

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN THE DIARY OF MY LIFE IN THE SERVICE

This simple record of my daily experiences and thoughts has given me pleasure in the writing of it. If for any reason it leaves my possession, I would like to have it forwarded to:

Name Mr. Clifford M. Dakus
Address 411 West 12th St.
City Richmond State Virginia



COMBAT MISSIONS IN AUSTRALIA.
AUGUST 24-42. HIT LAKUNAI.

" 27-42 SEARCHED MILNE BAY.
SEPTEMBER 14-42 " " "

" 19-42 CARGO VESSEL VITIAZ
STRAIGHT. STRAFED VESSEL. BURNT
UP GUN BARREL - 1185 ROUNDS.

SEPT. 28-42. BOMBED BUVA. WAS HIT
BY ACK-ACK - FIRST TIME.

OCT. 2-42. HIT RABAU. RUN WAY LIGHTS
ON FOR US. BOMBED AIR FIELD.

OCT. 3-42. RECON. OVER RABAU
FIRST ATTACK BY ZEROS.

OCT. 4-42. RECON OF BUVA TOMADANG
NIL.

OCT. 9-42. BOMBED RABAU WITH
34 FORTRESSES.

OCT. 10. BOMBED RABAU. 10 FORTRESSES.

OCT. 16. RECON. OF KAVIENG.

OCT. 19. TANKER AT BUIN FASI

OCT. 23. 15 FT. FROM TANKER
AT RABAU

All actual heroes are essential men,
And all men possible heroes.

—E. B. Browning



OCT. 25- Blew up Gun boat AT
RABAU. heavy ACK-ACK. ^{on jungle}

OCT. 29. BUNA FIASI. NIGHT FIGHTERS UP.

NOV. 2 BOMBING BUNA CONVOY
ZEROS FIGHTERS INTERCEPTED THREE
MILES FROM TARGET. SHOT DOWN MY
FIRST ZERO FIGHTER.

NOV. 24. LAE HARBOUR. CONVOY ON
FIRE. SUNK 3 SHIPS ON FIRE.

NOV. 27- DESTROYER OFF BUNA.
FEBRUARY ~~27~~ 5-1943.

BOMBED RABAU. HIT BY ACK-ACK.

FEB. 7-43. RECON. OVER GASMAIA.

FEB. 14-43. BOMBED RABAU TOWN
GAS DUMP ON FIRE. COULD SEE
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES.

FEB. 18-43. BOMBED SEA PLANE
BASE AT BUNA FIASI. RAN OUT
OF GAS AT HOOD POINT. FORCED
DOWN AT EMERGENCY FIELD
STAYED IN JUNGLE TWO DAYS AND
NIGHTS. REV. SHORT'S MISSION.

America is the only place where man is full-grown!

—O. W. Holmes

WAS RESCUED BY AUSTRALIAN
PILOT ON A DEHALENT A
HOSPITAL SHIP. ON SUNDAY FEB. 21-43.
FEBRUARY 26. CONVOY MISSION SEARCH
NORTH WEST OF COAST OF NEW BRITAIN.
MARCH 1: SEARCHED NEW BRITAIN FOR
MARCH 3: SUNK CONVOY OFF ^{(CONVOY}
COAST OF LAE. IN THE MORNING
WE BOMBED THE CONVOY SINKING
FIVE SHIPS AND ON OUR RUN
OVER THE BOAT I SAW LT. MOORE'S
FORTRESS GOING DOWN IN FLAMES
FIRE OF HIS CREW BAILED OUT
IN PARACHUTES AND THE SLANT-EYED
DEVILS MACHINED GUNNED THE CREW
IN THEIR CHUTES. REVENGE WAS
SWEET IN THE AFTERNOON. MAJOR
SCOTT'S CREW SUNK A DESTROYER
AND WE WENT DOWN TO 30 FT.
AND SHOT THE HELL OUT OF THE
JAPS IN THE WATER AND IN THE

Every man thinks meanly of himself for not having been
a soldier.—Samuel Johnson

like BOATS. NOT A BOAT WAS
left floating. The JAPS SUN
IS SINKING INSTEAD OF RISING.
LT. MOORE YOUR CREW WAS AVENGED.
God Rest Their Souls I WAS ON SCOTT'S
CREW

MARCH 9. Recon. over WEWAK
ADMIRALTY ISLAND AND LORANGUA ISLAND
AND SATIA ISLAND AND GASMATA.

