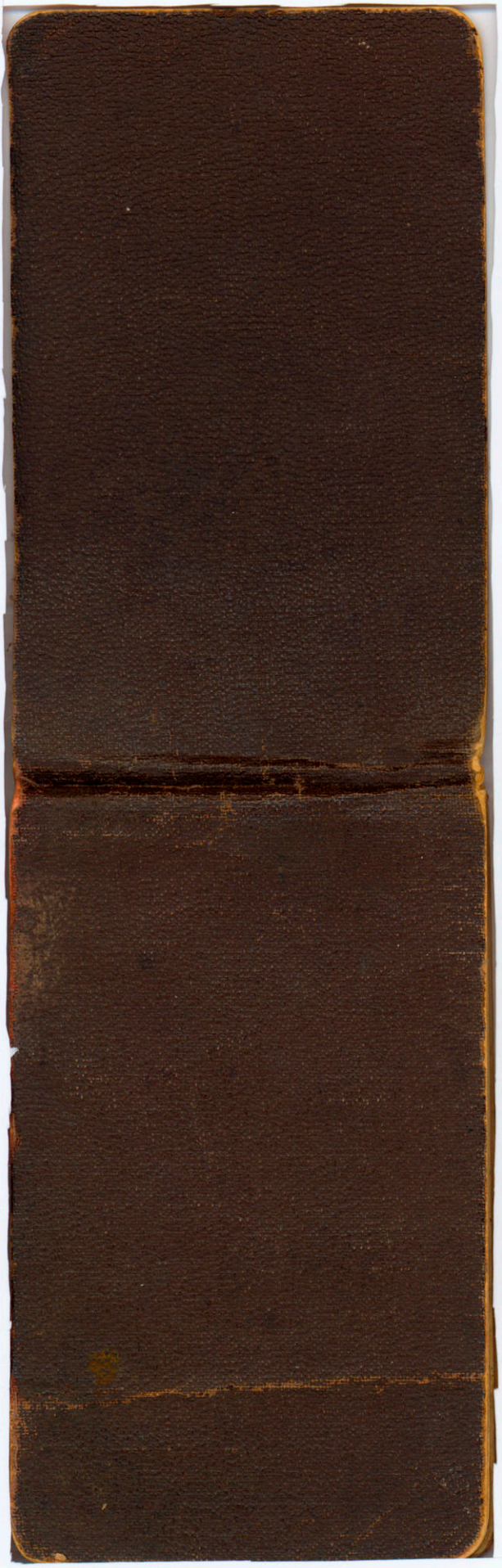
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May-17-1944-wed.
-Completed mission
#1. San Stefano, Italy
-Flak moderate
But accurate
No Trouble
Plane no. 70. "yum-yum"

TD. 10:00. L. 17:00
7 C. hr.

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#2

May 18. 1944 Thursday

Ploesti - Rou.

Bad weather - Flak not bad. Did not drop bombs Oil refineries.

T.O. ~~10:00~~ 09.00

Landed. ~~17:00~~ 16:00

16 combat hrs.

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May 22 - 44 Monday
#3 Porto Maggiorahe, Italy
Heavy overcast
No Flak - No fighters
No bombs dropped
Entire crew -

T.O. ~~09:00~~ 08:49
L. ~~16:00~~ 15:00
2hr - C. hrs.

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#4
May 23-44 Tuesday
Frascata, Italy
Bad weather - Missed
Target.

entire crew

T.O. 7:07 L. 15:00
Troop concentration

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#5+6
May 24. Wednesday
Weiwer Neustat, Austria
H.T by Flak + fighters
over 50 Me 109.
1 bomber down
3 blew up in air.

5:50 - 14:00

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#7.
May 26-44 Friday
Nice, France
Good weather
Target Hit Heavy
Light flak - 6 fighters

05:30 - 13:45
easy target

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#8.

