FELLOWS THAT "BOUGHT IT"

CONNOLLY.	ETO	CRASHED ON JENSEN'S NIGHT CHECK-
JENSEN.	ETO	OUT IN A MOSQUITO WITH SINGLE ENG.
LEIBERMAN	PTO	WERE SHOT BY JAP SNIPERS
JONES, ED	PTO	WHILE SOUVENIER HUNTING ON IWO JIMA
LUNGER.	ETO	CRASHED IN "BEAU" AT ST. DIZIER
ARMSTRONG.	ETO	ON SINGLE ENG. TAKE OFF. -10 APR.
LALLY,	PTO	SHOT DOWN OVER JAP BASE MADE SUCCESSFUL FORCED LAND-
COOLEY,	PTO	ING BUT WERE DECAPITATED UPON CAPTURE
LOGAN.	ETO	CRASHED WHILE FERRYING P-61 TO PARIS ON "GUMMED UP" SINGLE ENG. 28 JUN.
KAMAJIN,	PTO	
FARBER,	PTO	KILLED IN TAKE OFF CRASH WITH SINGLE ENG. ON SIAPAN
CARTMELL,	ETO	SHOT DOWN BY AMERICAN ACK-
ANDERSON, T	ETO	ACK OVER DILIGEN BRIDGEHEAD ON FIRST MISSION. 26 APRIL
CAMBELL, "DUFF	ETO	CRASHED FLYING ME-109 AT PILSEN. 17 MAY
HADRA, J	PTO	LOST FLYING OVER "THE HUMP"
MACKIN.	PTO	IN INDIA ON MAY 15.
DUTKEWITZ	PTO	LOST FLYING THE HUMP WITH 5 OTHER NIGHT FTR CREWS
KANE "KILLER"		KILLED IN TAKE OFF CRASH INTO LAGOON ON SAIPAN
BAKEWELL.		SHOT DOWN BY JAP ZERO WHILE ON N.F.T. ON LUZON

Tonight we went to the first game of the 12th TAC baseball finals. We play- ing the 27th Fighter Group. We lost for the first time in the tournament 15 to 6 but the important thing is that Chow Time Bob Bates and we had a long chat. Most of it was pleasure talk about Lallys but there was some that need in- cluded. They finally discovered what kept Jenkins & Armstrong and Lally. It seems as though they made a forced landing on this Jap field and immediately Armstrong was decapitated, Lally roasted three days before he met a similar fate. Also Logan and Kamajain crashed and were kill- ed. Frankly I'm just as glad that it was said to the E.T.O.

Today was one of those days that just overflow with activity and fullness. Starting at 9:30 we had classes until Noon and then Bob and I NFT'd by taken the low level cross country which is actually running an assimilated intruder on Gibelstadt. After ~~lunch~~ finishing we went to a U.S.O. show and then flew P1's with George Cubbidge and Tom Hart until 1230. The U.S.O. show was the highlight and it was very good with a superb cast - Jack Benny, Ingrid Bergman, Larry Adler, Martha Tilton and David le Winter. It was a wonderful show and everyone seemed better than up to par, parts of this was probably our starvation for such good entertainment. I missed Erin!

We were planning to go to Frankfurt this morning when Sam Reed asked us if we'd like to go to London and RON. Bob was to fly the plane with London and Ivers to be the navigator. Tom Hart talked his way along and at 2:00 PM we took off. In two hours we were at our destination but we had to fly around for an hour and twenty minutes before they would let us land. We decided to stay two nights instead of one and then we took a train to London. Bob, Tom and I went our ways and Sam, Jim London and Peters the crew chief went theirs. We got fillets ate and spent the last few hours of the day in a pub before falling into our beds.

We wasted the morning in vain trying to find something to do. Then in the afternoon we visited Westminster Abbey, St Pauls Cathedral and last but not least the historic "Tower of London." London is beautiful, not magnificent like Paris, but quaint and consequently elaborate. We saw the Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and such. England is very nice and I like the English much more than I had expected. We had a very time trying to find in the funny little taxis and double decker buses and tube. I saw Ed Braithwaite for just a second but couldn't talk to him and missed Erin, terrific!

Immediately after breakfast this morning we took a taxi to the Waterloo Station and caught a train to Guildford and then changed to a local to the quiet little town of Blackwater (which is nearly to Reading and 35 miles from London). Then we took a cab to Blackwater the field. London, Peters and Rial arriving a few minutes after us. Sam brought London 100 expensive as he came back. From 1100 until 1400 we lay around sweating out an [illegible] and the temperamental "gas bag." After the plane was serviced and we took off, crossing Dover, London back on the coast and getting home in time for chow and Rial tried not missing Erin.

