

John E Taylor, Jr
TSgt, 64th Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group (H)

The following are provided from the collection of TSgt John E Taylor.

DVD - The Life and Times of John Edward Taylor

Photos –

- John in uniform, first as a Private in 1943 and then later as a Technical Sergeant
- Board put together by John Taylor to honor his crewmates. It is a compilation of WWII Registry submissions done by him and is titled, “WWII, 10 man B-24 Bomber Crew, South Pacific Campaign, 5th Air Force, 43rd Bomb Group, 64th Squadron”

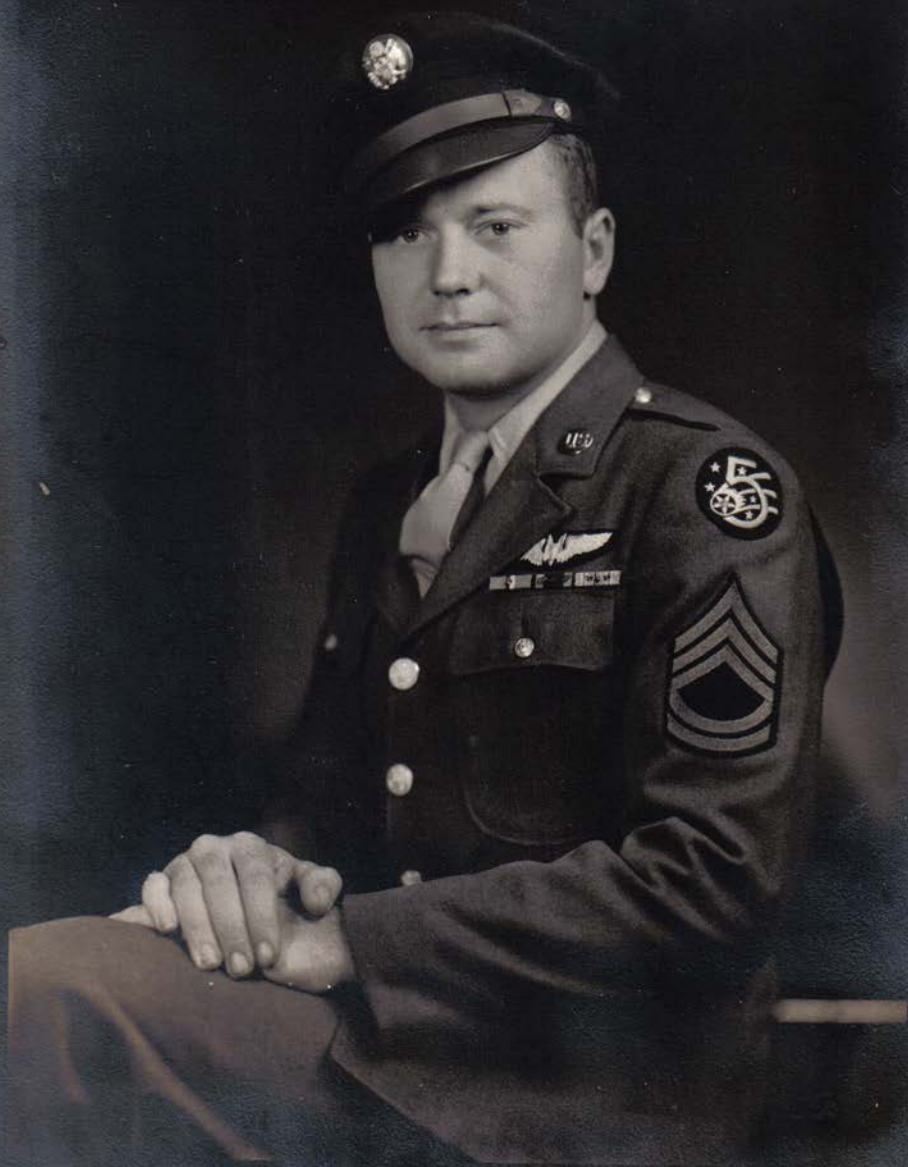
Missions and Diary (an excerpt): 39 pages recounting missions and personal experiences and loss of crewmates

An excerpt from the April 2015 edition of the 43rd Bomb Group Association, Article Titled ‘Meet My Dad’, written by John Taylor’s daughter, Toni



Letter to Jack
to my sweet family

H. H. H. H.



01/01/2007



World War II Honoree

William H. Harkins



1914-1994
1941-1945
1941-1945
1941-1945



William H. Harkins was born on January 1, 1914, in St. Louis, Missouri. He served in the United States Navy during World War II, from 1941 to 1945. He was a member of the 64th Bombardment Squadron, 3rd Bombardment Group, 13th Air Force, based in the South Pacific. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service.

64th Bombardment Squadron



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1914-1994 1941-1945 1941-1945 1941-1945

WWII
10 men 84th Bombardment Squadron
South Pacific Campaign
5th Air Force 48 Bomb Group
64th Squadron



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64th Bombardment Squadron



★ MY LIFE IN THE SERVICE

THE DIARY OF

J. Sgt. John Edward Taylor, Jr.

U.S.A.A.F. H.S.N. 39035709

12-29-42

TO

July-2-1945





COMBAT

★ CIVILIANS

- I 4-22-44 - Kansa Bay New Guinea
4 hours + 20 minutes
04:20 Target - ACK ACK Artillery.
Opposition - light FLAK
Ship 811 - "Uncle Sam"
- II 4-27-44 - Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea
7 hours + 0 minutes
11:30 Target - Supply Dropping
Opposition - "Greetings"
Ship 769 "Holens Revenge"
- III 5-4-44 Wewak New Guinea
4 hours - 50 minutes
16:10 Target - ACK ACK Artillery
Opposition - NONE
Ship 811 - "Uncle Sam"
- IV 5-11-44 WAHDE Island New G.
8 hrs - 20 minutes
24:30 Coast Artillery guns
Opposition - NONE
Ship 482 - NO @ @ AT ALL



I HAVE MET

continued on page "15"

- V 5-15-44 - Samar-Sarmi Area D.N.G.
8 hours - 40 minutes
33:10 Target - ACK ACK Artillery
Opposition - heavy ACK ACK
Ship 991 - Lady Lynn
- VI 5-17-44 - Biak Island D.N.G.
10 hrs - 25 minutes
43:35 Target - Roads
Opposition - light FLAK
Ship 484 - "Heavenly Body"
- VII 5-27-44 Biak Island D.N.G.
Target - Dispersal Area
11 hours 35 minutes
55:10 Opposition - None
Ship 515 "Sooper Drooper"
- VIII 5-30-44 - Biak Island D.N.G.
12 hrs 0 minutes
67:10 Target - Artillery Positions
Bad weather Opposition - None
No Bomb. Ship 484 - "Heavenly Body"



★ ★ MY BUDDIES IN THE SERVICE

Combat Missions - 1st 8 on page "50" 15



- IX** 6-4-44 East of Bika Island D.N.G.
16 hours - 35 minutes
Target - Jap Convoy (No find)
83:45 Opposition - 7 JAP Zeros (20)
Ship - - 166
- X** 6-8-44 Bika Island D.N.G.
11 hrs - 10 minutes
94:55 Target - Jap Positions
Opposition - None
Ship - 515 Sooper Drooper
- XI** 6-21-44 - Noemfor Island D.N.G.
13 hrs - 35 min
108:30 Target - dispersal Area
Opposition - None
Ship - 395 (No Name) *
- XII** 6-26-44 Noemfor Island D.N.G.
12 hrs - 05 min.
120:35 Target - dispersal Area
Opposition - Nil
Ship - 333



★ ★ MY BUDDIES IN THE SERVICE



XIII 7-2-44 - Noemfoor Island D.N.G.

