

THE COMBAT LOG OF

RUSS DOYLAND

307 B.G. 424th Squad.

Sept. 1944 - April 1945

These are the missions that I flew. For all these years I've had in mind that I flew thirty-nine, just one short of the cut-off. It seems that several of us had something interrupt our flying. I remember Jack's malaria, Bill's accident at Bondi Beach, and in my case it was the jungle crud that sent me to the hospital for a short stay. I kept a log, as I'm sure many others did. Though we were told not to. Mine wasn't too interesting, as it was just the facts. What I'm typing now is just what I wrote at the time. It was done back in the tent the next day when I couldn't do any kind of a decent job as spelling the names of places. So they are phonetic. If I think of any thing to add I'll put it in parenthesis.

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|-----|--|---|--|-------|
| # 1 | Oct. 16, 1944<br>Ceran   | 7 hrs. 55 min.<br>No AA or fighters<br>P-47 cover   | 4 1,000#<br>Possitiin A-2<br>All hits  | G.P.  |
| # 2 | Oct. 22<br>Cabu Lahug A.D.<br>Phil   | 14 hrs. ---<br>No AA or fighters<br>2 squad. P-38 cover.  | 3 1,000<br>Possition B-2<br>Clouds over primary. Bombed<br>a secondary airstrip. Hit<br>200' over.   | G.P.  |
| # 3 | Oct 28<br>Flew to Moratai<br>Returned with bombs                             |   |  |       |
|     | Oct. 30<br>Bacolod, Negros Is.   | 16 hrs. 05 min.<br>Light AA no fighters<br>No cover   | 5 500<br>Possition B-2<br>Good bombs in revetment.   | G.P.  |
| # 4 | Nov. 8<br>La Carlota A.D.<br>Negros Is.                                      | 15 hrs. 45 min.<br>15 enemy fighters, 15-<br>20 attacks. Hamps<br>No AA, No fighter cover<br>Japs dropped phosforesce<br>and TNT.<br>(The plane in front of us went down. It was months<br>before I saw the bombardier and navigator again.<br>I believe they were picked up by a Catalina. They<br>had a long trek to the south tip of Mindanao. The<br>plans attack us after the bomb run and I had the time<br>to repack Danny's ammo box. It was up side down and try-<br>in to pull the shells off the bottom of the case.<br>I was glad to be busy. Danny went through all that were<br>there.) | 30 100#<br>Possition 6 2nd flight<br>All bombs on target.  | G.P.  |
| # 5 | Nov. 14<br>Celebes Is.<br>Langoen A.D. #2                                    | 4 hrs.<br>Heavy AA four guns.   | Moderate, pretty close.<br>60 20#<br>Possition A-1<br>All bombs in target area<br>90 second run<br>6/10 cloud cover.   | Frag. |
| # 6 | Nov. 16<br>Heavy Cruiser<br>(Battleship)<br>Northwest Borneo<br>(Brunei Bay) | 12 hrs. 10 min.<br>AA heavy intense and accurate<br>2 attacks by Zekes..Phos. bomb.<br>2 squad. P-38s<br>Salvos from 16" guns   | 5 1,000#<br>#7 Second squadron<br>Bombs 200' from heavy<br>cruiser<br>2 min. run<br>AA over ten min.<br>Alt 10,000 feet<br>(This was the most exciting experience I've ever had. | Inst. |

I recall that we were on a shipping mission with the likelihood that we would find an aircraft carrier. Thank goodness there wasn't one of those too. What I saw was awesome enough. Looking through that bombsight while the large ships disappeared behind the smoke of their salvos was really something. I heard that one of those 16" shells went through a B-24 without exploding. That was the day John made the wisest decision of my combat experience. Our squadron had only two planes over the target. He moved us up with the second squadron over the targets. We were flying with the Fifth Group. They must have been shooting at someone else. I don't remember a single hit on our aircraft.)