May 27-44 - Saturday
Marseilles France
Good weather - hit
target good. Good
fighter cover. - P-38-51
flak heavy - 2 pieces
came up between pilots
feet - flak hit my turret
didn't come through glass
scared -
over 500 planes bomb
southern France

05:30 - 14:30

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#9.

May 28 - Sunday
Malfalcone, Italy.
hit target. - Made
3 runs over target
flak very light. Weather
good.
only one on the
crew that flew today

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#10-11
May 30 - Tuesday
Pottendorf - Austria
near Neiwer Neustadt.
flak and fighters bad.
Group lost one plane
flak comming in &
going out. Good weather
P-51 & 38 escort.

06:00 13:30

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#12 V 13
May 31 - Wednesday
Ploesti, Roumania
Ramono-Americano
oil refineries
Good weather Smoke
Pots covered target.
couldn't see Target
flak so heavy we
couldn't see section
across from us.
3rd time this group
hit Ploesti.
our plane was hit
hard.
Right flap cable
blown off.

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Auxilary Tank hit
Nose section had several
holes as big as base
ball. Right wing peppered
also camera hatch
FW-190 hit us after
leaving target.
First fighters to come
in on us. didn't get a
shot. All of them were
on tail. Mundo shot
hell out of them.
hit second target
tonno-severn
5-35 - 13:30
Made staff to-day

#14+15

June 2 - Friday
Sineria, Roumania
Marshalling yards
Good weather. Good
bombing, No flak
No fighters

05:05 · 12:15

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#16.
June 4 - Sunday
Genoa, Italy
Marshalling Yard
Cloudy - weather
Good bombing
Moderate flak
No fighters

07:05 15:10

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#17.

June 5. Monday
Castel Maggiore, Italy
Marshalling yards
Clear weather
Good Bombing
Flak going in until
coming out.
No fighters

09:05 - 15:15

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#18 & 19

June 6 Tuesday
Ploesti, Roumania
standard oil of (N.J.)
Most important mission
sience the first low level
raid the whole 15th air
force participated.
The sky over Ploesti was
filled with 100s of bombers
Smoke over target
Dropped bombs by
Radar.
Flak was heavy &
accurate fighters
jumped us after target
Lost one plane

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New crew on second mission was shot up. Ball gunner killed. 3 others wounded. tomorrow - I will be part of honor guard for gunner that got killed.

Weather - clowdy on the way back we heard France was invaded.

05:00 - 13:15

#20

June 18, Saturday

Naccona, Italy

- Port. Bad Bombing over cost. No flak No fighters.

05:40 : 13:30

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#22-22

June 11 - Sunday
Constanta Roumania
Good bombing,
flak heavy, thick.
weather clear.
overcast - but could
see target

05:30 13:15

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#23-24

June 13, Tuesday
Me. engine wks.
Munich, Germany
Bombing fair.
flak heavy, very heavy
slight over cast. saw
3 fighters. Ran out
of gas over base.
1 & 2 engines went out,
Grif landed on 2 engines
very good landing.
He saved all our
lives. Best pilot I have
ever seen.
05:25 - 14:50

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#25

June 14 - Wednesday
Sisak, Jugoslavia
oil refineries.
Bombing uncertain
No flak no fighters
Jinx still holding
Lost #4 engine over
target had to start
back.

7:10 - 13:00

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26-27

June 16, friday
oil refineries
Bratislava, Czechoslovakia
very good bombing
hit target. smoke
15,000 ft high. little
flak. plenty fighters
Fighters came in 20 min
before target. were
really eager. F.W. 88's
Me-110. FW. 88 ~~fi~~ ran
into B-24 about 200
yds in front of us.
I was shooting at. 88.
4 came in on nose.
I think I got one

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Lost 2 planes. Rough war. Don't want any more fighters.

06:00 13:20

#28

June 22, thursday
Cassard Railroad bridge
Northern, Italy.
Good bombing, No flak, No fighters.
Bad weather. over-cast.

07:15 : 14:50

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#29.

