

Personal WWII Diary of
Lt. William Harold Baker
Sq. 600
398th BG

· KIA Nov. 25, 1944

FLIGHT RECORD 1

1. LUDWIGSHAFFEN, GER. 8:00
 2. MANNHEIM, GER. 7:40
 3. STUTGART, GER. 7:30
 4. BRUX, CZECHOSLAVAKIA 9:10
 5. HAMM, GER. 7:30
 6. OSNABRUCK, GER. 6:25
 7. COLOGNE, GER. 6:25
 8. MAGDEBURG, GER. 8:25
 9. KASSEL, GER. 7:50
 10. COLOGNE, GER. 6:50
 11. BRUX, CZECHOSLAVAKIA 8:30
 12. SCHWEINFURT, GER. 7:55
 13. COLOGNE, GER. 7:00
 14. COLOGNE, GER. 6:25
 15. BRUNSWICK, GER. 7:35
 113:10

TOTAL PRECEEDING PAGE 2

113:10
 16. MUNSTER, GER. 5:50
 17. HAMM, GER. 6:20
 18. MERCEBURG, GER. 7:50
 19. MERCEBURG, GER. 8:20
 20. COLOGNE, GER. 6:40
 21.
 22.
 23.
 24.
 25.
 26.
 27.
 28.
 29.
 30.

TOTAL PRECEEDING PAGE 3

31.
 32.
 33.
 34.
 35.

TOTAL COMBAT FLYING HOURS.

4
 LEFT PYOTE JULY 7, '44
 ARR'VD KEARNY " 10, "
 LEFT " " " 19, "
 ARR'VD CAMP KILMER " 21, "
 LEFT " " " " 25, "
 BOARDED SHIP " 25, "
 SAILED " 26, "
 DEBARKED LIVERPOOL AUG. 8, '44
 ARR'VD STONE " 9, "
 LEFT " " " 12, "
 ARR'VD BOVINGTON " 12, "
 LEFT " " " " 27, "
 ARR'VD NUTHAMPSTEAD " 27, "
 1ST COMBAT MISSION SEPT. 5, '44
 AV. LOSSES FOR MY 1ST 20 MISSIONS -
 29 BOMBERS.

DAY TO DAY DIARY - RAIDS.

1 - LUDWIGSHAFFEN, GER.

SEPT. 5, 1944 - HIT I. G. FARBEIN
WORKS - P.F.F. - 8:00 FORM 1
TIME - SYNTHETIC OIL RESEARCH
LABS. - BREAKFAST 0345 -
BRIEFING 0445 - CARRIED
6-1000 LB. G.P.'s - JUMB. ALT. 26000'
FLAK WAS MODERATE AND MOSTLY
INACCURATE - LOST 13 BOMBERS
AND 10 FIGHTERS.

SEPT. 6, 1944 - BREAKFAST 0200
BRIEFING 0300 - DIG B - TAR.
WAS FW 190 PLANT AND MARSHALL-
ING YARDS - RECALLED BEFORE

ENGINES STARTED - 1100 BRIEFED
FOR F.W. 190 ASSEMBLY PLANT AT
BREMEN - SCRUBBED BEFORE
TAKE OFF.

SEPT. 7 - GR. STAND DOWN - RAIN.

SEPT. 8, 1944 - 600TH STOOD DOWN,
THANK GOD - GROUP GOT HELL
KNOCKED OUT OF IT - NOT A
SHIP WITHOUT FLAK HOLES - ALL
GOT BACK THOUGH - KENNY
HASTINGS' TAIL GUNNER KILLED
ON HIS FIRST MISSION - YOU
GUESSED IT - LUDWIGSHAFFEN

2

7

SEPT. 9, 1944 - EXPECTED WORST
AND IT HAPPENED, MANNHEIM
MARSHALLING YARDS - P.F.F. -
BREAKFAST 0330 - BRIEFING 0430
7:40 FORM 1 TIME - CARRIED
12-500 LB. G.P.'s - ALT. 26,000' -
FLAK INTENSE AND VERY ACCUR-
ATE - TOO DAMNED ACCURATE
HAD FLAK 3 TIMES LASTING 57
MINUTES. - BOB FLEW HIS 1ST
MISSION WITH JOHNSON - WENT
DOWN OVER TARGET - LAST
HEARD FROM AT I.P. - PROBABLY
MADE IT BACK TO FRANCE TO
CRASH LAND. - LOST 23 BOMBERS
AND 4 FIGHTERS TODAY