TWO SMALL CARGO BOATS AND DESTROYER
AT WEWAK. SHOT ACK-ACK AT US.

MARCH 13: STIP BOMBED CONVOY OFF
WEWAK HARBOUR. SUNK TWO SHIPS
believed one TRANSPORT AND ONE
CRUISER. WAS HIT BY ACK-ACK IN
LEFT WING BY BIG SHELL JUST
MISSED NO#1 ENGINE AND NO#1
GAS TANK. MAJOR SCOTT GOT TWO
BOATS ALSO WITH DIRECT HITS
IN MIDDLE OF BOATS. I WAS

ASSIGNED TO MAJOR
SCOTT'S CREW ON 3RD MARCH.
FROM LT. KIRBY'S CREW.

MARCH 15. Recon. over ADMIRALTY ISLAND.
SAW JAP Bomber RUNNING FOR CLOUDS.

MARCH 17. Recon. over FACA BEACH
MADANG AND ADMIRALTY ISLAND.

MARCH 19. Recon. over SHIPPING
LANES AND ADMIRALTY ISLANDS.

LAST MISSION WITH LT. KIRBY I
WAS TRANSFERRED TO MAJ. SCOTT'S
CREW AS SIDE GUNNER FOR HIM.

MARCH 21. WAS ON GUARD THE MORNING
OF SPRING AND WROTE TO BLANCHE
BEFORE GOING TO BED.

MARCH 23. BOMBED LAKUNIA AIRDROME
AT RABAU. USED TWENTY-FOUR
ONE HUNDRED POUND DAISY CUTTERS.
ALSO DROPEd FOUR TWO THOUSAND
POUND BLACK BUSTERS IN VOLCANIO
AT RABAU.

MARCH 27. Recon. over HORN ISLAND
LOOKING FOR GENERAL RAMEY
WHO WENT DOWN. DID NOT FIND HIM.



Righteousness exalteth a nation.

—Proverbs XIV: 34

Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the
inhabitants thereof.—Inscription on the Liberty Bell

SGT. BERKOVITZ had just been TRANSFERRED TO 5TH BOMBER ~~COMMAND~~ COMMAND WAS THE RADIO OPERATOR FOR GEN. RAMEY.
APRIL 12. About ten thirty o'clock in the morning we were raided by the largest formation of Jap bombers ever hit Port Moresby forty six bombers and sixty zero's fighters hit Ward's droche hit oil dump and fuel dump thirty seven enemy planes were shot down. a formation of fifty bombers were turned back at Buna that were supposed to Bomb our field the seven mile drome. The raid lasted twenty five minutes.
April 24. Easter Sunday. Thinking of home and my Darling Blanche, Fred is ankle deep

and a beautiful day. we are looking for another Bombing raid today. wish I was home to take Blanche to church this morning. Lost 537 last night crashed up landing. no one hurt.
On April 13. Maj. McCuller was taking off for a bombing raid and his ship crashed and the bombs went off exploding killed his entire crew and Mike Pay and Pat O'Grady our mess Sgt. was with him they were killed, our honor roll is steadily mounting we have lost three crews, Capt. Henaris, Lt. Andersons and Lt. Moore's and lost Sgt. Snyder first ours Milare Bay ack ack went through his head and came out on left hip.