That trip to Bruchsal for no apparent reason knocked me out today and this morning found me dizzy. This afternoon Bob and I took a stroll over to our new base at Nassau. It is really nice and without a doubt the best living conditions we have had since being overseas. We have a group of houses that once housed German Luftwaffe Officers and their families. The houses are about the most modernly equipped in Germany and should be very comfortable. Also they are extremely convenient to the line and the Entire unit will be compact instead of being miles apart. Am still preparing to go home however!

They dropped the new and by apparent devastating atomic bomb in Jap in yesterday and today it is on everyone's tongue and filling all the papers. Vast quantities of conjecture have arisen in the last twenty four hours and it all points towards a speedy capitulation of our little yellow friends. I wouldn't doubt a bit if they now wish that Sunday December 7, 1941 they had stayed home. To put it bigheadedly, they have had it! I do hope that does this means that I will be able to get home sooner to that Russian or Wife of mine. Guess I'm looking forward to that day when I take her in my arms never to let her go!

Tomorrow we move to Kassel so today was periodically spent in packing. The usual gay abandon-ed hysteria that usually takes place on this eve before a move was very slight. Usually the camp is an inferno of fires and flares in a grand but unalco-holic drunk. The only incident was when Bob set off some dyna-mite caps, the reverberations of which brought reverberations from the Major. I think that the issue at end of the atomic bomb, and Russia's declaration on Japan tonight had a deter-rative effect on the camp. Then too usually a move means a reun-ion contact with the enemy. This means nothing but "no closer to Ein-

It was raining when we awoke and its raining now and it's been lousy all day. We thought we'd be able to take off once when it tried to clear up a little. So convinced were we that we took all of our equipment and loaded it into the planes and put all of our furniture in the club. We were soon convinced otherwise however as it socked in thoroughly. Naturally the whole af-fair is hopelessly disorganized. As it looked as though we were going to be in rather tough straights on the food situation as everyone had left but we divided and couple crew chiefs. Tonight Tom Hardwick went over to Gros Gerau and ate with the 415th. I hope we leave to-morrow. But it looks bad. Miss Ein-

Strained all night and all day again today so here we sit in Klein Gerau for another day. Its a seething mass of mud outside so a whole gang of us are here in our room having a "gin" tournament. Lowe seems to be the undefeated champion as he sits here winning hand after hand. There was more organization today as we resigned ourselves to sweating out another day. We ate with the 415th today and I spent all afternoon with good ol' Bob Bates. The news that Japan is sincerely absorbing for peace has hit us all wondering what this will mean for us & the war ends soon. Floyd may be home to see Erin soon.



and Erin is very sick. Am worried.

KASSEL AUGUST 11 256

It was clear this morning when we got up but there was weather hanging all around the horizon. Accordingly we hurried and ate and filed clearances then took off. North of Frankfurt the ceiling started dropping and soon we were sneaking along valley floors at 250 mph with the clouds hiding the hills on either side. A couple times we had to jump into clouds to dodge the hills but we made it. Four 61's only got through the rest having to turn back. The rest of the planes got through this afternoon and we started settling down. I got three letters from Texas and Erin is very sick. I'm worried.











Kassel
Museum
Art Gallery
on left.
1977

1977

Kassel –
French Huguenot
Church – 1605

1977

Würzburg
Electoral Residence
(Palace)

Rothwesten –
Thumb over hill
at end of runway
1977

Kassel
Rothwesten – Officers' house
1977

I found out yesterday that that sweet of Asiel of mine was much more seriously ill than I had imagined. She has been having fevers constantly some ranging up to 105° and the doctors don't know if it's malaria or malta fever or thyphus. The next letter will give the verdict but today I learn that the next letter won't come for several days until our mail starts to be delivered at the mail center in Kassel. Meanwhile all I have to do is sit here and worry my head off wearing out nerves. God, if anything happens to that sweet little wife of mine! That girl is my whole life and sitting here while she's sick is a terrible hell.

Here I sit on our wedding anniversary of a year and two months not knowing if Erin's condition is better or worse or even what it is the fever she has. Six thousand miles away not doing a damn thing when I could be at her side when she needs me most. Six thousand miles and no way of finding out how she is until the mail decides to stagger in. Gawd it going to be a happy day when all this shit is O.K. Golly, I love that wife of mine.

The weather has been so lousy here as it is that we can't and haven't been doing much of anything. It rains almost all day and the sun has only been out twice since we arrived.