8

3 - SUNDAY, SEPT. 10 -
STUTGART, GER. - HEINKLE
AIRCRAFT ENGINE FACTORY -
FORM 1 TIME 0730 - BREAKFAST
0345 - BRIEFING 0445 - CARRIED
12-500 LB. G.P.'s - ALT. 26000' -
FLAK WAS VERY INTENSE AND
VERY ACCURATE - SHIP NEXT
TO US RECEIVED DIRECT HIT -
LOST ENTIRE BELLY OF SHIP AND
WENT DOWN - CAUGHT FLAK
FOR 1:12 - IF WAR'S NEARLY
OVER FLAK GUNNERS DON'T KNOW
IT - FLAK GETTING WORSE -
EVERY PLACE YOU LOOKED SAW
HUNDREDS OF 37's AND 88's
AND FIRES ALL OVER. - ALL

of S.W. GERMANY MUST HAVE BEEN BURNING - NO FLAK HOLES LUCKILY - HAVEN'T HEARD FROM BOB. - VISUAL TR.

SEPT. 11, 1944 - GROUP STAND DOWN AS JUST 2 SHIPS OUT OF 57 ARE ABLE TO FLY - KNOW DAMN WELL LAST TWO DAYS HAVE BEEN ROUGH. - CREW YESTERDAY WAS WRIGHT'S CREW, FLIPSE WAS NAVIGATOR - ALL CREW LOST EXCEPT CO PILOT WHO WILL BE WITH US NOW. - NAME IS HAMMERO - NO NEWS OF BOB.

LOOKED AWFUL - B17'S BURNING, EXPLODING, SPINNING IN - ALSO SAW FW'S EXPLODE AND PSI'S. - OUR FIGHTER'S REALLY LOOKED LIKE ANGELS - LITTLE FLAK OVER BERLIN - MOD. TO INTENSE FLAK AT TARGET - SOME ACCURATE - SOME BATTERIES VERY INACCURATE. - RIGHT TOKIO TANK OUT - REALLY SWEATED OUT GAS. - LANDED WITH ABOUT 40 GAL. - 398TH LOST 2 SHIPS AGAIN TODAY - TOTAL LOSSES 45 BOMBERS AND 17 FIGHTER'S. - DRAGERS KNOCKED DOWN 12 ENEMY FIGHTERS - THEY LOST 149 FIGHTERS.

#4 - SEPT. 12, 1944 - BOB BACK - BOMBED BRUX, CZECHOSLOVAKIA OIL REFINERIES - P.F.F. - BREAKFAST 0345 - BRIEFING 0441 ON OXYGEN 7 HOURS - FORM 2 TIME 0910 - CARRIED 10-500 LB. GP'S - ALT. 28000' - WHAT A MISSION - OVER N. SEA - THRU GER. PATROLIN TO DRAW UP LUFTWAFFE - TOLD US TO EXPECT INTENSE FIGHTER OPPOSITION - WE GOT IT - THERE'S STILL A LUFTWAFFE. - COUPLE HUNDRED FW 190'S AND ME 109'S CAME UP. - HIT WINGS AHEAD AND BEHIND US HIT HARD - EVERY TIME AN FW 190 MADE A PASS A B17 WENT DOWN. -

SEPT. 13 - 600TH SQDN. STAND-DOWN.

SEPT. 14 - JUST 4 CREWS FROM 600TH FLYING - NOT ENOUGH SHIPS. - BERLIN - SCRUBBED.

SEPT. 15 - GROUP STAND DOWN.