11-hrs - 10 min.

131:45 Target - JAPS!

(127:55) opposition - none

(true) ship - 333

XIV 7-31-44 - Halimaharas - Galela

8 hrs - 25 minutes

136:20 Target - Jap Planes.

opposition - FLAK

Ship - 482

XV 8-4-44 - Halimaharas - Boela

7 hrs - 10 min.

143:30 Target - Planes

opposition - FLAK & Fighters

Ship - 394

XVI 8-8-44 - (Halimahara) Manakuar

7 hrs 5 min

150:35 opposition - FLAK

Target - dispersal Area

Ship - 515 sooper drooper

XVII 8-13-44 - Manakuar D.N.G.

7 hrs - 35 min

158:10 Target - Personnel

opposition - FLAK

Ship - 395

XVIII 8-16-44 - Miti; Halimahara Islands

7 hrs - 55 min

165:05 Target - dispersal

opposition - NONE

Ship - 429

XVIIII 8-19-44 - Nambea - Halimaharas

8 hrs - 55 min

174:50 Target - Aero-dispersal

opposition - Heavy FLAK

Ship - 429

XXI 8-23-44 Galela (Halimahara)

8 hrs - 05 min

182:55 Target - dispersal

opposition - FLAK-medium

Ship - 867



MY BUDDIES

IN THE SERVICE



- XXI 8-25-HH Harokoe (Ceram)
8 hours & 10 minutes
191:05 Target - dispersal
opposition-heavy FLAK
Ship - 363
- XXII 8-28-HH AMBON TOWN-Ceram
8 hrs - 20 min
199-25 Target-Jap Quarters
+ 20 opposition-heavy FLAK
Ship - 429
- XXIII 9-3-HH - Namlek Strait (Celebe)
9 hrs & 45 min.
209:30 Target-Supplies & Personnel
oppo.-FLAK & aerial Bombs
Ship - 394
- XXIV 9-8-HH Celebes-Mapanget
9 hrs - 10 min
218:40 Target-Supply buildings
Opposition - Nil
Ship - 429

- XXV 9-25-HH - Celebes (called back)
1 hr - 45 min.
220:35 Target
opposition - Nil
Ship 394
- XXVI 9-27-HH Celebes-Near Mapanget
9 hrs 10 min
229:45 Target-Town (Japs)
- 10 opposition-light FLAK.
Ship - 394
- XXVII 10-18-HH - Celebes-Menado Town
9 hrs - 30 mins
239:00 Target-Warehouses
opposition-light FLAK
Ship - 429
- XXVIII 10-25-AA-Philippines
11 hours - 0 min.
250:00 Target-Jap Cruiser
Opposition - FLAK Heavy
Ship - 363



★ ★ MY BUDDIES IN THE SERVICE



XXIX 11-1-44 - Cebu Island - "Philippines"

13 hrs - 30 min.

263:30

Target - Jap Planes
Opposition - Light Flak
Ship -

XXX 11-4-44 Cebu Island P.I.^s

12 hrs - 35 min.

276:05

Target - Air strip.
Opposition - Ack Ack & 10 Fighters

XXXI 12-24-44 - Rabaul (New Britain)

06 hours - 0 min.

282:05

Target - supplies
Oppo. - Nil
Ship - 918 (C.R.T.C.)

XXXII 12-26-44 Rabaul (New Britain)

07 hours - 05 min.

289:10

Target - Air strip.
Opposition - Nil
Ship - 997 crtc

XXXIII 12-27-44 - Wewak (New Guinea)

04 hrs - 45 min.

293:55

Target - dispersal
Oppo. - Nil
Ship - 456 (C.R.T.C.)

XXXIV 1-3-45 - Wewak (New Guinea)

04 hrs - 35 min.

298:20

Target - JAPS
Oppo. - Nil.

XXXV 1-5-45 Wide Bay New Britain

05 hrs 50 min

304:10

Target - JAPS
Oppo. - Nil

Ship - 775 C.R.T.C.

XXXVI 1-19-45 Wewak (New Guinea)

06 hrs - 25 min.

310:35

Target - Ack Ack Gun
Oppo. - Nil.
Ship - 207 (C.R.T.C.)



MY BUDDIES

IN THE SERVICE



XXXVII - 1-21-45 - Wewak N.B.

314:45 4 hrs - 10 min

004 - C.R.T.C.

XXXVIII - 1-22-45 - Tobera drome N.B.

321:10 6 hrs - 25 min

207 - C.R.T.C.

XXXIX 1-29-45 Wewak N.G.

325:40 04 hrs - 30 min

805 - C.R.T.C.

XXXX 1-31-45 Wewak - N.G.

330:10 04 hrs - 30 min

957 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXI 2-2-45 Tobera drome N.B.

336:50 06 hrs - 40 min.

957 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXII 2-5-45 Wewak New Guinea

342:10 05 hrs - 15 min

957 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXIII 2-6-45 - Tobera drome (N.B.)

348:25 06 hours 15 min.

858 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXIV 2-8-45 - RABUL - N.B.

354:45 06 hours - 20 min.

112 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXV 2-11-45 Wewak New Guinea

358:50 04 hrs - 05 min.

004 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXVI 2-12-45 Rabaul N.B.

365:10 06 hrs - 20 min

985 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXVII 2-13-45 - Wewak N.G.

369:35 04 hrs - 25 mins

997 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXVIII 2-14-45 Rabaul N.B.

376:00 06 hrs - 25 min

112 - C.R.T.C.



MY BUDDIES

IN THE SERVICE



XXXXIX - 2-15-45 - Wewak N.G.

380:35 04 hrs - 35 mins.
918 - C.A.T.C.

XXXX 2-16-45 Babaul N.B.

386:50 06 hrs - 15 mins.
456 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXXI 2-18-45 Wewak N.G.

391:45 04 hrs - 55 min
207 - C.R.T.C.

XXXXXII 2-20-45 Babaul N.B.

398:10 06 hrs - 25 min.
997 - C.A.T.C.

XXXXXIII 2-21-45 Wewak N.G.

402:55 04 hrs 45 min.
775 - C.B.T.C.

~~Correction~~

XXXXXIV 2-2-45 Babaul (turned back)

404:20 01 hr 25 min

C.A.T.C.