Just draw on your grit; it's so easy to quit—
It's the keeping your chin up that's hard.—Robert W. Service

The less there is of fear, the less there is of danger.—Livy

M.F.V.
3. Recon. our Sea with
three Generals looking for a
landing field for transports.
General Woods talked with me
and shook hands with me when
he left the ship.
Our crew Major Hustad's that
flew together. The first nineteen
missions received notice today
that our "silver star" that
we had been recommended for
by Major Benson had been
rejected by fifth bomber com.
for blowing up a ammunition
ship in Ratul Harbour on
the 25th of October 1942. And we
did it with only three engines
we risked our backs to do it
and some office pencil pusher
who had never been in a
airplane decided we did not

Establish the eternal truth that acquiescence under insult
is not the way to escape war.—Thomas Jefferson

deserve the medal and stopped
it. I hope he gets all his medals
for bravery. Pushing a pencil.
Guess we will have to suck
half of the job Navy to get
a medal now. I have been
recommended for two D.F.C's
and a aviators medal in
which I hope I will get before
I go down, for we have worked
hard for them. I also had the
silver star coming until
it was rejected. They can
keep their medals, all I want
to do is go home to my
Darling, Blanche, if it was
not for her loving secret smile
and knowing she is waiting
with loving arms for me
I could not carry on
days fighting for this and home
and my country for all it stands
for.

Confidence begets confidence.—Proverb



May 10th Recon. around Southwest Coast of New Guinea with General Whitehead and Met Major C. R. Chase from Richmond Virginia who was Vice-president of the Commerce Bank in Richmond at one time we talked all day on the mission as I was the assistant Engineer and side gunner, Major Chase stayed at the side guns with me, we spotted three zero's, but they would not come in fighting range of our ship, The yellow Comards we had a nice nine hour mission and when I got back to Morshy I had two sweet letters from my Precious Darling Blanche and did they cheer me up, My Darling if only I had her in my arms tonight, my happiness would be complete.

Almost everything that is great has been done by youth.

—Disraeli

On May 5th Captain Hinkle crew took off at six-thirty A.M. on a Recon. mission over Haining and last report of him was twenty minutes from Haining and has not been heard from since. We do not know what happened to them, whether they were shot down or what. The crew were my buddies who I used to fly with we slept in the same tent and sunk two ships at Morwak with Lt. Kirby as our Pilot. The crew were 1st Sgt. Fritz, Engineer, 2nd Sgt. Swartz, 3rd Sgt. Vetter, 3rd Sgt. Etheridge now I am all alone in my tent tonight thinking and wondering about my buddies. The supply Sgt. came in today and took all their clothes and personal belongings I helped pack their clothes, that is the hard part. Happy landings.

When we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen.—George Washington

On May 6th Captain Keatts and crew
took off on Recon. mission for
Kauing, the last we heard from
him was ten-thirty, at Kauing
we do not know what happened
to him and crew, they did not
return. Three of my best buddies
from the Panama gang was on
his crew. 1st Lt. Kachagian, M/Dt
Tennant, and Pfc. Morrison.
Who used to fly on my crew
in Panama and Galapagos Island
The supply Sgt. also got their
Personal belongings, another tent
empty. Our messes are on edge
we are gradually creeping under
the strain. Happy landings fellow
and god rest your souls, we
will carry on for you. What
crew will be next???



When duty whispers low, Thou must,
The youth replies, I can.—Emerson

May 14. What a day. We have been
waiting for that day for a long time.
The first bunch of the 63rd Bomb.
Sqr. left New Guinea for good old
United States and home. I was sure
disappointed at not being on the
first list but all of us can not go
first, but it will not be long until
my turn will come and then I am
praying I will reach home safe
to my Darling sweetheart who has
waited so long for me and when
I get her in my arms she will
be my Darling wife always.
Dear Lord, please see me home
safe and sound is my earnest prayer.
About 8:00 o'clock we had a night
Bombing raid. Three planes came
over we were in the trenches
laughing and joking and we all
got drunk as lords that night.

Independence now and Independence forever!

—Daniel Webster

May 15, at 8:30 o'clock P.M. Three
Jap's Bombers came over us
about twenty five thousand
feet and circled our air
base twice. The ack-ack
was so heavy they had to
turn around before they
reached the target. We all
wear steel helmets for the
Bomb fragments make a
awful whistling sound when
it comes down. No one was
hurt, but we are getting
bombed regular every night.
How much longer can we
hold out with out Replacements.
Our airplanes are just about
wrecked and all our combat
troops are on edge, our nerves
are going fast. God help us
to hold out against the enemy.