SEPT. 16 - SCHEDULED TO GO TO HOLLAND IN SUPPORT OF AIR BORNE LANDINGS - ANTI-PERSONEL FRAGMENTATION BOMBS - SCRUBBED - INVASION NEXT DAY -

SEPT. 16, 17, AND 18 - PASS - LONDON. -

13

5 - SEPT. 19 - HAMM, GER.
 MARSHALLING YARDS - BREAK-
 FAST 0630 - BRIEFING 0730 -
 CARRIED 10 - 500 LB. G.P.'s AND
 2 - 500 LB. I.B.'s. - ALT. 25000'
 FORM 1 TIME 0710 - BOMBS
 IN CLOUDS AND CONTRAILS - COULD
 ONLY SEE NEAR MISS FLAK BE-
 CAUSE OF SMOG - FLAK WAS
 MODERATE BUT ACCURATE AND
 ONLY OVER TARGET. - LOST
 # 4 ENGINE - RIGHT WING GAS
 TANK AND GEE BOX - CAME
 BACK ALONG - INSTR. LET DOWN
 FROM 9000' TO 900' - TARGET
 WAS P.F.F. - LOST 10 BOMBERS.

14

BASE - SP #10 - DEBEN -
 DUXFORD - NEW MKS. - STONE MKT -
 LOWESTOFF - 51150256 - 51478444
 50200628 - 50140744 - 50220753 -
 IPS1200800 - TAR. 51406749 - 5147
 0728 - 51550700 - 50500500 -
 51120252 - CLACKTON - BASE.

SEPT. 20 - WAS TO HAVE GONE
 BACK TO "HAPPY VALLEY" FOR HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY - MUNITION STORAGE
 DEPOT - SCRUBBED - 6 - 500 LB
 G.P.'s - 6 - 500 LB I.B.'s - BREAK-
 FAST 0615 - BRIEFING 0715 -

SEPT. 21 - GP STAND DOWN - RAIN
 WENT TO 0900 BRIEFING TAO.

15

SEPT. 22 - SQDN. FLEW BUT
 WE HAD A CREW STAND DOWN.

SEPT. 23 - GROUP STAND DOWN -
 WEATHER - FLEW PRACTICE
 MISSION INFORMATION - BOMBED
 WAIN.

SEPT. 24 - GROUP STAND DOWN -
 RAIN.

SEPT. 25 - 600TH SQDN. STAND DOWN

6
 SEPT. 26 - OSNABRÜCK, GER. -
 IRON AND STEEL WORKS - REF
 VISUAL TARGET - BREAKFAST
 0900 - BRIEFING 0900 -

16

ALTITUDE 29000' - FORM 1
 TIME 6:25 - CARRIED 10
 500 LB. INCENDIARY CLUSTERS -
 FLAK WAS MODERATE BUT
 VERY ACCURATE. - FLEW OUR
 OWN SHIP - FLAK GOT MAIN
 SPAR IN RIGHT WING - NEEDS
 WHOLE NEW WING - MAJOR
 DAMAGE - LOT'S OF FIRES -
 DID 2-360'S AND MADE 3
 PASSES AT TARGET - THAT'S
 ALWAYS FUN. - LOST 42
 BOMBERS AND 7 FIGHTERS. -
 AIR MEDAL MISSION. -

#7 SEPT. 27 - COLOGNE, GER. -
 ATTACKED HENRY FORD'S FACTORY
 CONVERTING VEHICLES TO WOOD
 BURNER'S - P.F.F. - BREAKFAST
 0245 - BRIEFING 0345 - FORM
 1 TIME 6:25 - ALT. 26000' -
 FLAK OVER I.P. AND TARGET
 WAS MODERATE BUT ACCURATE
 TWO EXPLODED NOT OVER 10 FEET
 IN FRONT OF NOSE - THOUGHT
 THEY HAD BILL BAKER'S NAME
 ON THEM. - COLOGNE IS LARGEST
 CITY IN RUHR VALLEY -
 COUPLE HITS IN WINGS - SLIGHT
 DAMAGE - LOFTWAFFE ATTACKED
 ONE GROUP IS AHEAD - GOT 32
 OUT OF 36 B24'S. ^{LOST 42 B} AND 7 F.