No Good

~~True record of~~

~~402 hrs. & 20 mins.~~

~~Flew to Clark Field, Near Manila~~

~~& Back to Mindoro, to be etc.~~

~~Counting as combat time: 06:10~~

~~True record to date of:~~

~~408 hrs - 30 minutes~~

~~100-Points Even~~

The dirty Bastards didn't
count the damn thing as
combat, as they said they
would. Still need 02 hrs
& 40 minutes to finish!

XXXXXIV 3-22-45 - Luzon

Hrs 405:25

03 hrs - 05 min

Ground Support.

Missions 54

Hoping this does it!



★ ★ OFFICERS

2nd Lt Hallahan - Pilot
1st Lt Mathew

2nd Lt Kenyan - co-pilot
Albert - deceased - ? 6-6-44

2nd Lt Bohman - Bombardier
William - deceased - ? 6-6-44

2nd Lt Bischoff, - navigator 8-5-44
William - deceased - ?

Re assigned these officers at
March Field when we lost
the old crew of officers.

"Deceased" were killed in
action in New Guinea



I Colonel Jack

Commanding officer of
our group at Wards Dome
at Port Moresby New Guinea
Shook hands with him.

II Major Cronin, Commanding
officer of 43 Bomb Sq, 64th Bomb
Sq, Nadzab New Guinea

III Blane, Captain, our flight surgeon
same place as Major Cronin

IV 1st Lt Shankle

Piloted my first combat
mission to Hansa Bay 4-22-44

Captain Mac Donald Donough
Intelligence officer
of 64th Bomb sq.
Nadzab New Guinea.



OFFICERS

I HAVE MET



Major

Captain Mulligan, C.O. of
64th preceding Major Cronis
(Major) Captain Sargent - Piloted
my 7th mission - Biak Island
2nd Lt. Adams

Bombardier on Biak and
Kalmahara Raid. nice guy.

1st Lt SWARTZ - Piloted my 22nd mission
2nd Lt Foote C.O. Piloted my 25 & 26 mission
2nd Lt Harper - Piloted my 27th mission
1st Lt PCHUS - To Clark Fld & Mindoro

6 - H - HH - Sun
Took off at 1115 to Bomb Conway
East of Biak Island. Could not
find it. Intercepted by seven
Jap zeros at Biak. My first
time to see them and got to
fire around a 100 rounds.
One was shot down, don't
know who got him although
four ships claimed him.

We have met the enemy and they are ours.

—Oliver H. Perry

117
About to run out of gas we
landed at Halandia for
the night. Sure was
sweating it out. Ready to jump.
St Kenyon & Bohman are reported
missing crash landing. No
confirmed reports as yet.
We landed at 2330 for a total
of 12 hrs + 15 mins.

6 - 5 - HH - Mon.

Left Halandia for Nadzab at 1200.
got home at 1620, H. hrs + 20 min.
for a grand total of 16 hrs - 35 min.
Saw lots of wrecked Jap planes
at Halandia. A very pretty place.
The good Lord was sure with us.

6 - 6 - HH - Tues.

Layed around all day. Went
to show at 1800, saw "The Last
Woman". Pretty good
picture.



A sound mind in a manly body.—Homer

Kenyon - Bohman lost

6-7-44 - Wed.

Chuck & I are on good
and H.P. today. Ah Boy! - Boo!
I heard ship 991 that Kenyon
& Bohman were on was
found wrecked. Maybe the
crew is safe. We're hoping.
This damn business is a
slow process of elimination.

6-8-44 Thurs

Woke 0330 - Brief 0430 - Took off
at 0600 - Landed at 1710 for
11 hours - 10 minutes. Bombed Jap
positions at Biak Island.
Yanks took Makmer dome in
the morning. We can bomb the
Phillipines from there.

Went to show at 1830, saw
Joe E Brown - IN CASANOVA IN BURLESQUE

6-9-44 - Fri

Spent day lazily on sack.

He who commands the sea has command of everything.
—Themistocles

6-10-44 Sat.

Layed around all day. Show
at 1900 - "Jack London"

6-11-44 - Sun

Paid at 1130 - 18 pounds.
Went to church, Burns & I

6-12-44 - Mon.

It. Kenyon & Bohman are listed
as killed in action. God
Bless those two swell fellows.
Show at 1900. I thousand

6-13-44 - Tues

Show at 1900 - "I thousands cheer"
on a bit for mission tomorrow.
May the Good Lord bring us
back safely. I was replaced
with another gunner today.
All went except King & I.
King is on D.N.R. - W. Lathin recan.
so I'm not missing anything
except some easy combat time.
Sure would like to have went
with them.

Advantage is a better soldier than rashness. — H. G. Bohn

6-14-44-Wed.

Layed on the sack all day being as all the boys were flying except King & J.

6-15-44-Thurs.

Another day of rest, went to show at 1500 - "Abbot & Costello" in "Hit The Ice".

6-16-44-Fri.

Heard Tokyo was Bombed by B-29's Layed around all day again, kept for gathering up of some deceased crew men's belongings.

6-17-44-Sat.

Chemical warfare lecture at 0830 Got a letter from Bertha Stone who lives with the Wandells.

6-18-44-Sun.

Layed around all day & wrote letters. Went to Church with Burns & King.



When faith is lost, when honor dies,
The man is dead!—Whittier

6-19-44-Mon

Another day of Sack time

6-20-44-Tues

Alerted at 1100, as Jap convoy is sighted up in north west sector. Sweating it out this morn.

6-21-44-Wed

To bomb Noemfof Island beyond Biak Island. Took off at 0615.

✕ Missed the target, hit in water



Landed at Wabell on 3 engines at 1345. Had engine fixed, carried five men to Hollandia, landed on wrong strip 3000 ft long. Left Wabell at 1500 landed Holland at 1630 (cyclips dome) Stayed all night at Headquarters. H

6-22-44-Thurs.

Afraid to chance taking off on short run way. so stripped plane of guns, ammo & all loose articles and hauled them over to Centania strip (7000 ft long)

He that respects himself is safe from others.—Longfellow

8-1-44 - Tues

Detail all morning. Cleared off our area in evening and dug a new fox hole.

8-2-44 - Wed

Worked on our area & fox hole. Airt at 0130, no Bird tho.

8-3-44 - Wed Thurs

Cleared Brush, went swimming and a show at 2000.

8-4-44 - Thurs Fri

Bombed Bacla, P-38 corner, a few zeros around but 38's kept them off. This + 10 minutes - 0805 to 1510. a little flak.

8-5-44 - Fri Sat

St Bischoff our old navigator was killed as his ship blew up over the target. one man Bailed out. Hope it was Bischoff. Layed around

Health and good estate of body are above all gold, and a strong body above infinite wealth.—Ecclesiasticus XL: 15

Killed

and tried my luck at fishing¹³¹ with Holohan, to no avail.

8-6-44 Sat Sun

Worked in area all day.

8-7-44 Mon

Detail Burning brush. Worked like hell putting up a tent. On alert for a mission tomorrow. Good Lord, please be with us.