Even God lends a hand to honest boldness.—Menander

May 16. Thank God, Reinforcements
at last with four B-24 Bombers and
more coming in every day. So every
one of us happy, just like kids
on Christmas morning. "Christmas
Day" Does that bring back sweet
memories, oh, Darling, if only I
had you in my arms tonight,
but honey, I hope it will not be
long until we are close in each
others arms. I am the luckiest
man in all the world to have
you waiting for me with open
arms. I hope I can make you
happy my Darling, I will do all in
my power, for I will never love
anyone as I love you, your
sweet disposition and sweet
smile will always live in my
heart heart. My love for you
my Darling will never die.

Let it be your pride to show all men everywhere not only what good
soldiers you are, but also what good men you are.—Woodrow Wilson

The Japs Bombed us again last night, they kept us in the trenches about two and a half hours. It ^{was} a beautiful day and we are expecting a big air raid some time tomorrow. I hope I will soon be home where I can get a little rest and quietness with my only true love. Time passes so slow, it seems to drag. Major Scott left our Squadron today and went to our Group as Group operations officer. I do not know who my Pilot will be now as I have made first Engineer and have my own crew to look after. I sure hope I can go home soon. I am so lonely since we lost the last two crews, all of them were my buddies and fine fellows.

A mysterious bond of brotherhood makes all men one.

—Carlyle

May 17. My darling mothers and Brothers birthday. My best friends. God Bless them, hope I will be with them on their next birthday. As I sure miss them so much. Many happy returns of the Day Mother and Clifford, although I am far away from you my thoughts are with you. "Happy Birthday to both of you".
From your loving son and Brother.

May 20. The 64th went on a striking mission last night and our Rahual Harbor. The ack-ack guns hit one plane and it crashed and exploded in Rahual Harbor. and another fortress did not return. They lost two planes and the 60th lost one B-24 the same night. 5th C.O.



Fear not.—Gen. XLII: 23

May 21. One of our new crew B-24 was shot up over Rabaul and three members of the crew were shot up bad. forced landing Soloduea, Buina.

May 22. Received two letters from my sweetheart. worries me for she has not received my letters and I have written her every day for last two months.

May 23. Wrote Blanche a long letter today. Told her about missing me in France. Hope it will not be long.

May 24. Heavy Raid on Rabaul, Rapoko Field, Vanakonan Field and Lakunai. About thirty five fortresses hit at the same time using one thousand pound daisy cutters. our heavy ship was hit center by ack-ack after he dropped his bombs and we saw him crash in the sea at Rabaul Harbour and explode.

We lost five ships of our own and shot down seventeen night fighters. I got three night fighters myself.

May 25. Wrote to my Darling and Clifford today. which I was home. This war is wrecking our nerves. We can not eat or sleep. The dirty Japs keep us in the fox holes at night and it is too damn hot to sleep in the day time. What a life.

May 26. Lt. Derr's crew went to Sydney today. which I could have gone too. Hope to go home soon if I do not I think I will go completely crazy. Nothing to do but wait, wait & wait.

May 27. Bombed Vanakonan Airbase. lost one B-17 crew from Barge ~~Barge~~ Balloon. flew into cable. Cut the ship in two parts and exploded in Rabaul Harbour. ten good men gone. who will be next ??? We

Millions for defense but not a cent for tribute.

—Robert G. Harper

Safeguard the health both of body and soul.—Cleobulus

were hit three times by heavy
ack-ack. one engine shot out
no. 4 engine nine feet of our right
wing shot off. the ship was burning
like a heavy storm when we got home
we were lucky to get back on three
engines. we had twenty-three holes
in our ship. had to crash land
the ship our tires were shot full
of holes. the ship could not get the
landing gear down. set it down
on the crash strip. completely wrecked
the ship it will never fly again
we were buried up pretty bad. my
side gunner and tail gunner
were blown to pieces from two
hits from ack-ack. good fellows too
they gave all they had. got out
their souls. I have been so shaky I
can't write. my time is
about up. liking my



Valor is the soldier's adornment.—Livy

surround time now it is only about
thirteen of my old Panama Pals
left. we can not quit now. we
are scared but it is in our
blood. we have to keep on until we
get it and we know it will not be
long until we follow the rest of
our buddies. I hope we get ours on
the land instead of a watery resting
place. The Ocean is big and wide
and holds its secrets well. if
only they would send us some help
if they don't soon send it, it will
be too late. we will carry on as we
can not quit it is in our blood as
long as we have a plane to fly we
will fly as I get the gitters when I
stay on the ground. if I go out I
want it to be in a flying fortress
it is my favorite as it has carried
me through so far I trust them.