Today they announced that the Japs have decided to accept our terms and quit. V-J day won't be until a day or so however when the actual signing of the documents take place. We also received word that the 422nd and 425th have been frozen at Rheims and that all low point units now in the redeployment centers will be drawn back so that old-er outfits may leave for the states. The logical thing would be for the 422nd or 425th to replace us as occupational. Gawd would that ever make the fellows like Pete Lambert, Pete, and Timm sick. I still haven't heard any more news about Erin. Mon, I hope that mail comes in today

Mail came in today and I got three of the complete jobs I've been getting from Erin and that well not-in-law of mine. Gawd what a relief to get those letters. They still don't know what it is Erin has but they know several things she hasn't. They now believe that it is malaria which is no longer serious and which ever it is it apparently has passed its crisis. It's funny to feel relieved knowing that she is in the hospital and may have malaria, but she seems well on the road to recovery and she feels much better, also she has been assured that it's nothing serious. Gawd I sure was worried about that luscious of wife of mine!

Out of a clear sky and for the first day since we arrived here was a clear sky and it didn't rain a drop. Naturally it was A-flights day and we had to fly. The photo recce outfit came up to meet us with their A-20's and one Lugo was made ensuree. Actually the whole affair left me utterly cold. Except for the annoyance of planes on long trips did just as soon stay on the ground. Planes just mean a very dull routine plus having to be away from Erin. We had a mighty happy bunch of enlisted men when a hundred replacements came in for them. None of them Lou Pointers!

The usual crowd was here again today as Bob, Jim Mowbray and I worked on our models. I actually think I may get this little blank buggy of mine done this time. It's fast nearing completion and if I'd known previously how near it was to being done I would have finished it long ago. Bob has completed his little P-38 and it's a dilly. It's raining again today as usual. But the more rain we get the less flying we do. I certainly hope they get on the ball and send us home pretty soon. This here they call occupation is to say the least nerve racking. I sure miss that Babe!

They still haven't fixed the water situation and the lights still go off a the craziest times but today John the carpenter fixed the windows that were broken which is some improvements. Tonight J Tom Hart, Bob + I were playing cards and listening to the radio when we heard Lawrence Tibbet on the hit parade. Tibbet is good on the right program, that is if you happen to like Tibbet which I don't, but Tibbet singing "Sentimental Journey" was too much. I wrote a letter, and Tom and I solicited signatures and every officer signed the thing. So that were we've been added a few forgeries!

Today was about the fourth holiday we had in a row all because of V-Day which isn't actually here yet as the Japs are still slugging around. I was sitting here thinking how nice it would be to be back in the states and go to a lazy matinee. Where upon Tom Perkins walked in and said there would be a show. It turned out to be "Wonder Boy" with Danny Kaye and it was really like the first. It was the funniest show I've seen in a long time. This evening they had another show and it was Fred Allen in a hysterical farce that was more nerve racking than funny. I'm painting my model of the P-61 now!

Bob flew to Paris with Capt. Dean
yesterday in the B-25 and they
blew a cylinder in the process
so I guess they won't get back
for several days. Meanwhile
our training program has col-
lapsed. The weather is so bad
here that I believe it's the "drain"
of the European heavens. It rains
everyday and usually all day which
means that flying is rare. We
never fly at nights if we can help
it and we can usually help it.
No one goes to ground school so
actually we don't do a damn thing.
There isn't much incentive to study
Japrecognition with the war over
and the programs greatest enemy
is the "the hell with it attitude" of
everyone. Wish we'd ship home!

This place is the most boring of
all boredoms I ever encountered.
We have very nice living quarters
with the exception of the water
being turned off 23½ hours a
day but there isn't a damn thing
to do. All there is is gin, solitaire,
an occassional game of bridge
and the movies every night.
We sleep late as possible to shorten
the day as much as we can and
then we start out on our endless
sessions of gin. Usually to add
excitement you say "Let's play
off the widest deviation ship in
gin today!" Which you answer
with an eager affirmative when
you'd just as soon hit your head
against a wall. We serve no pur-
pose over here & wish we'd go home.

Boredom once again had its deadly grip on us today as per usual it rained and we faced another day of rain, gin, solitare and the movies. It cleared up however in the afternoon so Tom Hart and I decided to go in and look around Kassel. It's only seven miles so it only took us a few minutes to drive in. We heard that Kassel had received a thorough pasting but never expected anything like the sight that greeted us. Kassel looks like it had been hit by an atomic bomb, only an occasional building is even partially standing. There's nothing to do in Kassel so we came home within 2 hours and back to our routine of gin!

