



2nd Lieutenant Robert H. Monaghan

World War II Service

Author: LTC Robert Monaghan, His Son

10/1/2014

Revision V1.0



A Service History of Robert H. Monaghan, 407 Wangum Avenue, Hawley, PA

Decorated World War II Veteran and Survivor

Pearl Harbor - Europe Air Offensive - Prisoner of War - Sagan Death March

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FOREWORD

After our Mother died, we found a treasure trove of personal documents relating to our Father's war time experiences. There were letters written home from pre-World War II, while he was stationed with the artillery in Hawaii, and after Pearl Harbor before he went to flight school. His US Army orders, Department of Defense notifications, Red Cross, magazines, newspaper clippings, POW documents, and other documents I found in my Mother's papers enabled me to develop a narrative of his Army life. Letters written to his family also provide his view of the war while in the 306th Bomb Group and the boring life of a Prisoner of War in Stalag Luft III. Also included was a recipe list used to cook meals from various Red Cross rations for his combine.

Most interesting was his diary detailing the Sagan Death March. While much has been written about the Death March, his papers reveal the daily experience from the Stalag Luft III evacuation to his arrival in Stalag Luft IIA in Southern Germany and subsequent rescue by General Patton's Armored Division. By chance I located a member of his Stalag Luft III Combine Charles A. "Pat" Patterson who wrote me about his friend Bob Monaghan. A very complimentary letter!

Our family had known there was a diary, but information was limited and we had the perception the diary was of his time in Stalag Luft III. Unfortunately the prisoners were not allowed to keep diaries as their areas were frequently searched. Our Dad rarely mentioned anything about the war. When he did talk, it was superficial and avoided the realities of war. So we had little information about his war time experience.

Europe was a mystery until we discovered the Neitzel family a published book "The Brothers Snifka in World War I, B-17's and LST's by Ronald E. Neitzel, 1995, Revision 1, 1996. The bibliography sources include records from the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. Snifka Family letters, 367th Combat Diary, discussions 306th Bomb Group web site, including personal interviews with the surviving crew, 2LT Edward Magner, Pilot, 2LT Robert Monaghan, Bombardier, and Sgt Elvin Sexton, Ball Gunner. The B-17G, SN # 053-V and 019-V specifications and histories were pieced together from these and various sources.

The Brothers Snifka in World War II, first revision (1996) was published after discussions with the surviving crew. We are grateful to Ronald E. Neitzel for his research and narrative of his uncle's service in the 306th and who gave our family permission to use his material. The surviving Bomber Crews interviews are very informative. I have added additional details as related by family members, especially Alice Morgan, Bob's sister.

A special thanks to the numerous web sites which provided ease of search and a vast amount of information. Especially the National Archives and Record Administration, 306th Bomb Group Association and Eight Air Force Operations Directory web sites.

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WORLD WAR II SERVICE

Robert H. Monaghan was a June 1937 graduate of Hawley High School. The summer of 1937 (July 7th to August 5th) he attended a Citizens Military Training Camp (CMTC), at Fort George Meade, with Company B. This was an Infantry Basic Course of Instruction held under the auspices of the War Department of the United States. The program allowed male citizens to obtain basic military training without an obligation to call-up for active duty. The CMTC were authorized by the National Defense Act of 1920 as a compromise that rejected universal military training. According to his letter dated July 13, 1937 the food was excellent.

Prior to being inducted, he completed two years at the University of Tennessee (October 1938 to May 1940), majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Students were required to take two years of Military Science and he was assigned to Company A for his instruction. At the request of his parents, he stayed home after his second year to assist his father with the family business.

DRAFTED

Draftee Robert Monaghan received his notice of induction on April 7, 1941. He was inducted into the US Army at the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania Induction Station. Afterwards he was sent to the reception station at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

U.S.A. INDUCTION STA., WILKES-BARRE, PA. April 7, 1941
(Induction Center) (Date)

This is to advise you that

Monaghan, Robert Henry 33 023 437 has been
(Name) (Army Serial No., if accepted)

Hawley, Wayne County RECEPTION CENTER
*accepted for active military service and sent to (Reception Center, Replacement Center, or other installation)

at New Cumberland, Pa
(P. O. address)

where mail for him should be addressed.