8-8-44 - Tues

Woke 0530 - Brief 0630 - Take off 0755 To Bomb Sakla in the Holmahan but couldn't find the target for the bad weather. Came back by Managuari and all chopped out Bombs but us. Weren't told we were going to Bomb. Sat a few bursts of flak flak close. Our ship was hit in a couple places. Landed at 1500 This + 5 minutes combat time 150 hours + 35 minutes

The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight.—T. Roosevelt

134 in the Halmahara Islands.
Weather turned us back, so
Bombed secondary target at
Manokwari New Guinea (Dutch)
Lot of ack ack, but we were
lucky. Combat time of T hrs +
35 minutes - 0710 to 1415

8-14-HH - Mon

Pulled detail from 0800 till
10:30, Chuck + I went fishing
with dynamite, but no
luck. Received a camera from Dal.

8-15-HH - Tues

Loaded Bombs from 0330 till 0630
Stayed around all day, show
at 2000. on alert for a mission
tomorrow. Buy War Bonds!
Lord, be with us all.

8-16-HH - Wed

Wake 0400, Brief 0500, took off
at 0640, landed 1425 - T hrs - 45 min.



XVIII

Bombed "Miti" airdrome in
the Halmahara Islands, a "grain
run", no opposition. Halahan
me fly the plane a little
on the way back. Done pretty
good for my first time

165 hours + 55 minutes

Got a letter from my Aussie
girl friend Beryl.

8-17-HH - Thurs

Built me a garden fence, plan
some seeds. My garden is com
along fine. Show at 2000
K.P.O. for tomorrow me + Burns.

8-18-HH - Fri

Pulled K.P. all day with
Burns. on alert for tomorrow
for a mission. Lord, be
over us please. Bring us
all back safe & sound.

He who loves not his country, can love nothing. —Byron

Difficulties are things that show what men are.

—Epictetus

10-4-44 - Wed

K.P. all day!

Today was a great day of sorrow for me, my crew members, and fellow men of the 64th Bomb Sq. Ship 867 blew a tire & exploded on take-off, leaving Lt. Forde's combat crew. All were killed instantly except for the co-pilot, Lt. Ireland, who was blown clear of the plane & suffered light burns & injuries. Among the deceased was S/Sgt Hyman Jacobowitz, my assistant engineer, who came over with us on our crew. "Jake" was the fourth one on our crew we have lost. I'm sorry for all the bad things I've said to Jake & all the wrong deeds I've done him.

The United States is the only country with a known birthday.—James G. Blaine

Jake killed 10-4-44

I never realized how much I liked him or what a really swell crew member he was until this terrible thing happened. I pray the Lord will forgive me for all I've said against Jake. He would do anything for us guys & give us anything he owned if we wanted it. He lived in the tent with Burns & I & shared my flat with me in Sydney when we were on leave. We lost a swell friend and buddy when Jake left us. He paid the supreme penalty for his country & loved ones. May the Lord rest his soul in Heaven forever.

I get ahead by fighting hard,
But fighting keeps my spirit strong.

—S. E. Kiser

Amen.



10-5-44 - Thurs.

Thomason, King, Wisnack,
Burns & I attended Catholic
Mass for the deceased crew
today at 12:30. Was silent
but nice. At 1315 we went
to Biak Island, directly across
from our old base to attend
the funeral. Three chaplains
conducted services while thirty
six officers & men of our
organization held a large
beautiful star spangled banner
over the coffins, while the
rest of us stood in tribute
of four ranks. The day was
calm and clear with a bright
sun shining down over the
white crosses that marked
the final resting place of
athus who have given their

Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.

—Daniel Webster

all for their country. Most
of them were Infantry of
the Sixth Army who fought
the winning Battle for
our base on Biak. The
Cemetery was very neat with
white coral sand and lay
out in neat rows with a
large flag pole & beautiful
flag at front and center.

We will always remember
those boys & carry on to
victory so that they shall
not have died in vain.
My most humble sympathy
goes to their loved ones
whom the war will never
be over for, as memories
of their loved ones will
make the war forever present
in their minds & thoughts.

A man should be upright, not be kept upright.

—Marcus Aurelius

10-6-HH-Fri

Layed around all day. Sight
Class at 1330 - Show at 2000

10-7-HH-Sat.

Done nothing today either. The
boys went back to the Philippines
again. none of my crew went.

10-8-HH-Sun

an uneventful day - Sat around
all day. no strike went out.

10-9-HH-Mon.

Lymphoid fever shot. Dental check
no mission today. Sat on my sack.
Took a couple pictures this evening.
Pay call at 1730 - Haven't been paid
in three months. Oh Boy!

Paid 612 Guildens av = 832H.36

10-10-HH-Tues

Last night at 11 P.M. the boys
were woken for a mission
to Barma. Chuck, King, & Joe

General Taylor never surrenders.

-Crittenden's reply to Santa Ana

Went on it. They were
~~intercepted~~ intercepted by 50
Zeros, Ack Ack, & Aerial Bombs.
Two or three of our
ships were hit, one tail
gunner killed. 65th lost one
man, a navigator. The 22nd Bom
Sqr lost five B-24's with
50 to 60 men aboard. Between
all the squadrons, about 18 Jap
planes were shot down, our
fighters went in later with
the 13th Air Force & accounted for
about 16 more. Chuck has
credit for one zero. Would
liked to went on it, But
my chance is coming.

10-11-HH-Wed.

Burns & I went to Engineer class
yesterday & today at 0800. The
boys came in at 1400, after
spending the night in Maratai, in
the Balmahara.

Only free peoples can hold their purpose and their honor
steady to a common end.—Woodrow Wilson

10-17-HH-Tues

Added to my tan a bit.
King & Joe went to the P.I.'s
I'm on the Alert to fly
tomorrow. Going to the
Philippines. My first trip
up there. May the Lord
ride with us & bring
us back safely.

10-18-HH-Wed.

Wake 0330, Brief 0430 - take off 0630
Weather kept us from going to
the Philippines, so we bombed

XXVII Menado town in the Celebes.

Only one burst of ack ack.
Flew with Lt Harpers crew, a
new crew with 100 hrs. nice mission
Time of 09:30 hours.
Miss pour show at 2000. None
of the other boys on
our crew flew today.

239 hours to date.

Arise, go forth, and conquer as of old.

—Tennyson



10-25-HH-Wed.

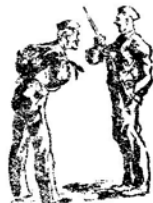
Had Briefing at 2415 last night.
Look off at 0720. Went after japs
naval ships in the Philippines.
Sighted one Cruiser & one destroyer.
Missed both of them. Landed
at 1320 at Morotai in the
Kalmaharas, took off at 1415, landed
at Owi at 1750. Flew with
Lt. Harper. combat time of 11 hours.
Total flying time of 14 hrs. 35 min.
making me a total of 250 combat hours.

10-26-AA-Thurs

Nothing doing much. Same old -
Wrote Betty & Bertha.