# 7	Nov. 22 Bacolod A.D. Negros Is.	11 hrs. 10 min. 3 squadrons of P-47s 1 interceptor, no attacks no AA	24 260# Frag. Possition A-3 Bombs 100% Supply area
# 8	Nov. 24 Aliconti, Negros	10 hrs. 10 min. 2 squadrons P-47s 2 interceptors both downed No AA	7 1,000# G.P. 1/10 Possition 4 Third Squad. Bombs on runway and in dispursal area. P-47s straffed and destroyed three trucks.
# 9	Nov. 29 Puerta Princesa A.D. Paliwan	11 hrs. 05 min. 3 squadron P-38 cover no AA no interception	12 500# G.P. 1/10 Possition 7 4th squad. Bombs on runway destroyed some planes
#10	December 1 Bacolod A.D. Negros	10 hrs. 1 squadron P-47s Light inaccurate AA	40 120# Frag. Possition 6 Bombs in target area
#11	December 3 Malimpoeng A.D. Cebebes	11 hrs. 10 min.	20 100# G.P. Possition 6 All bombs on runway
#12	Dec. 5 Haleatobacai A.D. Halamahera Is.	4 hrs. 20 min. AA moderate, accurate	10 250# G.P. Single ship Only 10% hits, air speed out, poor C-1.
#13	Dec. 8 La Carlota A.D. Negros Is.	9 hrs. 30 min.	8 1,000# G.P. Possition 5 First Squad. 10% hits, poor lead.
#14	Dec. 11 Manburrlao A.D. Panay, Phil	9 hrs. 45 min.	12 500# G.P. Possition 3 zero hits, poor lead.
#15	Dec. 14 Manly A.D. Negros, Phil.	10 hrs. 05 min. 1 squad. P-38 cover 1 Sally seen AA moderate inaccurate.	12 500# G.P. Possition 3 4th sq. 20% hits, poor lead.
#16	Dec. 17 Jesselton A.D. Borneo	11 hrs. 30 min. 1 squad P-38s	12 500# G.P. Possition A-3 20% hits, terrible prop wash

- #17 Jan. 25, 1945  
Corregedor  
Ammo. supply  
Flew with Lt. Helms  
12 hrs. 45 min.  
AA light, inaccurate  
15 300# G.P.  
Possition A-3  
100% hits  
Fires and expl. observed.
- #18 Feb. 17  
Miri A.D.  
Borneo  
Flew with Lt. Wetzel  
12 hrs. 10 min.  
2 fighters, no attacks  
9 500# G.P.  
Possition B-2  
100% hits
- #19 Feb 18  
Labuan A.D.  
Borneo  
11 hrs. 45 min.  
AA moderate, inaccurate  
15 160# Frag.  
Possition B-4  
100% hits.
- #20 Feb. 22  
Tarikan A.D.  
Borneo  
9+ hrs.  
AA moderate, inaccurate  
12 500# G.P.  
Single ship  
Poor run, damaged taxie  
bunkers.
- #21 Feb. 26  
Mangar A.D.  
Bornio  
9 hrs. 45 min.  
8 1,000 G.P.  
Possition A-2  
60% on target
- #22 Mar. 2  
Seppinggan A.D.  
Borneo  
(3 miles N. Balikpapan)  
10 hrs. 35 min.  
No escort, four fighters  
dropping phosphorous  
AA intense, accurate  
10 1,000# G.P.  
Possition B-1 100% hits  
Lost #2 and 1/2 of #4 engine  
There were some other holes  
in the aircraft.  
(This was the first time that the plane had gotten into trouble. As John and the old B-24s had always made it before, I think I was expecting it to make it this time. But, I'll admit I did rehearse my bailout procedures a couple more times. This was one of those times I was making some firm promises to the "Eleventh Member of our crew".)
- #23 Mar. 5  
Air Drome at Davao  
Mindinao, Phil.  
5 hrs. 30 min.  
No escort, no fighters.  
AA medium light inaccurate  
20 260# fragmentary  
Possition A-2 80% hits
- #24 Mar. 9  
Gun implacement  
Zamboango, Mindinao  
7 hrs. 20 min.  
No escort, no fighters  
No A.A.  
8 @ 1,000# G.P.  
Possition A-1 100% hits  
(This mission didn't get scarey until it was almost over. It was not possible to see the strip for a landing. We made five attempts before getting down. There were four or five of us with our eyes as close to the windshield as we could get. We were trying to land from one direction and the B-25's were aborting from the opposite direction. There was a large fire on the ground, planes passing very close, and for the first time in my life, I thought it would be better to jump than keep this up much longer.)

- #25 March 12, 1945  
Personnel Area (baracks)  
Mindinao, Phil
- 4 hours 45 minutes  
No escort, no fighters  
Heavy-light inaccurate A.A.
- 12 500# cluster incendiary  
Possition A-2 90% hits  
Lots of fires
- #26 March 16  
Air strip  
Bornio
- 3 hrs. 30 minutes  
No escort, no fighters  
No A.A.
- 8 1,000# G.P.  
Possition A-3 00% hits  
Horine first pilot, Meriscello  
co-pilot. Missed 200 feet.
- #27 March 19  
Personnel Area (barracks)  
Cebu City, Phil.
- 9 hrs. 20 minutes  
No escort, no fighters  
No A.A.
- 40 100# G.P.  
Possition A-1 100% hits  
Went down to 2,500 feet.  
Weather. Rodgers pilot  
Starr co-pilot.
- #28 March 22  
Personnel Area (barracks)  
Cebu City, Phil.
- 10 hours 15 minutes  
No escort, no fights  
No A.A.
- 20 200# G.P.  
Possition A-2 (Because of  
bad weather) Single ship  
run. Full crew. 80% hits  
Made five runs at 6,500',  
4,500', 4,500', 4,000' and  
2,500'. (Starr says we  
were over the target for an  
hour and a half.)
- #29 March 25  
Supply area  
Cebu City, Phil.
- 9 hrs. 30 min.  
No escort, no fighters  
No A.A.
- 40 100# G.P.  
Possition A-2 100% hits  
Buzzed small island to  
investigate a flashing mirror.  
Natives came out to wave.  
(As this was the last trip  
to this target area, this  
must have been the day that  
we could see the landing. There  
were tanks going up the main  
street and numerous explosions  
in Cebu City.)
- #30 March 27  
Shipping South  
Bornio
- 13 hours  
No fighter escort  
Two fighters  
A.A. light moderate inaccurate
- 6 500# G.P.  
Single ship photomission  
Interceptors were lost in a  
cloud. Sighted and  
made two runs on shipping.  
1st run 150 feet to stern, 2nd run  
600 feet off bow.  
(This mission was made exciting  
by being so far from home when  
the fighters started coming up  
from the strip we had just photogra  
We had gone to the far west  
side of Bornio. We returned  
across Bornio in the blackest  
weather I'd ever seen. But no  
more fighters.)