June 13 Friday
Nes Jugoslavia
Good bombing.
No flak, No fighters
Bad weather.

06:00 11:30

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#30-31 My worse day so far

June 24. Saturday Romano Americano oil refineries Ploesti, Roumania. 2 runs over target. I got hit on second run. flak came thrught front of turret hit me in head. over Left eye Lost one plane. Group was damaged bad. Joe used hot coffee to wash blood off my face & head. Got piece of flak that hit me. 05:05. 13:15.

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#. 32

Aug. 8 - 44 Wednesday
Budapest, Hungary
Air field
Flak - moderate inaccurate - Good weather, No fighters
First mission after I got out of hospital
Flew with Schecerter

07:30 - 14:00

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#33

Aug. 10-44 Thursday
Ploesti-Roumania
Unetine oil refineria
Flak heavy, heaver
than ever before, very
accurate-target
covered with smoke
screen and oil smoke
Lost 7 planes from grp.
First time to Ploesti
~~since~~ since I got hit.
Roughest mission yet.
Rode top turret
Lone got hit But flak
suit saved him.
06:45 - 14:00

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Big hole in nose turret. hole close to tail turret oxygen bottle hit. Mickey navigator found a piece of flak in his hand, didn't hurt him. Radar hit. gas tank hit. Rough war Jonosko finito today Flew with Griff.

#34

Aug 12-44 Saturday- Toulon, France Flak, Light inaccurate weather good Flew with Schecerter assignes to his crew Hit coast at big guns getting ready for invasion. Hit target. Flew in 67. Good ship no flak holes flew tail - First time Not so bad But other have nose

08:30 15:45

Gayle Cruthirds World War II Flight Log 2005:070

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#35

Aug. 17, 44 Monday
Northern, Italy.
gun position - 88ast
guns. Flak light -
accurate - ~~Flak~~ Flew
Top turret with schecht,
No. 4 engine went out
oil cooler hit by flak
getting ready for
invasion.
Invasion in the
morning. Take off
To-night 01:00 I am
~~flying nose for Griff.~~
~~Martin~~ & Jonosko
flying even tho they
are finito

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07:15 02:45

#36

Aug. 15, 1944 Tuesday
Southern
France - Beaches
No flak, No fighters
weather bad. target
over cast, Did not
drop bombs.
Made 360° over
target. Saw ships
~~sail~~ shelling shore
P-38's + P-51's diving
bombing. B-25-26
Bombing. Saw
Landing craft
going in on beach
Saw Two Large

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Convoys near Corcica
Landing craft,
transports, Flat tops
Battleships were
off coast. shelling.
saw 2 Jerries go
down.
I Flew Tail for
Capt. Roberson +
Lt. Col. Fellows
Wells flew top, Joe
Engeroner.

02:45: 10:45
10:45

#37

Aug. 30, 44 Wednesday
Cuprijaja Yugoslavia
River, Bridge - No flak
No fighters, Hit target
weather good
short trip.
First mission after
coming back from
rest camp. Carried
2,000 Lbs. bombs -
Three to a ship.
Flew with Hipple. Nose
18,000 ft. alt.
Pete finished to-day

T.O. 0700 - - 12:10

Gayle Cruthirds World War II Flight Log 2005:070

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#38

~~Aug.~~ Sept. 1. 44 Friday
Kraljevo, Jugoslavia
R.R. Bridge, Hit Target
No flak, No fighters
weather good.
16,750 ft a/t.
Flew with Grif. Hef
Schlatter finished up.
short trip. Carried
2,000 Lbs. Bombs 44 in.

07:30 - 12:00

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#39.