For the past few days we have only had about ten officers in the area. All the others left on normal leaves and routine flights but the B-25 is grounded with a bad oil cooler & Paris and this lousy weather is keeping the rest out. There are five of our planes at Paris alone with other elsewhere and there are fellows accumulating their leaves all over the continent because they have no way of getting back. Tomorrow morning 150 of our high point enlisted men are leaving for home so tonite they are celebrating with beaucoup liquer to say goodby and what a happy bunch they are. There are quite a few sleds but that's understandable.

At last I got definite news that that sweet old rebel wife of mine is well on the road to recovery. Golly, what a relief that is. I was really worried about that little lady of mine. I would not be content until but without her. Criminy I love that girl! All the fellows started drifting in today for some reason and now there are only about eight officers out and they are all due on leave. If they had stayed out one more day they would have been able to land as the field is going to be closed 1 day for repairs. Today the announced that Air Corps flights officers only need 36 points to get out and I have 56 & WOW!

It was officially announced that flights officers need 36 points for discharge, 2nd Lts need 41, 1st Lts need 58 and Captains and above need 70. This is of course for the air corps only and the repercussions are bound to flow down all the ground force officers should this new ruling - nation. It looks more and more like we could all be civilians soon, in fact with a little luck very soon. Golly its going to be great to be with Erin a long last but frankly the prospects of being a civilian also is a bit frightening. Nevertheless give it to me. Let it make it so!

AUGUST 26

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Had a wild rain storm today and decided to paint as is allowed. the 9th AF patch on one shoulder and the 12th AF on the other of my leather flying jacket. Used dap for the paint and the blue black ground and silver came out fine but I'm having trouble mixing my yellow and red. Will probably have to do it over as it doesn't seem to want to dry. The three of us washed the windows this morning in prep aration for the coming of the inspector general on Wednesday. Stg getting to be like cadets over here now as things are getting increasingly more "chicken" I can't help but believe that we will go home soon. I hope so.

AUGUST 27

272

For some strange reason it was a beautiful day all day today. The sun was shining. The mud dried up and we had welcome blue skies instead of the usual grey ones. I went over to the service squadron and got some lacquer. The finish the shoulder patches on my jacket as the yellow and red I was using wouldn't dry. I finished them this afternoon then and they really turned out nice. Orders official today that all men with 85 points will be airlifted by Dec. 31 and all men above to 74 points will be home by Christmas. Most in fact almost all of our men are above 74. I hope they send us home soon.

Some more of our enlisted men shipped out today and the excitement of the possibility of getting some soon has us all in stitches. Meanwhile Red Geisel is missing about four days ago he took a couple enlisted men to Nice and since taking off not a word has been heard from him since he took off. The weather was lousy and the trip entails crossing the Alps. At hope he's O.K. Woodley did some mass production portraits tonight turning out four in three and a half hours. Its an improvement over past work and in that they were very pleasing. Am investigating a plan to get rid of all this time I've been wasting.

We got some more information on Red Geisel this morning. He arrived at Nice without incident and took off from there three days ago with good weather all the way and hasn't been heard from since. The only irregularity reported was that of an unidentified plane landing in Switzerland in that period. We should have a report on this today. Considering the good weather he should have been able to make a successful forced landing or a bail out. The last thing is that he had to cross the Alps and may have attempted a forced landing or may be lost in the mountains. The I.O. chiefs come and go as

There is no further news on Geisel and it's beginning to look bad. I worked on my model this morning and drilled out the engine coolings with the help of John the carpenter. Then this afternoon I had nothing to do as the paint on the model wasn't so I started an oil painting. The funny hill on the south side of the Eden valley has intrigued me since I first laid eyes on it so I painted it beneath a built land sky such as we rarely get here. I want it to be of Unit No 51. so I painted two P-61's doing same and so far it has turned out surprisingly well. All do the foreground tomorrow. Tonights Bob & I flew the auto.

COMM. & BAR

22nd 31st - SWITZERLAND BAR

20th 17th - HOME

7th 26



[illegible] Finished completed its Oct. My reasons for keeping busy is makin

COMM. + BAR

2 8nd / 31st → SWITZERLAND

BAR

20th / 7th → 17th - HOME

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Today, I got some wonderful missles from that dark wife of mine and it certainly is a wonderful realization to know that she is well even if the atabrine is turning her green. Gawd, I love that gal!

This afternoon I took my painting out to the line and got the detail for the foreground. I could paint very well out there however so I had to come back to the room to paint in and it really turned out well. The composition, colors, perspective, tone, detail and technique all pass a rigid inspection by myself and the fellows. For the first oil I've completed it's O.K. My scheme for keeping busy is working