~~*rejected for active military service and returned to his home~~

This card to be made out and mailed at Induction Center at time of transfer therefrom.
* Strike out clause not applicable.

W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 202 November 1, 1940 16-18394 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

PVT Monaghan (Enlisted Serial No #33023437) was assigned to Battery C, 2nd Coast Artillery Training Battalion, Fort Eustis, Virginia for training in artillery. According to PVT Monaghan, he volunteered for Hawaii, which was considered an overseas assignment, on the premise it would shorten his time in the Army.

After completing the Artillery Course, Monaghan traveled to Hawaii via the Southern road network across the Mississippi through, Louisiana, Texas, and Mohave Desert, by motor coach to San Francisco.

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HAWAII & PEARL HARBOR

PVT Monaghan departed for Hawaii on the USS President Coolidge in the 2nd Class section of the ship. Upon arrival assigned to Fort Shafter with G Battery, 98th Coastal Artillery. He was re-assigned to the 98th Coast Artillery Regiment (Antiaircraft) (Semi-mobile), Schofield Barracks, Oahu, HI, where he served from August 1941 to April 1942.

He was Gun Commander for the 37mm anti-aircraft gun team. According to a letter written to his Mother, they were excellent gunners as their range marksmanship was commended by the Commanding General.

In November 1941 he was transferred to Headquarters & Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 98th Coast Artillery in the drafting section. PFC Monaghan was promoted to the rank of Corporal 17 January 1942.



He must have been a model soldier as he was appointed to a Special Provost Detail with orders to deliver to their respective organizations all soldiers of the 98th C.A. (AA) found in the Navy Beer Garden after 1730 daily.

Private Monaghan had expected to go home in February 1942, but not later than July. Initially he was told by his superiors their departures to the US mainland depended on what Hitler would do, but the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor changed everything. On December 7th he was in Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, Hawaii. The Japanese planes strafed the beaches causing the sunbathers to flee into the ocean.

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FLIGHT TRAINING

After seeing a poster for Flight Cadet, Robert volunteered for flight school. Corporal Monaghan was recommended by his commanding officer and the officer candidate review board. The Patrick Monaghan family was notified that their son Bob was selected for pilot training in a letter dated 18 March 1943. Aviation Cadet Monaghan was assigned to Squadron 45, Santa Ana Army Air Base (SAAAB), Santa Ana, California, where he completed nine weeks of Pre-Flight Training School. His eye sight prevented him from becoming a pilot.

Cadet Monaghan was selected for Bombardier training and was transferred to Bombardier School on 26 June 1943 at Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF), Roswell, New Mexico. Cadet Monaghan graduated AAF Bombardier School, Class WFTC 43-15 on 23 October 1943 (Personnel Orders 54). Upon completion of basic flight training and advanced bomber instruction the Bombardier Badge was awarded.

Cadet Monaghan was discharged on 22 October 1943 completing 2 years, 7 months and 6 days of enlisted service. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Army of the United States (AUS) the following day (Serial No #O-757904), Roswell Army Airfield, Special Orders No. 296, dated 23 Oct 1943.

Upon commissioning 2LT Monaghan is assigned to HQ, 1st Replacement Wing, Army Air Base (AAB), Salt Lake City, where he joins a crew led by Pilot 2LT Edward Magner. While at AAB Salt Lake City, Utah he authorizes \$50.00 allotment of pay to his father for an indefinite period. On December 28, 1943 the "Filler" crew is re-assigned to the 419th B Headquarters & AB Squadron, Army Air Field, Dyersberg, Tennessee for nine weeks of B-17 combat training, to arrive NLT 31 December 1943. The crew is assigned to the 364th Combat Training School where they receive special instruction in formation flying, bombing and night flying.

