

### Summary

Joined the A.A.F. on Oct 29, 1942 was sent to camp Beauregard, La where I stayed five days. Then was sent to Lake Charles Air Field where I stayed up until Jan 12 and was sent to Aloe Field Victoria, Texas. A hell of a joint.

While in Beauregard we sleep about 30 minutes a night for the whole five days. I got on the garbage detail once on my second day there. We left there on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Nov. for Lake Charles Air Field. I went through recruit training there and later started working in student operation. Had 5 weeks of Drilling then got K.P. twice before we left Lake Charles. After we did leave and got in Aloe Field on Jan 12, 1943. Aloe was and still is a mud hole. I was very much devastated at first and still am but mostly home sick I guess because this is a much bigger field than L.C.A.F. and far from home.

### Victoria Texas

Feb 6, 1943 – Went to town with Sgt. King. We ate dinner and went shopping. Met a nice looking girl in a store that I am going back to see. But had to work tonight so I couldn't stay in town.

Feb 9, 1943 – Sgt. King and myself went into town about 5:30. Ate supper then found a girl by the [spelling]. Shes not bad and drank a few beers all had lots of fun. We got Sgt. Beyer Drunk and his wife got mad as hell (more fun).

Feb 12, 1943 – I changed Sqd. from 482<sup>nd</sup> to 485<sup>th</sup>. Had to move across field. Hell

Feb 13, 1943 – Got up at 5:30 for Barracks and drill inspection. Wash and served a hell of a lot of clothes I had.

Feb 16, 1943 – Having been doing OK in poker had Beyer losing \$24.00 last night. Send \$20.00 to Etta Mae to keep for me.

Feb 17, 1943 – Sgt. King and I went to town tonight. Drink a good many beers and had a swell time. They shipped over 200 men out yesterday to prepare them for over sea service.

Feb 20, 1943 – Saturday night Sgt. King and myself went into town. Drank a few beers at the Dixie Café. I did meet a gooding gal named Julia. We went to the Club Reno and had a good time. Didn't get back to camp until 1:45 then had to work the next morning. (Etta Mae sent my money back otherwise guess I would have had to stay in tonight.)

Feb 21 – Went to church tonight with Sgt. King. Met a couple girls and joined the B.Y.P.U. Had a sweet time and am going back this Sunday.

Feb 22 – King and Beyer and I went to town. Was the first time Beyer had been out of camp in a week. We drank beer then meet his wife. Boy did King and I make her mad at Beyer. Told her all kinds of stuff.

Feb 27-28 – Sgt. Pillpot and myself went to Houston. We had a swell time. Meet a couple bags a VSO and went home with them.

March 1, 1943 – I got KP today. Washed more dishes than a little bit.

Mar 4-8, 1943 – Got a 3-day pass. Left camp at 4 o'clock and got home on Fri. March 5 at 1:30. Went to Jennings and Bobby [Plorr] and I had a few drinks. Had a date with Etta Mae. Sgt. King and I went to Alex Gary and ate dinner. Sat. night King and I double dated. Me with Etta Mae and King with Rena. Let King and Rena out at 12:30 and [Red] and I parked until 5:00 Sunday morning. God I love her more than anything in the world. If she ever quits me I'll never love anyone else again. Sunday I went to church. Ate dinner at home then went to Etta Mae house. She took me to the train in Jennings. Sure did hate to leave her. We got into Houston at 8:00. Drank beer and had a lot of fun until 1:30. Got the bus and was in camp at 7:00 Mon.

March 8 – Just got back from 3-day pass. Had Sub Machine Gun course today.

March 10 – I made P.F.C. today.

March 16, 1943 – I was on KP today got up at 4:00 and got off at 9:30. Rough dam day.

March 20, 1943 – Beyer, King and I went out and Honky Tonkee like the devil. Boy what a time. Good ole Victoria.

March 21, 1943 – I went to church. Good looking girls, May's as sweet as any I have met. I like her to, what a bag.