Worth, courage, honor, these indeed

Your sustenance and birthright are.—E. C. Stedman

May 28. What a life, waiting, waiting for what, we do not know. if only I could get home once more, just to see all my loved ones once more, it would be a lot easier to go there. I wonder if I will ever see them again. how it brings back memories of my childhood. My best friend my mother, how I wish I could see her today, it seems only yesterday when she used to sing me to sleep. her tender care for me and her advice will always be with me. every time I go over the target I pray I may be spared to see her again. if only the good Lord will answer my prayer, if only I had my life to live over again, how different it would be. My dear sister, Laura, one in a million, who has shouldered the

burden of home, she always had a little home for us and home means more than the word itself. no one knows better than me. She always has a sweet smile and kind word for me used to give me money when I was broke and I know she couldn't spare it. I often wonder how many times she went without lunch so I could go to the show or smoke cigars. And Clifford, no one ever had a better brother or sister than I have. he would give his shirt off his back to me and do anything in the world for me. it seems only a few weeks since we used to play together. I am so glad that he is happily married. He got the right wife.

Where liberty dwells there is my country.

—Benjamin Franklin

It is better to lose a battery than a battle.

—General Zachary Taylor

when I am on a mission and the song of the engines are a endless throng I think back over my life and can see the mistakes I have made. And think of the task ahead of us it gives me strength to carry on knowing we are fighting for a worthy cause having something to look forward to our homes and loved ones waiting for us. I have a girl that I am blessed with having that is waiting for me, I wonder if I will live to see again. she has made me the happiest man in the world by promising to be my wife and if I live to feel her arms around my neck again, we will be married as soon as possible. she is the only one for me. if I should not live to see her again, I will number

up above, where we will always be together, with no parting, heartaches or sorrows there. when I think of all that is ahead of me, it seems hard to have to give it up, but all I can give is my life for my country and I gladly give my all for their happiness and freedom. that they (my loved ones) may never suffer from invading enemies, slavery, dictator ships and their freedom of their homes and country. we will fight to the last man and airplane, we will give all we have with out a murmur so they can not touch our freedom and we will not loose, we will carry on where the others left off.



He went forth conquering and to conquer.—Rev. VI: 2

Fight the good fight of faith.

—I Tim. VI: 12

May 29. Bombed Wewak Town and air drome. night fighters up but did not contact any.

May 30. Memorial Day. Started a heavy Bombardment on Lea our troops closing in have Lea surrounded, could not bomb except a strip about five hundred yds. long.

May 31. B-24's raided Lea in the day time with P-38's riding top cover for them first raid for them.

June 1. Bombed Rabaul, hit the runways with thousand pound daisy cutters. ack-ack and search lights plenty had.

June 3. Bombed Wewak air drome making twenty Christie's swimmers also other ships around five hundred and thousand pound daisy cutters.

June 6. Wrote to Blanche, while I

was writing one of my buddies brought me a letter from Lea that had mom's, Lura, Clifford, Ellie, Joyce Ann, Lucille's Pictures in it. I feel like a new man after looking at the pictures, at best all I can give, I give gladly my life for them, so they may continue to live happily as they are now. For their freedom and their homes to live as they please I only hope I live to get back to them and my sweetheart.

May 7. Bombed Wewak air drome. make it all right. rather heavy ack-ack. and plenty of search lights. Am writing to Blanche this morning.

~~June 7~~ June 8. Bombed Rabaul shipping sunk two heavy transports.

May 10. Started a bombing raid on Rabaul, is supposed to last thirty days, the ninth Bomb. Sqdn. bombed one night and the next night the 43rd Sq.