Sept. 2-44 Saturday
Kraljevo, Jugoslavia
R.R. Bridge, H. Target.
No flak. No fighters
weather good.
18,000 FT. 2 hr.
Flew with Hipple.
2000 lbs. bombs

07:15 11:85

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#40

Sept. 5, Tuesday
Ferrate, Italy
R.R. Bridge, Nit
Target, Flak intense
inaccurate, 22,000ft Alt.
Flew with Wipple
2,000 lbs, Bombs
No fighters

08:30 - - 12:20

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#41

Sept. 9, 44 Saturday

~~Nes~~

Nes, Jugoslavia
Marshelling, Yards
Flak, moderate, Light.
No fighters, Good
weather, Flew
with Nipple, Nose.
Ship - 71

06:30 — 12:30

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#42-43

Sept. 10, 44, Sunday
Viennia, Austria
Tank, Factory,
Armor - Factory
Flak, Heavy, intense,
Thick, ~~accu~~ accurate
500, lbs. Bomb from
25,000.
Weather bad. Target
covered. Bombed
by P.F.F. Mickey
No fighters No planes
Lost. Bomber
Fineto

06:30 — 14:30

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#44-45

Sept. 12, 44 Tuesday
Munich, Germany
engine works
Missed target
Flak, Heavy, inaccurate
No fighters,
25,000 ft. Cold as Hell
Hippie

08:00 16:30

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#46

Sept. 13, 1944 Wednesday
Aviso R.R. Bridge, Italy
Hit Target, FLAK
moderate accurate
No fighters
21,500 ft
Hipple

08:15 14:45

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#47

Sept. 17, 44 Sunday
Budapest, Hungary
marshalling yards
Flak inaccurate, Heavy
intense, No fighters
23,000 ft. alt.
1000 lbs. bombs - 6
Aimple

07:00 - 14:10

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#48

Sept. 18, 44 Monday
Budapest, Hungary
R.R. Bridge on Danube
river. No fighters
Flak Heavy inaccurate
Missed target. cloudy
weather.
23,000 ft. alt. Hipple

07:00 — 13:05

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49-50

Sept. 20, '44 Wednesday
Bratislova, Czecholovakia
oil refineries, Hit
target good. started
fires, Flak moderat,
accurate, No planes lost.
Last mission. Hipple
& Carson Finished
also, Hipple with 51.
wasn't so rought
didn't sweat it out like
I thought I would. Not
as bad as the Last 5.

07:30 -- 14:45

Gayle Cruthirds' World War II Flight Log
514th Bombardment Squadron, 376th Bombardment Group (Italy)
May 17, 1944 - September 20, 1944

Abstract:

A member of the 376th Bomb Group, 15th Air Force, S/Sgt. Gayle Cruthirds is a Diboll native who left his home and family to serve his country as a B-24 gunner in the Army Air Corps in 1943. He served 2 years, 7 months, and 17 days, from March 5, 1943 to October 21, 1945. Throughout his time of service, Cruthirds earned a Purple Heart medal, an Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign medal with 3 bronze stars, a Presidential Citation with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters on his unit citation, an Aviation Badge, and Overseas Service bars.

S/Sgt. Cruthirds kept this log during his deployment to Italy from May 17, 1944 to September 20, 1944. The primary purpose of this log was not to record his thoughts, but to keep track of his missions. After 50 missions he was eligible to come off of combat duty, and most aviators kept their own records to ensure that their missions were recorded. He records the names of the cities and factories they bombed – cities throughout Italy, Yugoslavia, Germany, Austira, and southern France, as well as oil refineries and cities in Romania. Cruthirds was wounded in a bombing run over Ploesti, Romania. He also recorded the weather for each mission, the amount of flack they received, and if they were successful in dropping their bombs on their assigned targets. For some missions, he mentions the names of his fellow crewmen or the pilots and whether or not his group lost any planes, and occasionally he describes things they observed from the air, such as naval convoys preparing for the coming invasion of Corsica.

The transcription is literal, and his style is maintained. Journals and diaries like this log are not written with other readers in mind, they are written for the person writing them – to enhance their memory or to serve as a personal record. This means that often times they are not written in the polished style one would expect from a formal report or even correspondence meant for another person.