March 22, 1943 – Beyer, Kind and I went into town. We meet two bags. I meet Ida a good looking blonde. We went out and danced and raised hell. Good shocking [spelling]. She said come over and see me any night of the week any time and I will.

March 24, 1943 – Took cadet exam and passed it by 9 points.

March 25, 1943 – Had K.P. today went on at 5:30 got off at 9:00.

March 26 – Took physical test for cadets.

March 27 – went to town and meet a good looking gal. We went to the show and left abut 12:30. Got her home at 2:00. We had a good time.

March 28 – Went to this girls house that I meet last night ate supper and it look like a good deal.

March 29 – Finished my physical test this morning.

April 1 – King, Beyer and I myself went out on a little party. Met a couple girls and had a good time. Well King had to be taken to the hospital.

April 9 – Been working all week and haven't had a chance to go to town. Today I passed the cadet board. King got orders to be shipped overseas, sure did hate to see him leave.

April 10 – Beyer and I went out to a joint and had a hell of a time. I called Etta Mae tonight.

April 11 – King left this morning. Beyer and I stayed in camp all day Sunday.

April 12 – Beyer and I went to town and had a couple beers and meet a couple bags. Had a hell of a time.

April 17 – Got a 7-day leave and went to Houston Sat. Stayed in Houston and had a couple drinks with my sister and friends. Caught the train for Welsh at 12:00. Got home at 5:30.

April 10 – Got up and went to church. Etta Mae and I talk and planned on a lot of fun. We home and got a call to [spelling] back to camp. Went to Roanoke and told Red. She came and got me at 1:00 and took me to the train. Sure did hate to leave her.

April 19 – Got to camp at 3:30 in afternoon.

April 20 – Left Aloe and got into San Antonio at 3:00 in afternoon.

April 21-26 – Didn't do a thing all week except go to bed at 9:00 and got up at 5:00. Spent Easter in my barracks.

April 27 – Took [metal] test. Started at 7:00 got through at 4:00 in afternoon. Took 16<sup>th</sup> test.

April 28 – Took Collimator test this morning and it was rough. Took all morning.

April 29 – Took first part of physical this morning, passed OK.

April 30 – Took last part of physical and passed OK.

May 2 – Sunday, I sleep until 6:30 this morning, went on K.P. at 1:30 PM got off at 7:15.

May 3 – Got up for K.P. at 4:00 this morning got off at 1:30 P.M.

May 7 – I was classified Bombardier.

May 8 – Got my cadet clothes.

May 11 – Left SAACC about 5:00 this afternoon. There were about 400 bombs and 620 [men] on train.

May 12 – sat on train in Houston for 4 hrs this morning. Got into Ellington Field about 7:30 A.M. Boy the way the camp officer act this is going to be a rough place. We ate chow and I never ate as a good a meal in the army.

May 13 – Got up at 5:30 and have to dress and be in formation at 5:40. Parade every morning.

May 14 – Started to class. [Code]. [spelling] and ground forces at 1:30 P.M. we have [spelling] period. At 2:30 P.E. It was rough, I passed out in formation.

May 15 – Sat. Have two class of a stand by inspection. Parade at 1:30 on ramps. Went to P.X. and drank two beers, first in 4 weeks then went to show.

June 10 – I know I'm a good ways behind in my diary but it's just that I've been so busy just don't have time. This is one hell of a place study and can't go to town except on weekends. Houston is a swell town. We have a good cadets club and plenty of good looking girls. Last Sat. June 5<sup>th</sup> Etta Mae came over to see me. Mamie and Jock brought her. We had a swell time time Sat. night and Sunday. She left Sunday afternoon about 5:00. Sure did hate to see her go.

July 4<sup>th</sup> – Kind got behind in my daily but have been keep busy. Went to Galveston for the three week-ends. Last weekend June 27 Etta Mae and Juanitta came over. We went to Galveston Sunday and had a lot of fun. They left Sunday night. Today is the 4<sup>th</sup> and we can't go to town but civilians can come on the [spelling]. Last night Dick Beier and I went out. Took in a couple clubs I had hell of a time. Saw a good floor show at the Ranch Club.