AND 7 CHUTES OPEN. - SHIP
 EXPLODED THEN - LOT'S OF
 BANDIT'S IN AREA BUT WE
 HAD HUNDREDS OF 51'S - 31'S -
 AND 47'S - DIDN'T SEE ANY
 ENEMY FIGHTERS - LOST 49
 BOMBERS AND 12 FIGHTERS.

SEPT. 29 - GROUP STAND DOWN - RAIN

SEPT. 30 - DUTY NAV. - DREW UP
 FLIGHT PLAN AND BRIEFED FOR
 RAID ON MARSHALLING YARDS AT
 MUNSTER, GER. - 600TH STAND DOWN.

OCT. 1, 1944 - GR. STAND DOWN - RAIN.

#8 - SEPT. 28 - MAGDEBURG, GER.
 PFF MARSHALLING YARDS - VISUAL
 TARGET WAS OIL REFINERIES. -
 BREAK - 0400 - BRIEF - 0500 -
 CARRIED 10 - 500 LB GP'S AND 2
 100 LB ID'S - ALT. 26000' -
 FORM 1 TIME 8:25 - FLAK
 AT KOBLENZ, I.P. AND TARGET -
 MODERATE AND ACCURATE AT
 ALL PLACES - COLLECTED 7 HOLES -
 2 BY PILOT'S COCKPIT - 1 #4 PROP -
 1 #3 ENGINE NACELLE KNOCKING
 OUT MAIN SUPPORT FOR ENG.
 AND LANDING GEAR. - 3 IN
 RIGHT WING - ONE SHIP IN
 OUR GROUP BURNING BADLY -
 10 MAN CREW - SAW 9 JUMPS

#9 - OCT. 2 - KASSEL, GER. -
 MOTOR WORKS - BREAK. 0330 -
 BRIEF 0430 - CARRIED 10 - 500
 LB. I B'S - ALT. 25000' - FORM
 1 TIME 7:50 - PFF - VISUAL
 TAR. WAS OIL REFINERY - FLAK AT
 KOBLENZ AGAIN - LIMBURG - I.P.
 TARGET - LIGHT EXCEPT AT TAR-
 GET WHERE IT WAS MODERATE
 AND VERY ACCURATE AT ALL
 PLACES. - TWO HOLES IN WING
 JUST OVER GUNNER'S HEAD - NO
 BANDITS ENCOUNTERED - WAS
 HERE THEY GOT THOSE 32 OUT OF
 36 B24'S - LOST 12 BOMBERS
 AND 7 FIGHTERS.

30CK - CREW STAND DOWN -
LOT OF NEW CREWS FLEW.

4 OCT. - BREAK 0430 - BRIEF
0530 - TO GO TO MARSHALLING
YARDS AT COLOGNE - 6-500 LB.
GP'S AND 6-500 LB IB'S -
SCRUBBED BECAUSE OF RAIN.

#10 - 5 OCT. - COLOGNE, GER. -
MARSHALLING YDS - PFF - FORD'S
FACTORY WAS VISUAL TARGET -
BREAK 0445 - BRIEF 0545 -
ALT 27000' - FORM 1 TIME
6:50 - ALT 27000' - DUE TO
VERY DENSE PERSISTENT CON -
TRAILS COULDN'T DROP ON

LEAD AND HAD NO MICKEY
OF OUR OWN. - TURNED BACK
JUST PAST I.P. BUT GOT CREDIT
FOR A MISSION - CAUGHT FLAK
TWICE.

6 OCT. - 660TH STAND DOWN.

#11 - 7 OCT. - BRUX, CZECH. -
SUPPOSEDLY - BREAK 0300 -
BRIEF 0400 - ACTUALLY HIT
OSNABRUCK OR MUNSTER - CARRIED
10-500 LB GP'S - ALT - 26000' -
TIME - 8:30 - 1646 MILES -
LARGEST DAY OF AIR OPERATIONS
IN WAR'S HISTORY - 5000 PLANE
OVER GER. - OVER 2000 AMER.