Flight Log Transcription:

May 17-1944-wed.
-Completed Mission #1. San SteFano, Italy

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-Flak moderate But accurate
No Trouble
Plane no. 70."yum yum"
T.o. 10:00. L. 17:00
7 C.hr.

#2
May 18. [19]44 Thursday
Plosti[Ploesti]-Rou.
Bad weather-Flakk [sic.] not bad.
Did not drop Bombs Oil refineries.
T-O ~~10:00~~ 09:00
Landed. ~~17:00~~ 16:00
17 combat hrs.

May. 22-[19]44 Monday
#3 Porto Magaraha, Italy
Heavy overcast
No flak-No fighters
No bombs dropped
Entire crew-
T.O. ~~09:00~~ 08:49
L. ~~16:00~~ 15:00
22-C.hrs

#4
May 23-[1944] Tuesday
Frascata, Italy
Bad weather- Missed Target.
entire crew
T.O. 7:07 L. 15:00
Troop concentration

5 & 6
May 24 1944. Wednesday
Weiwer[Weiner] Noustat[Neustadt], Austria
Hit by flak & fighters.
Over 50 Me 109.
1 bomber down
3 blew up in air
5:50-14:00

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#7
May 26-[19]44 Friday
Nice, France
Good Weather
Target Hit Heavy
Light flack-6 fighters
05:30-13:45
easy target

#8
May 27-[19]44-Saturday
Marseilles, France
Good weather-hit target good.
Good Fighter cover. P-38-51
flak heavy-2 pieces come up between pilots feet
-flak hit my turret
didn't come through glass
scared-
over 500 planes bomb southern france
05:30-14:30

#9
May 28 [1944]-Sunday
Malfalcone, Italy
hit target.-Made 3 runs over target
flak very light.
Weather good
Only one on the crew that flew today

#10-11
May 30 [1944]-Tuesday
Pottendorf- Austria
Near Weiwer nusdtadt [Weiner Neustadt]
Flak and fighters bad.
Group lost one plane.
Flak comming [sic.] in & going out.
Good weather
P-51 & 38 escort
06:00 13:30

#12 v 13
May 31 [1944]- Wednesday

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Ploesti, Roumania
Ramono-Americano oil refineries
Good weather.
Smoke Pots covered Target.
Couldn't see Target.
flack so heavy we couldn't see section across from us.
3rd time this group hit Ploesti.
our plane was hit hard.
Right flap cable blown off.
auxiliary Tank hit.
Nose section had several holes as big as baseball.
Right wing peppered also camera hatch
fw -190 hit us after Leaving target.
First fighters to come in on us.
didn't get a shot.
all of them were on tail.
Mundo shot hell out of them.
hit second target
Tonno- severn
5-35 – 13:30
made staff today

#14 &15
June -2 [1944]–Friday
Sineria, Roumania
Marshalling yards
Good weather.
Good bombing.
No flak
No fighters
05:05 12:15

#16
June 4 [1944]-Sunday
Genoa, Italy
Marshalling yard
Cloudy-weather
Good bombing
Moderate rate
No fighters
07:05 15:10

#17

June 5 [1944]- Monday
Castel Maggiore, Italy
Marshalling yards
Clear weather
Good Bombing
Flak going in until [sic.] comming [sic.] out.
No fighters
09:05 -15:15

#18 & 19
June 6 1944 Tuesday
Ploesti, Roumania
standard oil of (N.J.)
most important mission sience [sic.] the first low level raid
the whole 15th air force participated.
The sky over Ploesti was filled with 100s of bombers
Smoke over target
Dropped bombs by Radar.
flak was heavy & accrate [sic.]
fighters jumpted [sic.] us after target
lost one plane
New crew on second mission was shot up.
Ball gunner Killed.
3 others wounded.
Tomorrow- I will be part of honor guard for gunner that got Killed.
Weather-cloudy
On the way back we heard France was invaded
05:00- 13:15

#20
June 10 [1944], Saturday
Niacona [Nacona], Italy
-Port. Bad Bombing
over cast. No flack.
No fighters.
05:40 : 13:30

#21-22
June 11 [1944]-Sunday
Constanta Roumania
Good bombing,
flak heavy, thick.
Weather clear.