July 10-11 – Got an overnight pass and drove my sister and mother home. Got in Welsh about 10:30. Etta was at my house waiting. Took her home at 4:30 Sun. morning. Went to Jennings and visited Sun. morning and to church in Welsh. Etta Mae ate dinner with me. We went to the show in Jennings. Started back to Houston at 5:30 sure did hate to leave. Am working shipment now. God know where.

July 17 – Left Ellington and got into Harlingen gunnery school. Went into town but it wasn't much.

September 4 – Finished gunnery school and got my wings today after 6 weeks I'll never forget. Guess I'll go back to Ellington Field and want to go to advance bombardier school.

September 16 – Left Ellington Field yesterday and got in Midland today. Here I start advance bombardier school.

September 17 – Took another physical 64 and guess we will start class Monday.

October 22 – Well I'm a little behind diary but it's mostly cause I've had so darn much on my mind. But I'll try to review what has happened in my five weeks here. Went through 3 weeks ground school and it was kinda tough. Started flying two weeks ago and have dropped 40 bombs so far. My C.E. is running kinda high and that isn't too darn good. Tell you the truth I've never worried about something so in all my life. Started dropping combat bombs today and did OK with a C.E. of 124 on my first combat mission which happen to be a check ride.

October 25 – Well last weekend went into Midland and didn't do much of anything. Did meet three girls with a and spent a Sunday afternoon taking pictures. Today I flew morning and afternoon and my first mission was 13,400 ft record bombing and me CE was 195. This afternoon I flew combat [spelling] and had 40% hits which isn't good. Well just 6 weeks to go and I may be a Lt.

October 26 – Flew a Qual Rec mission this morning and also had a check ride with Lt. Henry. Converted to 126 from an altitude of 6400 ft.

October 28 – Flew mid morning at 1000 ft on combat record. Dropped 5 bombs and got 2 hits which is O.K. So far we have dropped 85 bombs. Went to the show tonight and am now hitting the hay for a early morning flight tomorrow morning.

December 4 – Well I made it through which sure surprised hell out of me. I was commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. today and am heading for good ole La. tomorrow.

December 20 – After spending 10 days at home and having a hell of a good time I'm back in the army. Got [spelling] Fresno this morning took physical exam and five shots.

December 26 – This was some x-mas shacked up with a gal in Hotel Fresno for two days. This is some town wild as the devil, to wild I think are do I.

December 27 – Left Fresno and here I am at Muroc the hell hole of the [spelling]. My pilot, navigator, co-pilot and I are all sleeping together in a house that looks like a dog house. Boy you talk about cold. They can give Calif. back to the Indians if they would take it. Guess we will be here 3 months and then over seas, I hope.

March 26 – Left Muroc after finishing RTO training an am now heading for Hamilton Field by train with 18 other crews.

March 27 – Hamilton Field, received all our over seas eq. and also a new plane (B-24 J) its really nice.

March 30 – Left Hamilton Field for Fairfield an that's where I'm at now. Guess I'll be here 3 day and then over seas.

April 7 – Left Fairfield at 8:40 PM for Hickman Field Hawaii, trip of 2125 miles took 14:30 to make trip.

April 10 – Hawaii is some place but not what I looked for. Went swimming on Waikiki beach today. Guess we'll leave tomorrow.

April 11 – Flew from Hawaii to Canton Island in 9 hr about 1900 miles. Been fishing and swimming every day. There is one tree on the place and no women at all. Our plane broke down so had to stay on Canton till the 16.

April 17, 1944 – Left Canton Island and flew to St. Augustine Island and stayed overnight.

May 20, 1944 – My first mission in combat. Carried 6, 1000 lb bombs and hit, RABAUL, I put 3 bombs in the middle of runway. Lead ship. A very good mission. Flak heavy.

May 30, 1944 – Flew from the canal to the Admiral Islands and was put in the 307<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 424 Sqd. Guess we'll start bombing Truk from here. Set up our tent today right on the beach and it's O.K.