Departing Dyersberg they travel to Kearney, Nebraska where they picked-up a B-17 to fly to Europe. In February 1943 they leave for Europe with stops at Albany, NY; Manchester, NH; Goose Bay, Labrador; Reykjavik, Iceland (to refuel) and proceeded on to Nutts Corner, Ireland. The plane is refitted and the crew proceeded to Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England, the home of the 40th Combat Wing, 306th Bomb Group (Heavy). LT Monaghan is 21 years of age when he arrives in Thurleigh, England.

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Circa Dyersburg, TN Crew

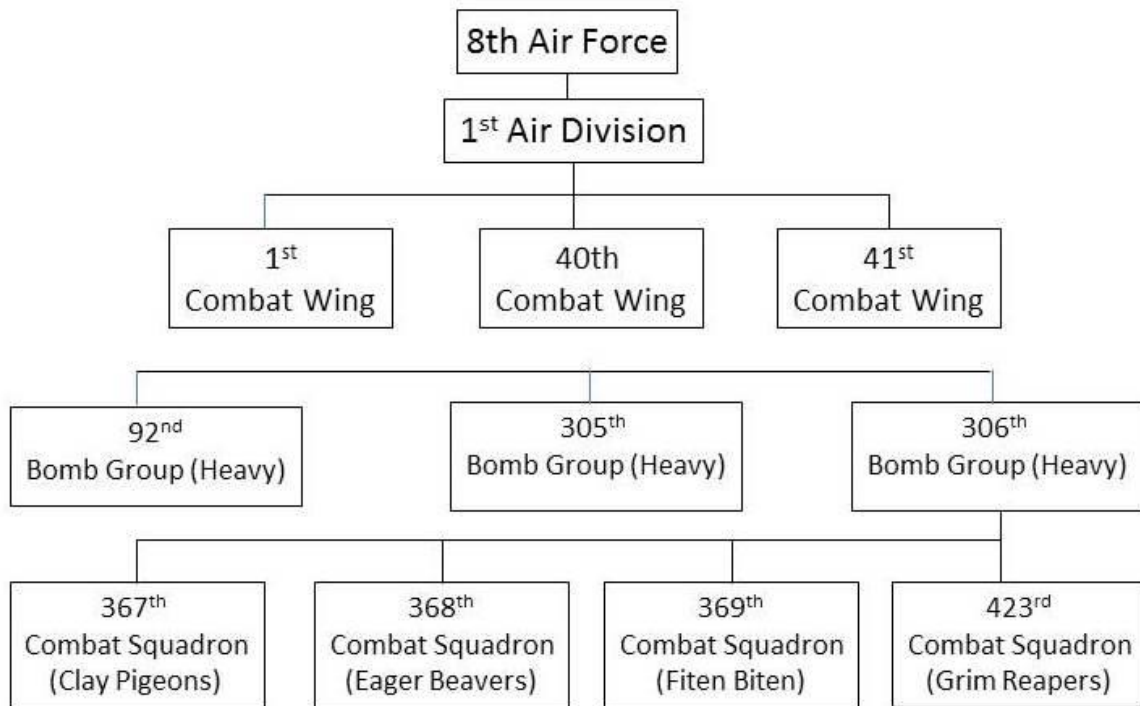


BACK: Bob Monaghan, Bombardier;
Bud Snifka, Top Turret Gunner;
Unknown, Ball Turret Gunner;
Tommie Martin, Waist Gunner;
G. Eggleston, Radio Operator

CENTER: Joseph Stewart, Tail Gunner;
Paul Chapman, Navigator;
Edward Magner, Pilot

FRONT: John Seidecki, Waist Gunner;
Robert Dobson, Co-Pilot

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* Each Squadron organization had 12 to 13 B-17 heavy bombers