Overcast-but could see target.
05:30 13:15

#23-24
June 13 [1944], Tuesday
Me.engine wks.
Munich, Germany
Bombing fair.
flak heavy, very heavy
slight overcast.
saw 3 fighters.
Ran out of gas over base.
1 &2 engines went out.
Grif landed on 2 engines.
very good landing.
He saved all our lives. Best pilot I have ever seen.
05:25 – 14:00

#25
June 14 [1944]- Wednesday
Sisak-, Jugoslavia
Oil refineries.
Bombing uncertain
No flak no fighters
Jinx still holding
Lost #4 engine over target had to start back.
:7:10-13:00

#26-27
June 16 [1944], Friday
Oil refineries
Bratislova, Czecholovokia[Czechoslovakia]
Very good bombing
Hit target. Smoke 15,000 ft hight [sic.] little flak.
plenty fighters
Fighters came in 20 min. before target. Were really eager.
J.U. 88s & Me-110. JU. 88 ~~hi~~ ran into B-24 about 200 yds in front of us.
I was shooting at. 88.
4 came in on nose.
I think I got one.
Lost 2 planes. Rought [sic.] war.
Don't want any more fighters.
06:00 13:20

#28
June 22 , [1944] thursday [sic.]
Casarsa Railroad bridge Northern Italy.
Good bombing. No flak, No fighters. Bad weather. overcast.
07:15 14:50

#29.
June 23 [1944] friday [sic.]
Nes [Nis] Jugoslavia
Good bombing.
No flak. No fighters
Bad weather
06:00 11:30

#30-31 My worse day so far
June 24 [1944]. Saturday
Romano Americano oil refineries
Ploesti, Roumania.
2 runs over target. I got hit on second run.
flak came throught [sic.] front of turret
hit me in head over Left eye
Lost one plane. Group was damaged bad.
Joe used hot coffee to wash blood off my face & head.
Got piece of flak that hit me.
05:05. 13:15.

#.32
Aug. 9 – [19]44 Wednesday
Budapest, Hungary Airfield
Flak-moderate inaccrate [sic.] – Good weather, No fighters
first mission after I got out of hospital
Flew with Schecerter
07:30 - 14:00

#33
Aug. 10 – [19]44 Thursday
Ploesti – Roumania
Unerine oil refineria
Flak heavy, heaver [sic.] than ever before, very accrate [sic.] –

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target covered with smoke screen and oil smoke
Lost 7 planes from grp. First time to Ploesti ~~sienc~~ sence [sic.] I got hit.
Roughest mission yet. Rode top turret
Lane got hit but flak suit saved him.
06:45 - 14:00
Big hole in nose turret. hole close to tail turret
oxygen bottle hit. Mickey navigator found a piece of flak in his
hand, didn't hurt him. Radar hit, gas tank hit. Rough war
Jonosko finito today
Flew with Griff.

#34
Aug 12-44 Saturday-
Toulon, France
Flak, Light inaccurate [sic.]
Weather good
Few with Schecerter assignes [sic.] to his crew
His coast [of France] at big guns getting ready for invasion. Hit target.
Flew in 67. Good ship
No flak holes.
Flew tail-first time Not so bad but rather have nose
08:30 15:45

#35
Aug. 14, [19]44 Monday
Northern, Italy
gun position-coast guns. Flak light-accarate [sic.]
~~-Flee~~ Flew Top turret with schechter
No. 4 engine went out.
oil cooler hit by flak.
getting ready for invasion.
Invasion in the morning. Take off To-night [sic.] -01:00
I am ~~Flying nose for Griff. Martin~~ and Jonosko flying even tho [sic.] they are finito
07:15 02:45

#36
Aug. 15, 1944 Tuesday
Southern France-Beaches
No flak, No fighters
Weather bad, target overcast, Did not drop bombs
Made 360° over target. Saw ships shelling shore P-38 & P-51s divig [sic.] bombing.
B-25-26 bombing. Saw Landing craft going in on beach
Saw two Large Convoys near Corcica [sic.]