HEAVIES. - OVER 1500 AMERICAN
FIGHTERS - ALSO RAF - WORST
RAID YET - WOULDN'T HAVE BET
I'D BEEN HERE TONIGHT IF I'D
HAD 100-1000 OFFERED ME. -
WAS REALLY SWEATING OUT A
DIRECT HIT. - FLAK REALLY
TERRIFIC - FLAK CAME IN MY
WINDOW AND SPRAYED MY
FACE WITH GLASS - FLAK THRU
CHIN TURRET - TWO JUST MISSED
TAIL GUNNER - TOKIO TANK SHOT
OUT. - MAJOR DAMAGE - NEEDS
NEW WING AND TAIL - 2 WEEKS
SUB DEPOT JOB. - FLAK AT
1058 MOD. AND ACC. S. OF
OSNABRUCK - 1102 N. OF

HERFORD - 1158 LIGHT ACC.
FLAK - 1202 VERY HEAVY AND
VERY ACC. FLAK - 1218 FLAK -
1235 VERY Hvy. AND VERY ACC.
FLAK - HIT MY WINDOW -
1322 MOD AND ACC FLAK -
1331 MOD AND ACC - 2 HITS -
1335 - MOD AND ACC. - 360'S
OVER BRUX AND SECONDARY -
TOLD TO EXPECT HEAVY FIGHTER
OPPOS. BUT THEY DIDN'T HIT US -
LOST 51 BOMBERS AND 15 FIGHTERS

8 OCT. - GR. STAND DOWN -
WEATHER.

#12 - 9 Oct. - SCHWEINFURT
 OIL REFINERY FOR VISUAL BOB
 WE HIT MARSHALLING YDS. P.F.F.
 BREAK. 0800 - BRIEF 0900 - ALT.
 26000' - Load 10-500 LB GP's -
 TIME 7:55 - FLAK MOD BUT
 MOST WAS INACC. - LUCKY!
 HAS 722 GUNS - MORE THAN
 ANY OTHER CITY EXCEPT BIG D.
 BANDS IN AREA OF KOBLENZ
 BUT OUR FIGHTERS TOOK THEM -
 EXCELLENT FIGHTER SUPPORT -
 EVEN WENT OVER TARGET WITH
 US. - EASIEST YET SO FAR AS
 FLAK CONCERNED - 1257 MILES -
 LOST 12 BOMBERS + 10 FIGHTERS

OCT. 10-12 - 48 HOUR PASS BUT
 NO MISSIONS DUE TO WEATHER.
 OCT. 13 - RAIN - STAND DOWN
 #18 OR 12B
 OCT 14 - COLOGNE, GER. -
 MARSHALLING YARDS - P.F.F. -
 BREAK. 0510 - BRIEF 0610 - ALT
 26000' - TIME - 7:00 - CARRIED
 14-250 LB GP'S AND 4-500 LB IBS.
 FLAK HEAVY AS HELL AND
 TWICE AS ACCURATE -
 ROUCHER EACH TIME - FLAK
 GUNS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE
 CONCENTRATED IN GER. NOW. -
 1000 FORTS HIT COLOGNE - HOPE
 OUR BOYS TAKE IT SOON. -
 LOST 37B. - 9.F. 2 HOLETS.

15. Oct. - 600TH STOOD DOWN -
 HIT COLOGNE AGAIN - REALLY
 CAUGHT HELL - TWO SHIPS
 COMPLETELY DESTROYED -
 ONE CRASHING AND EXPLODING
 ON INSTANT TAKE OFF KILLING
 ALL IS - WAS KHOURIS WHO
 WAS WITH ME AT SANTA ANA
 IN SQ 19. - OTHER RECEIVING
 DIRECT FLAK HIT IN NOSE -
 12 MEN KILLED - ONE DUE TO
 ONXIA AND 6 WOUNDED -
 ALL SHIPS SHOT UP BADLY -
 16 Oct - RAIN - STAND DOWN.