June 13 – Bombed Truk today and had one close call. The flak as rough a peace came through the nose and missed my head by two inches. We meet from 20 to 30 fighters on each mission.

June 17 – Hit Dublon Town and really knocked the place out. My racks hung up. I [spelling] my bombs and nine 500 lbs hit the hospital. It isn't there anymore. HA

June 26 – Went to Yap today which is 900 miles away. Bombed the airfield although there was an undercast and couldn't see the results. On the 23 of June we started to Yap but lost [spelling] engine a couple hours out and had to return. Big [spelling] here last nite. 40 [spelling] and 400 officers.

June 30 – Took off for Noemfoor Island (N.G.) 40 miles off Baik. The target was 10/10 covered but did drop on an A/D. No flak are fighters so the mission was a milkrun in one way.

July 3 – a mission to Yap today and the place was kinda hot. We had from 20 to 30 zeros attack us and Jack Riley (tail gunner) shot one down. All planes returned with one waist gunner shot up kinda bad.

July 7 – Started to Yap but got a gas leak and bombed Soral.

July 13 – Mission to Yap. 100% coverage and lost one ship. We lost two engines and the zeros really hit the poor guy. We saw two guys get out of the ship hit the water 75 miles off Yap Island.

Aug. 6 – Mission to Yap. Bombed at 8000 ft. Hit supply area near A/D. Had about 90% coverage on target. Saw no zeros but hit heavy Ack, Ack.

Aug. 10 – Yap. Went to hit Ack Ack positions but target was covered. Hit Yap town with good results. Flak was heavy. The 371 lost one ship. Was [spelling] a guy that I went through cadets with.

Aug. 19, 1944 – Moved up from the Admiralty Island to Wakde off the coast of New Guinea. There isn't much of base here and living is rough. Gets hot as hell and all the [spelling] have the tops shot off. There wrecked Jap planes all over the place, so guess the boys had quite a time of it here. We take showers by pouring water from a bucket out of an old Jap well and eat out of mess kits often standing in line an hour. Ed and the rest of the crew will be up tomorrow as I had to build the tent.

Aug. 22 – Went over to the main land of New Guinea and watched the fighting. Got within 300 yr. of the front lines and the boys are really living one rough life over there. Sleeping in fox holes with mud a foot deep. Got some Jap money and [spelling] from the boys over there. Boy am I glad I'm in the air corps.

Aug. 29 – Mission (Palau) target closed in but did find a small hole in the overcast over the town. No Ack Ack are fighters.

Sept. 1 – Well today my pilot (Lt. Jack Arnett) was shot down over Palau. He was flying another crew and went down from Ack Ack over the target. 4 men were seen to fall out of plane. Hit in water eight miles off Palau. Ed flew today and came in with over a hundred holes in his ship. That makes four pilots I've had now.

Sept. 13 – Went on rest leave to Sydney Australia. Spent 7 days and really had one hell of a time. Plenty women and lots to drink. I spent almost 500 dollars in seven days. Got back on the 22 of Sept. and am now ready for action again. Really did eat steak and eggs in Sydney hadn't had any in the last six months. Had a very nice girl I met my second night there, she lived with me all the time in Sydney.

Sept. 25, 1944 – Well today we moved again and this time still closer to Japan, Noemfoor Island. It's quite a bit different from the rest of the islands we've been on, red clay and jungle is about all there is on the place. Mud all over about a foot deep. We built our tent on the side of a hill and made a floor out of white coral which we got for a shot of liquor. Whiskey talks around this place. Even more than money. (so now for missions)

Sept. 30 – Well today my Gp. Made the longest bombing mission in the world. Hit Borneo from here which is about 1200 miles away. The met between 30 and 40 zeros and lost 4 ships. Bombing wasn't too good because the target was closed in. Guess I'll go on to the next one. The 5<sup>th</sup> AF went with us but never made the target.