Landing craft, Transports, Flat tops Battleships were off coast. Shelling
Saw 2 Jerries go down.
I Flew tail for Capt. Roberson and Lt. Col. Fellows
Wells flew top, Joe Engeneer [sic.]
02:45: 10:45

#37
Aug. 30,[19] 44 Wednesday
Cupitja, Jugoslavia
River, Bridge-No flak
No fighters, Hit target
Weather good
Short trip.
First mission after comming [sic.] back from rest camp.
Carried 2,000 lbs. bombs three to a ship.
Flep with Hipple, Nose 18, 000. alt.
Pete finished to-day[sic.]
T.O. 07:00--12:10

#38
Sept. 1. [19]44 Friday
Kraljavo, Jugoslavia
R.R. Bridge, Hit Target
No flak, No fighters
Weather good
16, 750ft alt.
Flew with Grif. He & Schlatter finished up.
short trip. Carried 2,000Lbs. Bombs again.
07:30-12:00

#39
Sept. 2-[19]44 Saturday
Kraljavo, Jugoslavia
R.R. Bridge, Hit target.
No flak. No fighters
Weather good.
18,000ft. alt
Flew with Hipple
2000, lbs bombs
07:15 11:35

#40

Sept. 5, [19]44 Tuesday
Ferrata, Italy
R.R. Bridge, Hit Target, Flak intense inaccerate [sic.],
22,000ft.Alt.
Flew with Hipple
2,000Lbs, Bombs
No fighters
06:30--12: 20

#41
Sept. 9, 44 Saturday
~~Nes~~
Nes, Jugoslavia
Marshelling [sic.], yards
Flak, moderat [sic.], Light
No fighters, Good weather, Flew with Hipple, Nose
Ship-71
06:30-12:30

#42-43
Sept. 10, [19]44, Sunday
Viennia[sic.], Austria
Tank, Factory, Armor Factory
Flak, Heavy, intense,
Thick, ~~acer~~ accreate [sic.]
500, libs. Bomb from 25,000
weather bad. Target covered. Bombed by P.F. F. Mickey
No fighters No planes Lost
Bannon Fineto
06:30-14:00

#44-45
Sept. 12, [19]44 Tuesday
Munich, Germany
engine works
Missed target
Flak, Heavy, innaccrate [sic.]
No fighters,
25,000 ft.
Cold as Hell
Hipple
08:00 14:30

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#46
Sept. 13, 1944 Wednesday
Aveiso R.R. Bridge, Italy
Hit Target; Flak moderate accrate [sic.]
No fighters
21,000 ft
Hipple
08:15 14:45

#47
Sept. 17, [19]44 Sunday
Budapest, Hungary
Marshlling [sic.] yards
Flak inaccrate [sic.], Heavy intense
No fighters
23,000ft, alt.
1000 lbs. bombs-6
Hipple
07:00-14:10

#48
Sept. 18, [19]44 Monday
Budapest, Hungary
R.R. Bridge on Danube River.
No fighters
Flak Heavy inaccrate[sic.]
Missed target. Cloudy weather.
23,000 ft. alt. Hipple
07:00- 13:15

#49-50
Sept. 20, [19]44 Wednesday
Bratislava, Czecholovakia [sic.]
Oil refineries, Hit target good.
Started fires, Flak moderat [sic.] accrate [sic.], no planes lost.
Last mission.
Hipple and Carson Finished also, Hipple with 51.
wasn't so rough
didn't sweat it out like I thought I would.
Not as bad as the Last 5.
07:30-- 14:45

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