#14 - 17 Oct. - COLOGNE AGAIN
 MARSHALLING YDS - P.F.F. -
 BREAK. 0230 - BRIEF 0330 -
 ALT. 27000' - TIME 6:55 -
 CARRIED 34-100 LB GP'S AND
 2-500 LB IBS - FLAK HEAVY -
 INTENSE AND ACCURATE, AS
 USUAL - 1500 FORTS HIT
 COLOGNE TODAY - 3700 IN 3 DAYS
 SHIP BEHIND US REC. DIRECT
 FLAK HIT IN BOMB BAYS JUST
 BEFORE BOMBS AWAY - BLOW
 UP - NO CHUTES - DIDN'T HAVE
 A CHANCE - 3 HOLETS - 2 IN
 WING - 1 IN TAIL - LOST 13
 BOMBERS AND 3 FIGHTERS.

18 Oct - STOOD DOWN - NOT ENOUGH SWAPS ABLE TO FLY.

19, 20, 21 Oct - STOOD DOWN - NO SWAPS ONE DAY - WEATHER - BUT 8TH AIR FORCE FLEW - DON'T KNOW WHY WE DIDN'T FLY.

#15 - 22 Oct, 1944 - BRUNSWICK, GER
100TH MISSION FOR GROUP IN LESS THAN 6 MONTHS - MOTOR WORKS MAKING TANKS AND TRACTORS - PFF BUT IF MICKEY MAN HAD TARGET IN SCREEN WE KNOCKED HELL OUT OF IT BECAUSE WE HAD A SWEET BOMBING FORMATION - BREAK 0645 - BRIEF 0715

25 Oct, 1944 - BREAK 0600 - BRIEF 0700 - CARRIED 6-500 LB GP'S AND 6-500 LB IB'S - BRIEFED FOR OIL REFINERY AT HAMBURG - SCRUBBED BECAUSE OF FOG -

#16 - 26 Oct, 1944 - MUNSTER, GER
MY FIRST MILK RUN - HIT LUFTWAFFE ENGINE ASSEMBLY AND REPAIR PLANT. - PFF - BREAK 0700 BRIEF 0800 - ALT 26,000' - TIME 5:50 - CARRIED 6-500 LB GP'S AND 6-500 LB IB'S. - FLAK AT TARGET ONLY - WE WERE FIRST GROUP OVER TARGET AND THEY MUST NOT HAVE

30
ALT 26500' - TIME 7:35 - CARRIED 6-500 LB GP'S AND 6-500 LB IB'S. - LIGHT FLAK AT TP AND MODERATE AT TARGET, ACCURATE - TOLD US TO EXPECT MODERATE LUFTWAFFE OPPOSITION AT DUMMER LAKE, INTENSE FROM THERE TO TARGET - FIGHTERS FROM BERLIN AND LEIPZIG HAD SWEET 51 AND 47 SWAPS AND SAW NO BOMBERS - REALLY SWEATED IT OUT BUT TURNED OUT OKAY - FIELD SOUPED IN AND HAD TO LAND AT DARSINGBOURNE. - LOST NO BOMBERS. - 2 FIGHTERS

23, 24 Oct - GP STANDDOWN - RAIN

31
BEEN SET UP YET - TAIL GUNNER REPORTED FLAK AT 0600 O'CLOCK AFTER BOMBS AWAY - DIDN'T SEE A SINGLE BURST OUT OF NOSE. WOULD LIKE IF MORE LIKE IT IN NEXT 19 DAYS - GROUP BEHIND US CAUGHT MODERATE, ACC. FLAK. LOST - 1 BOMBER ^{AND} 1 FIGHTER.

27 Oct - GP STANDDOWN - WEATHER

28 Oct - 600TH SQDN STANDDOWN - WAS DUTY NAVIGATOR - GP WENT TO MUNSTER - DUE TO WEATHER HAD TO BOMB AT 22000' - WE LOST 3 SWAPS - SEVERAL INJURED -

WE HAVE 4 EMPTY BEDS NOW -
CONNALLY, CROWE, SLADE, ERICKSON
WENT DOWN - DIRECT HIT TO
ENTIRE TAIL OFF - NO CROUSET SEEN.