10-27-HH-Fri.

I had K.P. in the afternoon.
King, Chuck & Joe took off for
Morotai at 1400, to stage out
of there tonight to hit
the japs. convoy in the
Philippines.



One brave deed makes no hero.

—Hittier

10-28-HH-Sat.

The boys stayed over at
Morotai. May pull another
mission before they come
back. One navy is sinking
-till out of the japs fleet
who is trying to reinforce
their troops on Leyte, where
our troops are picking him
out of them in the Philippines.

10-29-HH-Sun

Boys came in at 1300. Couldn't
find the convoy, so they bombed
& strafed an air field. Sure
wish I had been there. I
layed around all day & wrote letters.

10-30-HH-Mon

Lecture at 0800 on insurance
and "U.S. Bill of rights". Layed
around all evening. Showed
at 2000. Pretty good.

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

—Alfred Tennyson

10-31-44 - Tues.

on alert to fly a practice of take-off & landings. Didn't go. Evening off. on alert for a mission tonight. Wake is to be at 1130 PM, Briefing at 1230, and take off will probably be around 0200 in the morning. Dear God, please bring us back safe & unharmed, please? signing off for a short nap for the hard day ahead of me. Good luck, Johnny Boy.

11-1-44 - Wed

Hooray! Made it okay. Thank God. Took off at 0225. Bombed a Jap airfield on Cebu island in the Philippines. one bomb stuck in the bomb bay and I went out & released it with a screw driver. Landed at Middelburg Island

The Government of the United States is a device for maintaining in perpetuity the rights of the people.—Calvin Coolidge

an refueled at 1555. Took off at 1645, landed at Owi at 1815. 13 hrs, 30 mins. of combat time. 1 hr + 30 minutes combat gone time. 15 hrs in all. Flew with Lt Harper & crew. nice mission.

11-2-44 - Thurs

Layed around all day & rested up a bit. on alert to fly again tonight. Back to the Philippines I guess. God, please be with us. Wake at 2345. It's now 2115, going to lay down for a spell. Good luck.

11-3-44 - Fri

1800 O'clock: Mission last night was called off. I was sorta glad too. Layed around all day. on alert tonight at 2220 for the same mission. God be with us all if we go tonight.

In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright.

—Arthur Hugh Clough

11-H-44-Sat.

Wake 2220-Brief 2320-take off 0105
 Bombed same place as the 1st
 of Nov. Cebu Island, near Cebu
 town, second largest in the
 Philippines. Bombed gap air
 strip with 1000 pound bombs.
 Intercepted by about 10 zeros.
 None of us were hit. Two
 probables were claimed. One
 started pouring smoke as I
 was firing at him. Refueled
 at Sansapor New Guinea.

12 hrs 35 mins combat time. one
 hour & 35 mins combat zone time.
 Had moderate inaccurate
 ack ack. all went well
 and was a nice mission.
 We thank the Lord for
 our safe return.

total home to date - 276:05

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should
 do to you, do ye even so to them.—Matthew VII: 12

Packing up, ready to move to Leyte
 Island in the Philippines

11-5-44-Sun

Layed around all day packing
 my things together!

11-6-44-Mon

Worked in the squadron all
 day preparing for the move.

14-7-44-Tues

Wrecked Buildings all day. Loaded
 one stuff on the L.S.T. from
 1600 to 2230. Went back to the
 squadron, bathed, took my baggage
 and went aboard the L.S.T.
 Slept an deck, rained and
 got everything wet. Chuck,
 King, Blyns, & Wisnack stayed
 at Oni to continue flying.
 I was the only one to come,
 as I have been flying
 with Lt. Harpus crew, as
 his Engineer has
 been on D.N.I.F.

(Luphus Victim)

He who would save liberty must put his
 trust in democracy.—Norman Thomas

(* Duty Not involving flying)



11-8-HH-Wed.

Shifted equipment and loaded trucks aboard all day. Slept on deck & it rained again.

11-9-HH-Thurs

1st day at sea - sailed at 1030, picked up Convoy at Wendt Island near Oubi. Sailed on course at 1800. on deck - no rain!

11-10-HH-Fri.

2nd day at sea - Hot as hell on deck, read a book all day. no rain

11-11-HH-Sat.

3rd day at sea - on watch from 0400 to 0800. Rough sea, read all day.

11-12-HH-Sun

4th day at sea - took some pictures of the Convoy. 47 ships in all, with destroyer escort.

11-13-HH-Mon.

5th day at sea - Rained last night,

The memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example is the legacy of heroes.—Disraeli

had a tarp over us. Guard from 1200 to 1600. In Enemy waters now.—

11-14-HH-Tues.

6th day at sea - Rained last night. Had two alerts today. Several men were killed when a jap fighter strafed an L.S.T.

11-15-HH-Wed

7th day at sea - one alert early. Arrived at Leyte Island in the Philippines at 1000 under a smoke screen. Worked from 1030 to 1800 unloading onto the beach, so place the initial landing was made 10-20-HH. Rained on all day. Had two alerts, but no Japs. Came down to the beach.

11-16-HH-Thurs.

I stayed at the Beach in charge of a crew of men to load trucks while part of the boys went to

I believe in Democracy because it releases the energies of every human being.—Woodrow Wilson

11-25-HH Sat

Cleaned the area around our tent. Three air raids from 2100 to 2400. Lots of fireworks.

11-26-HH-Sun

Tipped up the tent, layed around all day. Wrote a couple letters.

11-27-HH-Mon

M.P. all day. Several alerts. Japs came over at night.

11-28-HH-Tues

Worked in a detail most of the day. More alerts. Stood Guard on our perimeter against infiltrating japs. Two jap air transports landed near the beach where I was in a rice field and japs picked off 10 or 20 of our men.

40 japs were guessed to have landed here. Alerts, but no japs. I was on guard from 2200 to 0200

It is not an army that we must train for war; it is a nation.—Woodrow Wilson

11-29-HH-Wed

Have the day off, being as I was up last night.

11-30-HH-Thurs.

Morning off, worked on the water tower in the evening. Had one fake alert at 1000. I parksgiving. Very thankful to be alive today. Just another day here tho.

12-1-HH-Fri.

Rained the whole Blessed day. one alert at 2000, no planes appeared.

12-2-HH-Sat.

Worked all day cleaning bunk. Rained this Morn'g + all last night. Mud is as deep to a tall mule. This muddy slinking f'damn hole in the Philippines - Bullshit!

Democracy is on trial in the world, on a more colossal scale than ever before.—C. F. Dole

12-3-44 - Sun.

Layed around all day, supposed to be on detail - But you know me - ? - Few aunts

12-4-44 - Mon

Worked detail part of the day. - More aunts.

12-5-44 - Tues

Washed a few clothes, about all for today.

12-6-44 - Wed

Worked till noon, felt bad all evening. no work. Air raid last night, lots of fireworks. Could hear the bombs coming down.

12-7-44 - Thurs.