Oct. 3 – Got up at 10:00 P.M. to go on the mission to Borneo. Took off at 12:30 AM with 69,000 lbs didn't make it because pilot turned back. Guess the good lord was on my side cause today was a black letter day for the outfit. The Gp had 7 planes shot down and on three made it back to the base. That's out of 22 ships that took off. The rest landed at another island up the line with men that were so shot up they couldn't make it home. The zero's were running into our ships to knock them down.

Oct. 10, 1944 – Mission to Balikpapan, Borneo. Today I went on the biggest mission of the South Pacific. Both our Gps. Plus three Gps. of the 5<sup>th</sup> AF. Saw my first fighter [spelling] today but it was a mistake. They were supposed to be with the 5<sup>th</sup> AF but there timing was off so they were with us. We really did do a good job and left the whole target burning, smoke from the oil ref. was up to 19,000 ft when we left the target. The fifth lost five ships. We didn't lose any. Ack Ack was heavy, we got hit by Ack Ack once. McRae flew the mission with us. On the way home we were running low on gas and had to land at Moritie. Stayed overnite there and had five air raids.

Oct. 18, 1944 – Well today we made another long mission to Borneo. The weather was so bad we lost the formation over the target and had to drop our bombs on E.T.A. We had snow coming in the nose and covered the bomb sight so bad I couldn't use it.

Oct. 24, 1944 – Took in a shipping mission today which was the longest flight yet. 18.35. Took in the Celebes and landed at Morotai. Didn't spot any shipping but found a Australian "cat" in the water. Dropped them some food and called another "cat" to pick them up. We bombed Manado and hit more [?]. Started large fires although target was closed in. Guess from now on I'll be going on nothing but shipping strikes.

Oct. 26 – The Sqd. went to the Phillipines and hit the Jap Task Force (Navy) Hit a battle ship and lost three out of the six planes. (All were new crews).

Oct. 28 – We took off for the Sulu Sea to hit the Jap Navy again but they called us back after three hours. Guess the good lord was in on the deal.

Oct. 29, 1944 – Well two years ago today I joined up with Uncle Sam. Never thought I'd end up in a place like this but one never knows. All I hope is the next two are lot different and at the end of them I'll be home and all of this will be at an end.

Nov. 2, 1944 – Shipping mission today, Went out after the Jap Navy again but didn't have much luck. Went through Mindanoas, and looked all through the Mindanoas Sea and up by our troops on Leyte. At 6:00 we had to start home so drop our bombs on Leyte. Thank God we didn't see any shipping.

Nov. 6, 1944 – Took off this morning at 2:30 for mission to Negros Island in the Phillipines. Target was A/D. We had 12 – P-47 as escort and met between 15 & 20 zero's. They were really hot too and we got shot up pretty good. Had 4 20MM in the ship beside a few 7.7. One 20MM



hit the top turret and took out the glass. Jupe got hit face full of glass but not too badly. Another 20MM came through the top and up the waste window latch & the waste window came down & hit the RO on the head bout knocked him out. Other hits were in the wings. We lost one B-24 & Jack shot down one zero. That makes two for him. The target was closed in so dropped on ETA (No Ack Ack).

Nov. 11, 1944 – Moved up from Noemfoor today and am now at Morotai Island which is a much better place. We get three or four air raids a nite which calls for a lot of day sleeping. But the place is really nice as our camp is right in the middle of the coconut grove & on the beach. Chow is much better also.

Nov. 13, 1944 – My first mission out of Morotai which is the first mock run in some time. Why it was I don't know cause it was to the Philippines & the target was in the same area as the last one where we got the hell shot out of us. Carried 30 frag clusters to Fabrica A/D on Negros Island in the Philippines and really hit the target with about 95% coverage. Mission was rated excellent. I flew A-2 which a deputy flight leader with McMillan leading. We flew with 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp today since only two Sqd's of the 307<sup>th</sup> are here.

Nov. 15, 1944 – Mission today was to the Philippines again and the target was La Carlota A/D on Negros Island. Carry frags again & had a good mission with 90% coverage. Saw 4 Jap Bettys burst into flames & burn to the ground.