#31 March 28, 1945  
Shipping  
Southwest Celebes

8 hrs. 30 min.  
No escort, no fighters  
A.A. from five inch guns  
heavy-moderate accurate.  
20mm tracers seemed to fall  
short.

9 500# G.P.  
Position single ship C-1  
One release 80 feet off  
stern. Stopped destroyer.  
One minute later four  
direct hits sunk it.  
(This is the only mission I  
ever volunteered for. We  
were on our way to the same  
place we had bombed yesterday.  
As we passed over the Celebes  
I spotted the DD at anchor by  
a small island. I set up the  
sight while trying to get us  
to turn back. It took a while  
to locate the destroyer, as it  
had gotten under way. I finally  
located it by following a pattern  
of bombing efforts on the water.  
There would be a bomb run about  
one-a-minute. My bombs fell  
off the stern. The ship stopped.  
Before I got a look out a side  
window, it had been hit and was  
gone. I hurried to the back of  
the plane to learn what kind of  
pictures the photographer had  
managed to get. He had forgotten  
to remove the plate from under  
the camera and had no pictures of  
the destroyer at all. John  
Vanderpool, our Squadron Commander  
was to be the next crew to bomb.  
He told me there would be a  
commendation, but there never was.

#32 April 3-4  
Dock Area  
Kucking, Bornio

21 hours  
No escort, no fighters  
No A.A.

12 500# Instantaneous  
Position B-2  
Bombs hit end of docks and water.  
(We were briefed for a shipping  
strike to Saigon. A cruiser had  
been spotted. We flew to  
Palawan (target of my ninth  
mission) and spent the night  
sleeping with the scorpions. I  
guess the cruiser moved. The  
target was changed.)

#33 April 9  
Longon A.D.  
Jolo Island

9 hours 40 min.  
No escort, no fighters  
No A.A.

6 1,000# G.P.  
Position B-1  
Missed rendezvous to Jolo and  
hit 3rd target. Poor run due  
to coverage.  
(This mission was a lashup all  
the way. We arrived at the  
target in the dark and didn't  
see the island. Navigator let  
us over fly by 180 miles. Because  
of our late hour the invasion of

of the island was in progress. The lead bombardier had not seen the target. When we returned with only two hundred gallons of gas. We all looked pretty bad.)

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|-----|--|---|--|
| #34 | April 12, 1945<br>Davao Area<br>Mindanao, Phil | 5 hrs. 30 min.<br>No escort, no fighters<br>No A.A.                                     | 12 500# G.P.<br>Possition B-3 Spare ship<br>All bombs in target area.  |
| #35 | April 18<br>Cotobata Area<br>Boc Town Island   | 6 hrs.<br>No escort, no fighters<br>No A.A.   | 3 1,000# G.P.<br>Possition B-2 Studar<br>Bomb run poor invasion closed<br>primary target.  |
| #36 | April 23<br>Balikpapan Area<br>Bornio          | 10 hours 30 min.<br>No escort, no fighters<br>A.A. heavy-moderate and<br>very accurate. | 3 2,000# G.P.<br>Possition B-2 Johnson<br>Bomb run poor - salvoed (on<br>target).<br>( I learned from John Reeves<br>in Milwaulkee that the flack<br>that hit my left arm was from a<br>flack burst that went off just<br>under the #2 engine. With my<br>troubles it was disquieting to<br>hear over the intercom that #2<br>was on fire. When things settled<br>down I got the good help that I<br>so badly needed. It was determ-<br>ined that I was not well enough<br>to be flown home so I got the long<br>boat ride. Nine operations and<br>forty-six months later I was re-<br>tired for physical disability. I<br>could no longer roll my sleeping<br>bag.) |