"Pearl Harbor day" Three years ago today the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor. Last night they bombed Lytle. Four raids during the night.

Only be thou strong and very courageous. - Joshua 1: 7

Japs tried to land a transport on our air field with a suicide squad of 12 to work on planes. They followed our ships in, but were shot to hell before they landed. The plane burned and killed all 12 japs.

12-8-44 - Fri

Had guard from 0200 to 0600. Layed around all day. Had one aunt at 0500, three during the day. no japs appeared. Our fighters shot down 21 japs yesterday. Major Bong got his 49st and

12-9-44 - Sat.

Rained! Lt. Wajdak + I received orders to go to Madag to be instructors of new combat crews.

Australians

Thunder on! Stride on! Democracy.
Strike with vengeful stroke!

-Walt Whitman



12-19-HH-Tues

Went to Briefing, but didn't get a ride out. Layed around all day. Sat as Hell. Show at 1930, "Laura", with Gene Tierney

12-20-HH-Wed

Went down again but didn't go.

12-21-HH-Thurs

Same thing again

12-22-HH-Fri

Same thing - no go.

12-23-HH-Sat

Didn't fly - Got a Beer & liquor issue. Everyone got stoned But the

12-24-HH-Sun

Christmas Eve - Took eight 1000 pound Bombs as a gift to the Nips on Rabaul, in New Britain. My first Rabaul mission.

Flew with a new crew from the States

Pray devoutly, but hammer stoutly.

—John Ray



12-25-HH-Mon.

Christmas Evening. No Sale, no Santa! Went to see a native Festival they hold for Christmas last night. Pretty good show.

Went again this evening and watched them dance. They were all painted up, with bands of feathers and designs like wild Indians. Women with their tits bouncing. Watched them feed their babies. The old ladies' breasts hung to their nables. We had a nice dinner today and enjoyed the native sights & dances. Took several photos of them - one with the

Two years ago I gave Lauren an engagement ring and also received my draft notice to report the 29th. I was of the worst things that happened to me. Should have been Betty I think.

May fly a mission tomorrow.

It is easier to use a gun than to show courage. —Tomlinson

Good Luck & a Happy New Year Johnnie



150
1-2-45 - Tues

01:25
Took off to fly a mission,
but had to turn around &
come back due to a bad engine.
Washed some clothes. Hell, ain't it?

1-3-45 Wed

Fire one! Bombed Wewak today.
Took off 0745 - 12:20: 4 hrs 35 min.
An easy racket, but more
dangerous than mal combat.

1-4-45 - Thurs.

Bad weather today and
no strike went out. Cloudy
and cool all day.

1-5-45 - Fri

01:25
Fire one! Bombed Wide Bay in
New Britain near Rabaul.
0745 to 1335 - 05 hrs 50 min
A nice mission. Bringing my
time to 304:10

151
1-6-45 - Sat

Didn't go on the strike today.
The boys received accurate
ack. One co-pilot was
hit in the ass in two places,
was hurt pretty bad.

Flew about 40 minutes of
transition with an Aussie crew
this evening. What a crew!

1-7-45 - Sun

No flying today. Washed some
clothes. Layed around all day.
Hope to fly tomorrow. - Maybe.

1-8-45 - Mon.

Flew transition with Owens for
1 hr 30 min. in the morning. Layed
around all evening sick - a old.

1-9-45 - Tues

Feeling terrible today - This damn cold.
Didn't go to the line.

XXXIV
A nation's institutions and beliefs are determined by its
character. - Herbert Spencer

The man-at-arms is the only man.

-Ibsen



1-10-45 - Wed.

Flash! Luzon was invaded today by Yank forces, at Lingayen Gulf, 125 miles from Manila. "We are here to stay!"

Still sick with a cold and feel like hell. Got some mail yesterday. V-Mail from Larrene. (wow!)

1-11-45 - Thurs

Layed around all day, still feeling tough as hell.

1-12-45 - Fri.

Cold's no better. Got some mail today, so feel lots better.

1-13-45 Sat

Layed around all day. Am told Jim is fly to Guadacanal tomorrow. Raining tonight and a little cooler. Hope I go tomorrow, will add another Island to my Collection.

O America! because you build for mankind I build for you.—Walt Whitman

1-14-45 Sun.

Left Nadzab at 0800, landed at Oranienburg on Guadacanal at 1400. Supposed to get some P.V. supplies

1-15-45 - Mon

Took off at 0730, Engine caught fire and had to land. Had to have a new engine installed.

1-16-45 - Tues

Sat around in the red cross all day. Went to the show and got rained out.

1-17-45 - Wed.

Got us another B-24 and made two test hops. Layed around the rest of the evening.

1-18-45 - Thurs

Left Guadacanal at 0700, arrived at Nadzab at 1200 - Wrote me Darling, Betty.

Courage is that virtue which champions the cause of right.—Cicero

184

NO

"36"



1-19-45 - Fri
Fire one! Bombed Wewak 06:25
today 0745 to 1410. Another
milk run. Sure am pestered out!

1-20-45 - Sat

Fired as hell today. Layed around
all day. Sprinkling this evening. Rag!

1-21-45 - Sun

NO

"37"



Fire! Bombed Wewak again.
4 hours & 10 minutes of a hell of
a ride! Damn these recruits.
These new crews are crazy as
hell if I must say so.

1-22-45 - Mon

NO

"38"



uh better one! Bombed Tabua dome
in New Britain - 6 hrs & 25 mins
Sat several letters today - Goodo!

1-23-45 - Tues

Bad weather today and

I didn't fly. King came
by on his way to Sydney.



King

Men of thought and men of action,
Clear the Way!—Charles Mackay

1-23-45

— Chuck, Joe & Burns are going
home. I would be going
Sydney if I hadn't come down.
Damn it to hell!

1-24-45 - Wed

Aussies flew today. Not for me.
Bought a "Burn" watch from
Waldah. Washed some clothes.
May fly tomorrow. - Maybe-??

1-25-45 - Thurs.

Aussies again today day. Not for
me. Layed around all day.
Changed my Philippine & Dutch money
for Aussie Pounds. (100 Pounds)

1-26-45 - Fri.

Aussies again. No go.

1-27-45 - Sat.

Aussies again. No go. Layed
around for another day. - Rain

1-28-45 - Sun

Aussie crews! Layed around all day.

1-23-

Inflexible in faith, invincible in arms.—James Beattie

Chuck - Joe - Burns go home

NO.

1-29-45 - Mon

"39" Fire another run! Bombed Wewak again. Had a good pilot for a change. Pretty good trip. 04 hrs - 30 mins. - my 39th

1-30-45 - Tues

Bad Weather today, no ships went out. Got a shit pot full of mail - 19 letters in fact. Boy, oh Boy! May fly tomorrow - I hope.

NO.

1-31-45 - Wed

"40" Dood it again! Bombed Wewak. 04 hours + 30 minutes. Pretty good trip, considering every thing. May fly again tomorrow.

2-1-45 - Thurs

Rained today. I didn't fly, but six ships went out. Show - no good.

