the luck. No PFC & now 35, yipe[e!] Spent afternoon trying to draw a B-24.

OCT. 28, 1944

Got up at 0500 for a practice mission but never got off the ground as #1 magnets went out when we ran up the Engines. It rained all day so the boys landed early. I finally got my per dium after running around for two weeks trying. I only got \$14.00 anyway. Oh well it only lost me \$2 as far as I can recall. I saw one of Deweys waiste gunners that had been hit on the Kassel raid. His leg is broken in 2 places & has a machine gun bullet in his ankle. He was hit by 20 millimeters. The other waiste gunner was hit in the chest. They are going home as soon as they are well enough. He won't ever walk perfect again I guess.

OCT. 29, 1944

A stand down again because of weather, it rained all day long. There was a practice mission but I didn't get on it. The Group is off of operation for 10 days now while the main runway is repaired. They will have a couple practice missions a day though & even school. I guess I have guard again tonight.

OCT. 30, 1944

I guarded #609D last night a PFF ship. This PFF sure is a marvolous thing. I snooped all over the ship. Went to bed about six AM & got up at 11:30 after dinner. Al & I went to the movie. It sure was a swell picture, I thought I'd die laughing. Got 2 packages today. It rained last night. There were 2 practice missions today, morning & afternoon.

OCT. 31, 1944

I got paid 35 lbs, my first Tech pay. I had 16 lbs so I am pretty rich now. Only got a couple hrs sleep again last night after I got off guard. I cut Al's hair as it was curling in his ears & no barbers. Al is on a 48 hrs pass & wants me to go to town with him tomorrow but I guess I have to go to school. Spear's crew went up on a practice mission and never came back. He just disappeared & no word from him. I suppose he iced up & stalled out some[____?] in the Channel. The icing was trouble up there today.

NOV. 1, 1944

Went to lectures on P/W Aircraft Recognition, ditching & first Aid. Also had an Exam in Radio. Spent my whole day at that then had to guard those darn Airplanes all night again.

Fenton and I got in the hole again. They had locked our little hut so I unsnapped the side & snuck in & took the blankets & biscuits(?) off the bed over to the other hut. That sure is dirty of them to lock the place up, can't get the best of me though if I can help it. It rained a little to of course. Lt. Speers crew is still missing & no word heard from him at all. Just disappeared.

NOV. 2, 1944

I can hear the RAF going overhead again tonight headed for Germany. Sent my shoes with some Limy Grig(?) to be fixed. Saw "Target Victory" & "Target Germany" today, sure are swell pictures. S2(?) says heavy fighter opposition is expected from now on. The Luftwaffe is larger than ever. Looks like a rough life ahead. No guard tonight, probably fly tomorrow on a practice mission. We are still stood down while the main runway is being repaired.

NOV. 3, 1944

Got up to fly with Frost and calibrate instruments, Air speed indicators etc. but it socked in bad so it was called off. Plenty of rain to. Played a few games of ping pong with Al. Got a letter from Joe Meijer(?) & he is in England in the 94th Bomb Grp., 410 Sqd. Finally hooked him, _____. He's a good old boy. Some dirty guy swiped the valves out of my bike tires but I got even & swiped some back. I didn't say much when they stole my brakes but now I'm mad. The Luftwaffe hit the 8th AF hard yesterday & shot down 40 Bombers & 19 Fighters. They lost 130 to our escort & 53 to the Bombers. I hope they lose all their fight by the time we go back on operations.

NOV. 4, 1944

Flew down to Manset Eng. south east of London to pick up 855A. It crash landed there last Sept. 27 on the Kassel raid. Dewey flew it. What a mess, it has an entire new tail section from the waist back on. 3 new tires, 4 new props, one new Engine, #3. There are dozens of 20MM holes patched up. The old tail section has hundreds of fragment holes & is burnt out inside. It also has new flaps(?) & plenty of holes in the wings. It hadn't even been test ____ ____ timed yet. We got back ____ tough. King made a sloppy landing.

NOV. 5, 1944

Briefed at 0900, came back & cleaned my Blouse, 2 _____ & flying suit in some 100 octane gas. The practice mission for 1230 was scrubbed. There were very strong gales blowing all day & blew in a storm. I pressed my clothes this Eve. then went to Red X for nightly cup of coaco. Finally got the bond situation straightened out. There will be money for 3 bonds coming from Nov. pay. I had the order cancelled, I'm tired of fooling around with the thing. Two buzz bombs hit close by last night.

NOV. 6, 1944

Was called up to operations twice to fly but never got up. The first time for a ship check then to practice Bomb. Today was Our foot ball team's home coming & we beat Wembly 12-01. They had a bunch of decorated floats in a parade. It was really good for the equipment they had. It was a beautiful day out but poured in the evening about 2000. Col. Kriedler is going to Russia for ____ ____ day ____ ____ from the 700 Sq..

NOV. 7, 1944

Took off to Calibrate Air Speed in "N" but couldn't retract the landing gear so landed again. They decided the hydraulic brakes were screwed up so we took it up again to check it. It still wouldn't retract & what happens – the gear handle breaks. We came down again & that's all for today. Still no mail, haven't had any for 2 weeks, worrying plenty now. Have a terrible sore throat again & had it sprayed at the hospital but it's worse than ever. Several fellas have them. It's this awful damp weather that's what. Turned very cold & strong winds blowing. Over a hundred MPH At 10,000 FT.

NOV. 8, 1944

For once I wasn't bothered all day. We go operational again tomorrow. Roosevelt was re-elected president for his 4th term. Dewey didn't do so good. My throat is just as bad as ever & I am getting a cold.

NOV. 9, 1944

A lot of things happened today. Our Group went operational today again & bombed some gun em – placements on the front at Metz, France. I didn't get to go through. It snowed for the first time today & was very cold. Went to the movie & saw G__ler's Choice, it was pretty good.

15-Aug-44 Mission 150	Crew Willis	ship 855	
16th	151 willis		337
24th	153 willis	404s	grim reaper
27th	156 willis	404s	grim reaper
30th	157 willis		855 all in
5th Sept 44	158 Nucci		855 all in

8th	159 Zenner	294c	
9th	160 zenner	922q	
10th	161 zenner	404s	grim reaper
11th	162 zenner	925b	
3rd Oct	173 odeguard	453r	
5th	174 odeguard	687t	
6th	175 odeguard	347f	
9th	177 odeguard	358u	
12th	178 Swofford	921b	
14th	180 swofford	507q	
17th	182 swofford	105d	
10th Nov 44	190 frost	250z	crashed on this