June 11. Bombed Lakunia Airbase at 4:38 A.M. hit fuel dump started a fire that could be seen fifty miles away, using four one thousand daisy cutters. heavy Ack-Ack.

June 12. 90th Bombed Rabaul lost one plane that was attached to our squadron a B-24 Bomber Captain Smith's crew.

June 13. We Bombed Umanak Airbase. I will never forget that bombing run as long as I live that was the first time in my life I ever saw a flying fortress turned into a ~~pusht~~ ^{pusht} plane.



We have room for but one loyalty, loyalty to the United States.

—Theodore Roosevelt

when we started our search our the Airbase the search lights picked us up and held us in the lights we were going two hundred and twenty miles per hour on a level flight our Bomber said, "Bombers away" lets go. Then Lt. Cushing picked our fortress in a direct side slipping down so fast we could not move. we pulled up at one thousand feet off the ground going three hundred and thirty miles per hour. I was praying our ship would hold together and it did as soon as we got out of the lights, our Ray equipment picked up a night fighter chasing us. we could hear him coming closer and closer but could not

The cause of freedom is the cause of God.—W. L. Bowles

see him, we kept changing course and finally lost him after twenty minutes, that looked like a hour to me. After we was about fifteen miles away from the target I saw a fortress making his run over the target and either the night fighter or the ack. ack. hit him and set him on fire, he finished dropping his bombs then dived straight in the ground and exploded throwing fire in all directions. God rest their souls they were from the 65th Bomb Squadron. I have been nervous all day and can not sleep, thinking of those fellows and wondering when my turn will come. I want to say one thing for the Flying Fortresses, that

is a ship that can not be beaten as a bomber. They are my favorite ship, and if it is God's will to take me home to him I hope I go in one of them. The mighty monarchs of the air. The most deadly bomber and fighter of its time. The Flying Fortress.

I received three letters from my Darling Blanche today they cheered me up so much and I only hope I will live to see her again is my earnest prayer. June 14. Went on Recon. over Finch Haven and Cape Gloucester saw a Betty Bomber on the ground. A Jap Bomber. we Bombed a Radio station on a Island off Finch Haven. Completed my thirty-light mission today.

The roll of honor consists of the names of men who have squared their conduct by ideals of duty.—Woodrow Wilson

Our country! in her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong!—Decatur

Also Col. Ramsey gave a talk this morning, said in four to six weeks the combat crews would start going home. Boy oh, boy, did that sound good. Home, if only I live to reach home. Here's hoping. And my earnest prayer, Lord let me live to get home once again.

The Japs raided us last night two Bombers, kept us in the fox holes about a hour and a half.

June 15. Dr. Cook our flight surgeon grounded me for three days. Taking a course in medicine. stomach up set and nervous system shot.

June 16, Lost another B-24 crew today two ships crashed together one crew from the 90th saved eight men the ship from 380th the one that was attached to us only one fellow was found and he has not been

identified as his head was off at his shoulders. The supply came in and took all their personal belongings. The crews are going one by one. June 20. still grounded, nurses on the beam.

June 22. wrote to my Darling True love in old Richmond 3206.

June 23. Japs raided Port Moresby and kept us in trenches for two hours it was the 113th time they have raided Moresby. No Casualties.

June 24. Japs raided again. nine Bombers. one was shot down by ack-ack.

June 27. Saturday morning. am sitting on my bunk have just finished writing to Blanche. There are twenty-seven B-25's going over in formation to Bombe Sea. we have started our push on Sea.



The world was never more unsafe for democracy than it is today.—Stanley Baldwin

Dare, will, keep silence.

—William Bolitho

What a day for a bombing raid for
the Japs. We are expecting a big
day light raid over Port Moresby
before long. Hope to go home before
they raid again. Last time they
had one hundred and five planes
in the raid. Wonder how many
they will have in the next one.
Just received a letter from my darling
and we will go to the beach honey.

And you can win, though you face the worst,
If you feel that you're going to do it.—Edgar A. Guest

What can alone ennoble fight? A noble cause!

—Thomas Campbell