2-2-45 - Fri

"41" Repeat! Bombed Tabua Drame in New Britain. Nice mission.

Fate only picks on the cowards and quitters,
So give 'em both barrels - and aim for the eyes. - Grantland Rice.

2-3-45 - Sat.

Was all ready to fly, but the crew didn't show up. So sat on my butt all day.

2-4-45 - Sun

Flew 2 hrs local as Engineer on a new crew. Flew out over Lae + Finschhafen + back.

2-5-45 - Mon

"42" One time! - Bombed Wewak again. 5 hrs 15 mins. Got back at 1400. A good pilot for once!

2-6-45 - Tues

"43" Buwango! Dood it again. Bombed Tabua airdrome in New Britain. Another good mission. 6 hrs 15 min. Lt. Kill from our squadron came down today to be a inst. Pilot. He said Burns, Chuck, + Joe's airdrome to go home soon in honor for the boys.

So fight I, not as one that beateth the air.

I Corinthians IX: 26

2-7-45 - Wed.

Didn't fly today. Got a 12
can bus issue today. About all.

2-8-45 - Thurs

"44" BANGO! Bombed Rabaul today.
Another good mission. Showed
at 1930 & no damn good!

2-9-45 - Fri

Didn't fly, as there was no
vacancy. Staid all day. Rough!

2-10-45 - Sat.

They took off an hour early,
so I missed the strike. Maybe
tomorrow - maybe.

2-11-45 - Sun.

"45" Wow! Bombed Wewak. Had engine
trouble & came back alone.
Pretty fair mission.

2-12-45 - Mon.

!!!! Bombed Vanakoranau strip
near Rabaul. I'm getting
tired now, damn tired

"46" tired now, damn tired

There is no limit to the noble aspirations which the words
"my country" may evoke.—Dean W. R. Inge

2-13-45 - Tues

"47" Bango! Bombed Wewak again.
Good mission, with a good
crew. - 4 hrs 25 mins. -

2-14-45 - Wed

"48" Again & again! Bombed Rabaul again.
Labuni air field. Damn near
cracked up on landing, otherwise
a nice mission.

2-15-45 - Thurs

"49" Fifty nine! Wewak again and
all well. A nice mission.
Lost about four more to go.
Flew a local with a new
crew this evening for 1½ hours.

"50" Fifty! - 2-16-45 - Fri

Rabaul again. Nice mission
and all well - I think.

2-17-45 - Sat.

Didn't fly home today.
Stayed around all day.

To dare, and again dare, and forever
dare!—Danton



2-18-45 - Sun.

"51" Ray!! Bombed Wewak again.
I had to get out in the Bomb bay
and release 3 bombs. A pretty
good mission. Lt Wajdah went
back today & will try to send my leave
papers down if he can get them. - ???

2-19-45 - Mon

Went out to a ship to fly,
but the plane wasn't ready
in time. I think I'll fly tomorrow.

2-20-45 - Tues.

"52" Suado!! Bombed Rabaul today.
A piss poor crew it was. I
But it counts up. I was Jima
was invaded today by Marines
of the 5th Corps. I think my
Squadron is going there soon.
only 750 miles from "Tokyo"

2-21-45 - Wed

"53"

Again!! Bombed Wewak again
A good crew & Inst. Pilot.
Don't think I'll fly any more
while I'm here. Fiftyth
missions and 402:55 hours
"54" Left out one of 01:25 that I didn't
count, as we turned back, but
it counts as combat time.

194

H.G. May 3-4-45 - Sun

Sent \$200.00 home to Ma,
Went to see H.G. May, my
Cousin who is stationed
at Tacloban, Leyte. A reck check
told me I have 99 points
and only need 02:40 hours
to finish me up. I hope
nothing goes wrong now!

3-5-45 - Mon

They gave me a "gray run"
over Cebu territory to get
my other point in.

I flew with Lt Col. Pettus,
the commanding officer of
the 43rd Bomb Grp. to Clark
field on Luzon, 35 miles
from Manila. Saw Manila
& Corrigador fortress went
from Clark to Mindao. Went
in to the town of San Jose.

54 missions - 403 hrs Main Home

The chief bond of the soldier is his oath of allegiance and
his love for the flag. — Seneca

Col Pettus - Leyte

I think

Bath are a hell of a place
My Squadron is going to
fly. Hope I go. Had to
stay all night at this
ate chaw at V.B.O.

3-6-45 - Tues

Left Mindao at 1030, arrived
back at Leyte at 1230. a
nice experience, and made
me 100 points (I'm hoping!)
Part of the boys were
up when I got back. I
hope I can stay here!

3-7-45 - Wed

(Hing) went to Mindao
yesterday. Stayed around all
day and wrote letters.

3-8-45 - Thurs

Pulled detail for couple
hours, taking down tents
& loading on plane.

Keep conscience clear, then never fear. — B. Franklin

3-9-45 - Fri

Sat on my all all day.
Made me a watch hand
Wrote to "Deer Betty."

3-10-45 Sat

Supposed to fly to
Clark field near Manila,
with the Colonel again,
but was rained out.

an abut to go tomorrow,
if weather permitting, wish
I didn't have to go!

3-11-45 SUN

Flew from Leyte to Clark
Field, to Manila & back
to Leyte. Flew around over
Manila very low. Nothing
there but debris, where
the Japs destroyed the once
beautiful city. Flew over
Carrigida also. It's blown
all the hell also. What a shame.

It is for us and our time . . . to say that right makes might.

—Lincoln

Flew with Colonel Pett
again. Pretty good Joe
Dix home & twenty minutes
Left 0730 - back at 1800

3-12-45 - Mon

Loaded around all day.
Making a watch hand &
writing letters. Needing an
more mission to finish up

3-13-45 - Tues

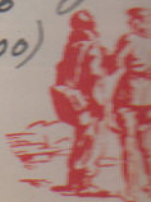
Another day of waiting
& doing nothing. Rained
all day & night.

3-14-45 - Wed

Still Raining, still on
my ass - waiting. Som
day it shall come, I

3-15-45 - Thurs

Still raining. Sitting at
Loaded a plane to go
to Clark Field, (1900-2100)



Paddle your own canoe.—F. Marryat

3-21-45 - Wed

Moved from Lyste to
Clark Field. Stayed in
 a tent for the night temporarily.

3-22-45 - Thurs.

BANG! Flew a ground
 support combat mission
 with St Cremer. Three
 hours & five minutes, which
 should finish my time
 Total time of - 405 hrs & 25 Mins.

3-23-45 - Fri

"54"



3-29-45 - Thurs

Layed around all day,
helped with the daily
inspection of my plane.

3-30-45 - Fri

Good Friday. Went to
town of Angell. ~~Spanish Town~~

~~met~~ met
one plane at 1630. King ~~finished~~ finished his combat time.

3-31-45 - Sat.

Wrote a couple letters.
met the ships as they
came in. Bullied a daily.
Supposed to fly to Mindoro
with Halohan tomorrow.
King is going too.