Nov. 18 – Mission today was Tarakan Oil fields and ref. on Borneo. Really was a big success to as we hit the target with about 85% coverage. Big fires and smoke was up to 11,300 ft. when we made the second run over the target. Lead ship didn't drop on first run. The 5<sup>th</sup> Gp lost a ship due to Ack, Ack. After we finished bombing B-25's and P-38 hit the target.

Nov. 20 – Went to Lt. Fenny's funeral today. He was killed on yesterday's mission over the Philippines.

Nov. 21 – Mission today the Philippines today. The weather was so bad we couldn't hit our first three targets which were on Negros and Cebu so bombed Lumbia A/D on Mindanao. Good mission.

Nov. 22 – Today nite we really had an air raid, Ed and I were in the show when it started and before we could get to our fox hole the bombs were falling. Went under a building and three bombs hit about 300 yds away. They also hit the airfield destroying 48 planes. B-25-24 and A-20 along with a couple p-47's. The planes had 1000 lb bombs in them so it was quite a show. Two Jap planes were shot down.

Nov. 23 – Mission today was again Negros Island in the Philippines. Hit Bacalod A/D with good results. Had three raids tonite on the last one they hit the A/D again, starting fires.

Nov. 27 – Mission today was to Malago A/D on Negros Is. In the Philippines. The weather was good and we had good bomb hits. Ack Ack was really up there and hit the formation heavy.

Nov. 29 – Today's mission was to Puerto Princesa over the island of Palawan. The weather was poor in the target area but by a lucky break the target itself was open. We had good hits on the runway and also hit 5 Betty's and about the same no. of zeros on the ground. Well that's no. 30 now, all I won't is five are six more and I can think about going home.

Dec. 1 – Went up to the Philip. again today with very poor luck. The weather was bad so had very bad hits. The 5<sup>th</sup> lost 2 ships due to zeros.

Dec. 3 – Well we took off today on a mission to the Celebes and had good results on Parepare A/D. Landed at Noemfoor and plan to stay there till the fifth.

Dec. 5 – Mission was supposed to be to the Philip. but after two ships cracked up on the take off and burned they called it off. So we waited till daylight due to weather and bombed the Halmaheras.

Dec. 17 – Today we hit Jesselton A/D on Bornea. Was a good mission with good coverage on the target.

Dec. 19 – Well we're sweating out another Task Force in the China Sea. Just waiting till they get close enough so we can hit them. God I hope they go the other way.

Dec. 22 – Mission today was to the Hal. There supposed to be 25,000 Japs over there ready to make a landing on the Island. So we had to go quiet them down a bit.

Dec. 24 – Well here it is (X-mas) eve. Doesn't seem much like it should be. Went to church this morning and the services were good but I just can't seem to get the x-mas spirit. Guess ill fly tomorrow that should help to.

Dec. 25 – Well Christmas is here. We had a swell dinner today, Fresh Turkey and believe me it really did hit the spot. Ed got back late this afternoon from Australia with plenty to drink and also a water melon. We had quite a party so (x-mas) went off OK I guess.

Dec. 29 – Mission today was a lone shipping strike. Went to Borneo and flew along the east coast at 2000 ft. Shot up a few Jap boats and also land targets. Had a pretty good time. Bomber Cmd. gave us the wrong secondary target so we bombed what we thought was a Jap ship building and supply area.

Jan. 1, 1945 – Had one hell of a new years party last nite. Drank 9 pts of gin.

Jan. 4 – Got my 1<sup>st</sup> today although it was dated back to Nov. 19. Ed & I are the only ones that have ours.

Jan. 12 – Made my mission today to Luzon. Shot troops and supplies.

Jan. 13 – Old Bill Marsh & Ferman Lacombe looked me up today. They both on the same island as I. They were the first guys from home I've met overseas.

Jan. 14 – Found out today that I made the list and am now finished flying.

Feb. 9 – Got my going home orders today.

Feb. 11 – Left Morotai today & caught a C-47 to Biak. Guess I'll be here three weeks.