29 Oct - GO STAND DOWN FROM
4TH AIR FORCE

#17

30 Oct - HAMM, GER. - PFF -
MARSHALLING YARDS - BREAK 0610
BRIEF 0710 - ALT. 29000' - TIME
6:20 - CARRIED 20 - 250 LB
GP'S. - FLAK AT TARGET ONLY
MODERATE BUT INACCURATE FOR
ONCE - QUITE A LOT OF WHITE
FLAK - MUST BE 105'S AND 155'S

WEATHER WAS TERRIBLE AS ON
FIRST HAMM RAID - DENSE PER-
SISTENT LOW TRAILS AND CLOUDS -
COULD HARDLY SEE LEAD SHIP -
WAS BRIEFED FOR 26500' BUT HAD
TO GO UP OVER 3000' - LOST -
2 BOMBERS - 6 FIGHTERS

31 OCTOBER ^{AND} 1 NOVEMBER -
STAND DOWN - WEATHER -

#18

2 NOVEMBER, 1944 - I'VE LIVE
TO BE A THOUSAND I WILL NEVER
FORGET TODAY, BUT WISH I COULD.
MERLEBURG, GER. 12 MILES
W. OF LEIPZIG. - PFF - SYNTHETIC

OIL REFINERIES - BREAK 0520 -
BRIEF 0620 - ALT. 25000' -
TIME 7:30 - CARRIED 18 - 250 LB
GP'S - I COULD NEVER STAND
ANOTHER LIKE TODAY - I BELIEVE
IT WOULD BE A PHYSICAL IMPOSSI-
BILITY - FLAK, VERY, VERY,
HEAVY AND VERY, VERY FINE
ACCURATE FOR 25 MINUTES AT
TARGET - A HORRIBLE SIGHT -
SOLID WALL - SKY WAS BLACK
AS NIGHT - SUN COULDN'T SHINE
THROUGH - 22 FLAK HOLES IN
OUR SHIP - ONE UNDER ALOFT
COCKPIT EXPLODING OXYGEN
BOTTLE - 6 IN NOSE - ONE C

IN PLEXIGLASS NOSE AND OUT
OVER HESTERLY'S HEAD - ONE
IN SIDE AND OUT BETWEEN US -
TWO IN MY WINDOW - ONE IN
#1 ENGINE - ONE IN LEFT WING -
THREE IN RIGHT WING - 2 IN
BOMB BAY DOORS AND OUT RADIO
ROOM ROOF - ONE IN BALL TURRET -
ONE IN TAIL BEHIND FOWLER - 2
IN STABILIZER - COUPLE MORE
SMALL ONES - BOTH TIMES WHEN
GLASS IN NOSE WAS HIT I KNEW
WE WERE GOING TO GET IT -
SAW TWO VERY CLOSE IN FRONT
OF NOSE AND THOUGHT SURF
#3 OR #4 WOULD BE DIRECT HIT,

TURNED MY BACK AND PULLED MY FLAK SUIT UP AROUND ME - THEN WE GOT A HUNK IN THE NOSE - SAW 2 VERY CLOSE OUT RIGHT WINDOW - EXPECTED 3 OR 4 TO BE DIRECT HITS - 2 PIECES IN MY WINDOW - COULDN'T TAKE EVASIVE ACTION TO MISS FLAK - IT WAS EVERYWHERE - FLAK 3 MORE TIMES ON RETURN - TWO VERY NEAR MISSES PICKING UP A COUPLE OF HOLES - AND THE FIGHTERS WE HAD 51'S, 47'S, AND 39'S AS THEY WERE EXPECTING VERY HEAVY FIGHTER OPPOSITION - WE

BASSINGBOURNE LOST 13 SHIPS OUT OF THEIR 36 AND THEY EXPLODED - IN GROUP AHEAD SAW 3 FORTS EXPLODE WITH IN 30 SECONDS - AT SAME INSTANT SAW 4 FIGHTERS EXPLODE - I SAW MYSELF - 7 FORTS EXPLODE - 12 FIGHTER EXPLODE - 5 FORTS BURNING - 6 FORTS SPINNING T.N. - AND NUMEROUS FIGHTERS SPINNING IN - SAW ONLY 5 CHUTES ALL TOGETHER - WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE TODAY IN A CAUSE THOUGH BETWEEN FLAK AND FIGHTERS - MOST HORRIBLE THING I HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK

GET IT - ME 109'S AND A FEW JET PROPELLED JOBS - THEY HIT OUR GROUP TODAY FOR FIRST TIME - THE HIGH SQUADRON - GOT CAP SCOFFIELD LEADING HIGH - WHILE HITTING US WERE ALSO HITTING GROUP AHEAD AND BEHIND US - LASTED ABOUT HALF HOUR - DOG FIGHTS ALL OVER SKY - AT ANY MOMENT COULD SEE AT LEAST ONE SHIP GOING DOWN - TERRIFIC BATTLE - SAW TWO HIT A BUT STRAGGLER - IT EXPLODED - TWO MORE JERRIES HIT ANOTHER STRAGGLER - FORT GOT BOTH

GERMAN AIR FORCE ⁴ LOST 208 FIGHTERS. 450 ENEMY FIGHTERS ENCOUNTERED THOUGH AS WE DIDN'T GET IT TODAY I DON'T BELIEVE - WE WERE 17TH GROUP OVER TARGET - IF IT'S LIKE TODAY WOULD SOONER SHOW MYSELF THAN GO BACK - FROM NOW ON I'M FLYING BECAUSE I HAVE TO - NOT BECAUSE I WANT TO. - THEY TOLD US WE'D HAVE 150 FIGHTERS FROM LEIPZIG AND 300 FROM BERLIN - WE LOST 7 SHIPS OUT OF 36 FROM OUR FIELD - THAT'S 19% LOSS - OF REMAINING 29 - 16 HAD MAJOR FLAK DAMAGE - 12 HAD WOUNDED ABOARD LOST - 41 BOMBERS 28 FIGHTERS

41

3, 4, 5 NOVEMBER - ON PAIS IN
LONDON - ROCKET NEARLY GOT US
WHILE AT KAYS HOUSE.

6, 7 NOVEMBER - STAND DOWN -
WEATHER -

#19 - 8 NOVEMBER - MERSEBURG,
GERMANY - PFF - SYNTHETIC OIL
REFINERIES - BREAK 0330 - BRIEF
0430 - ALT 24000' - TIME 8:20 -
CARRIED 10-500 LB GP'S - REALLY
SWEATED THIS ONE OUT BUT IT
WASN'T BAD - WAS TO GO TO POLTZ
IF NOT TO MERSEBURG - 3RD
DIV. DIDN'T GO SO WE HAD DOUBLE

42

FIGHTER SUPPORT. - MILLIONS OF
THEM - JERRY DIDN'T COME UP
GUESS HE KNEW WHAT HE'D GET
INTO. - LAST TIME MICKEY WAS
OUT - THIS TIME MICKEY WAS
RIGHT AND WE GOT FLAK JUST
3 MINUTES OR SO AT TARGET -
IT WAS VERY HEAVY AND VERY
ACCURATE THOUGH - I STILL
HOPE I NEVER GO BACK THERE
AGAIN THOUGH - FLAK AND
FIGHTERS BOTH ROUGH THERE.
LOST 5 BOMBERS 23 FIGHTERS

9 NOV. - CREW STAND DOWN - THEY
HAD A MILK RUN, NO FLAK, MIA

43

#20 - 10 NOV, 1944 - COLOGNE,
GERMANY - PFF - MARSHALLING
YARDS - HAD GAF FIGHTER BATT
SUPPORTING FRONT LINE TROOPS
FOR VISUAL - BREAK 0600 -
BRIEF 0700 - ALT 26000' -
TIME 6:40 - CARRIED 38
100 LB GP'S - FLAK WAS IN-
TENSE FOR 4 MINUTES AND
VERY ACC. - 8 BURSTS AT A
TIME INSTEAD OF USUAL 4
BURSTS 1 AT A TIME - NAVI-
GATOR KILLED - DON'T KNOW
YET WHICH ONE. - HAVE
147 COMBAT HOURS NOW -
LOST 27 BOMBERS 7 FIGHTERS.