4-1-45 - Sun.

April Fool! I flew to Mindoro
& brought back a repaired
airplane. Buzzed Manilla
& Carigador. 4 hrs flying time.

If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot
stand. — Mark III: 25

King Halohan

4-2-45 - Mon

Layed around all day
on my ass. Sure we
my orders would come
back okay.

4-3-45 - Tues

The boys Bombed Hong
Kong. Sunk two big ships.
Halohan ship was shot.
Sgt. Hanghai seriously hit
the left leg.

4-4-45 - Wed

Layed around all day, doing
nothing.

4-5-45 - Thurs

Got a pass to go to Lingayen
Sub, invasion place of Luzon.
To see George Hanghai, who
is getting along swell. A
interesting trip and visit.
Saw the Negrito people.

Danger Set

Who hath not served can not command. — John Florio

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

4-10-45 - Tues
Still loafing, Paid for
two quarts of T.G. Whiskey
Big excitement, a gas bomb
dump blew up.

4-11-45 - Wed
Still sweating out my old
Layed around all day, Wish my
oldies would come back.

4-12-45 - Thurs
Our President of the United
States of America, Passed at
this morning at 1100. The one
four term President in History
Going on his first month
of his 13th year of office.
I sure will never be any one
that can take his place as
Leader of America. 'Twas a
Blow the whole
world suffered.

Courage in danger is half the battle.

—Plautus



4-13-45 - Fri

Went over to the old fap pill
boxes and fired a fap rifle.
Went to a show at Elmore.

4-14-45 - Sat.

Straightened out my
recorder and still awaiting
my orders. Been in 19 days
now.

4-15-45 - Sun.

Hired a new plane to Mindao.
Stayed over night at Jolly Rogers.

4-16-45 - Mon

Came back to San Fernando
by C-47. Hitch hiked back to
Clark field. Arrived at 1800.
Went to show, "Sun for Hire."

4-17-45 - Tues

Helped load bombs on
the trailers + uncrating them.
Spent the day leisurely.

A faithful friend is the medicine of life.

—Ecclesiasticus VI: 16

4-18-45 - Wed

Still waiting

4-19-45 - Thurs

Bingo! My orders came in!

4-20-45

Getting things straightened out to
leave soon.

4-21-45 - Sat

Got 5 months back pay \$749.45

4-22-45 - Sun

Took off 10:00, landed at Leyte
at 12:30. Checked in at 93rd replacement
Center. Transportation boss bad.

Flights all full going to states
for same time to come.

Decided to come home by boat.
Came home to SF. on troop ship
USS Billy Mitchell. Damn, was that
a mistake. Longest mission of the
war! Harker - Going Home

Glory is the true and honorable recompense of gallant
actions.—Le Sage

My Prayer of Contribution to
my crew members & fellow
comrades in arms who
have been taken from us:

Oh God, our Heavenly
Father above, I pray that Thou
will take my pals into
Eternal Blessing & enter them
into Heaven. For they have
died for our wonderful country
& our allies country to make this
a better world in which our
decent brotherly love citizens
may live in everlasting peace.
A world that our Holy God meant
to be. A God's world for God's
People who are against war
& its torture & destruction of human
lives. Dear God, see these boys
into Heaven. Please
I say unto thee.
amen.



Ambition, the soldier's virtue.

—Shakespeare

I thus losing four
members of our original
ten man crew it gives us
remains a tendency to think
& wonder if only four will
be lost, and if not, who
will be the fifth. I pray
unto God Almighty to see
the remaining six through
to victory and to return to the
place that will surely
follow. I pray to God that
he shall spare us
who are left from the
terrible fate that has taken
our fellow men so that
we may see the lovely
day when we all rejoice
with our loved ones
in whom we are fighting
the bitter enemy fur.
amen.

We must meet our duty and convince the world that we
are just friends and brave enemies.—Thomas Jefferson

MEET MY DAD, JOHN TAYLOR

My Daddy, **John E Taylor**, was born May 25th, 1923 in Oklahoma City. In his late teens, he moved with his family to San Francisco where he then enlisted in the Army Air Corps in December 1942.

Daddy underwent training at Harlingen Army Gun-nery School followed by flight engineer training at Keesler Field in Biloxi, MS. After completing aerial crew training, my Dad and his crew deployed from Hamilton Field, CA in a B-24. His crewmates were **Lt Mathew Holohan**, **Lt Albert Kenyon** (MIA/KIA Jun '44), **Lt William Bohman** (MIA/KIA Jun '44), **Lt William Bischoff** (MIA/KIA Aug '44), **TSgt Donald King**, **SSgt Charles Thomason**, **SSgt Hyman Jacobowitz** (KIA Oct '44), **SSgt William Burns**, and **SSgt Joseph Wisnack**. TSGT Taylor flew 54 missions and 405 hours as a B-24 flight engineer/gunner with the 64th Squadron during the New Guinea and Philippines campaigns from March 1944 to June 1945. He was discharged from the Service on 2 July 1945.

At war's end, Daddy's family had moved to Tennessee, so he returned there where he met and married a farmer's daughter, Barbara (Bobbie) Fox, on May 7, 1947. They moved to Oklahoma and started their

family; daughter, Toni (me), arrived in 1948 and my sister, Vickie, was born in 1953. Daddy entered Oklahoma City University's technical program, taking courses in refrigeration and electronics and worked these trades as service manager at the Admiral Corporation till 1963. He then was hired at the American Air Lines maintenance base in Tulsa where he worked until retirement in 1989. Daddy and Mother were married for almost 62 years when my Mother passed in 2009.

Memories — When we were young, going to the lake every weekend was our life. Mother had the car loaded with food, clothes, and camping gear. Daddy would hook up the boat when he got home from work on Friday evening. We would travel for two or three hours to set up camp and spend the weekend fishing and skiing. Many times we met friends and had a wonderful time.

A few years ago, Daddy started helping me and my sister do genealogy research on family members that he had never met. We have traveled to Shelton, Nebraska to find the homestead and the gravesite of his paternal great grandfather and to Eula, Arkansas to find the same for his maternal great grandfather.

Daddy is a proud Lifetime Member of the 43rd Bomb Group Association and has attended several past reunions; soon to be 92, more limited mobility has kept him from attending recently. He has provided images of much of his written and pictorial memorabilia to the George Mason University Pacific Air War Archives project for their collection efforts. Daddy also took a personal interest in ensuring that all of his original crew members were honored with an entry in the WWII Registry. He continues to be in touch with the families of many of his crew as well. Daddy loves reading the quarterly Association newsletter and is always happy to help the next generation, those that want to know more about their own Ken's Men. He'd be happy to hear from any of you through email at johnbobbie@sbcglobal.net or at 5133 S. Detroit, Tulsa, OK 74105.

Toni Taylor, Daughter



Take a few minutes to introduce us to your Ken's Men— your Dad or Brother, Uncle or Grandfather. If you'd like to put together a short article so we can better know your veteran, please contact the Secretary at secretary43bggroup@gmail.com