306TH BOMB GROUP (HEAVY), 8TH AIR FORCE

Activated March 1, 1942 at Gowen Field Idaho, the 306th Bomb Group (H) (flying B-17s) was assigned to the 8th Air force in England in August - September 1942. The 306th operated from Thurleigh, United Kingdom flying missions against strategic targets in France, Belgium and Germany. Group was deactivated in Germany, 25 December 1946. Campaigns: Air Offensive Europe, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe. Decorations: Distinguished Unit Citations Germany, 11 January 1944; Germany 22 February 1944

ILT Beirne Lay; Administrative Officer of the 306th collaborated and co-wrote the book/screenplay, Twelve O'clock High. The book was later made into a movie and a TV Series. The Bomb Group in the movie and on TV was the 918th (306 times 3). Daylight bombing missions took a toll on the 306th. The Group flew 341 Combat missions, lost a total of 177 aircraft, 782 men killed in action, 145 wounded in action, 885 prisoners of war and 44 evadees. On three occasions the 306th lost ten aircraft and crews on a single mission.

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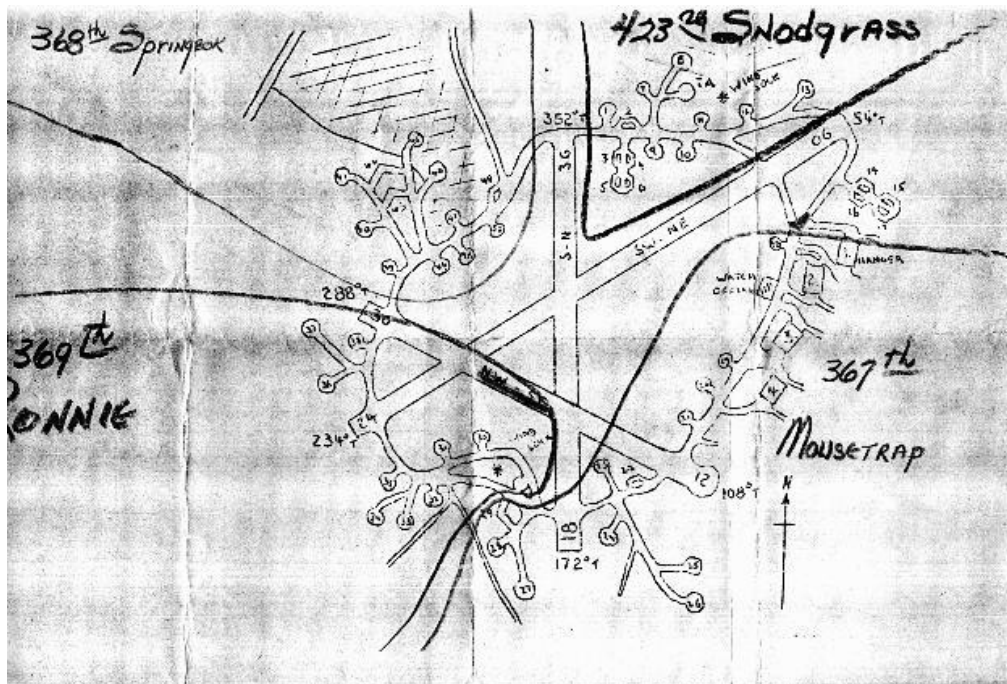
367TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 306TH BOMB GROUP (H), 8TH AIR FORCE



The crew is assigned to Army Air Station 111, 367th Bomb Squadron (The Clay Pigeons), Code GY, 306th Bomb Group, 8th US Army Air Force headquartered at Thurleigh. The squadron was named Clay Pigeons due to the heavy losses the squadron experienced. On one mission in 1944 only one B-17 returned and there were insufficient aircraft and crews to fly missions. The 2LT Magner crew was “filler” for 367th Bomb Squadron. After arrival, the crew spends several days of indoctrination. The pilot (2LT Magner) flies with other experienced pilots before the crew joins the squadron on combat missions.

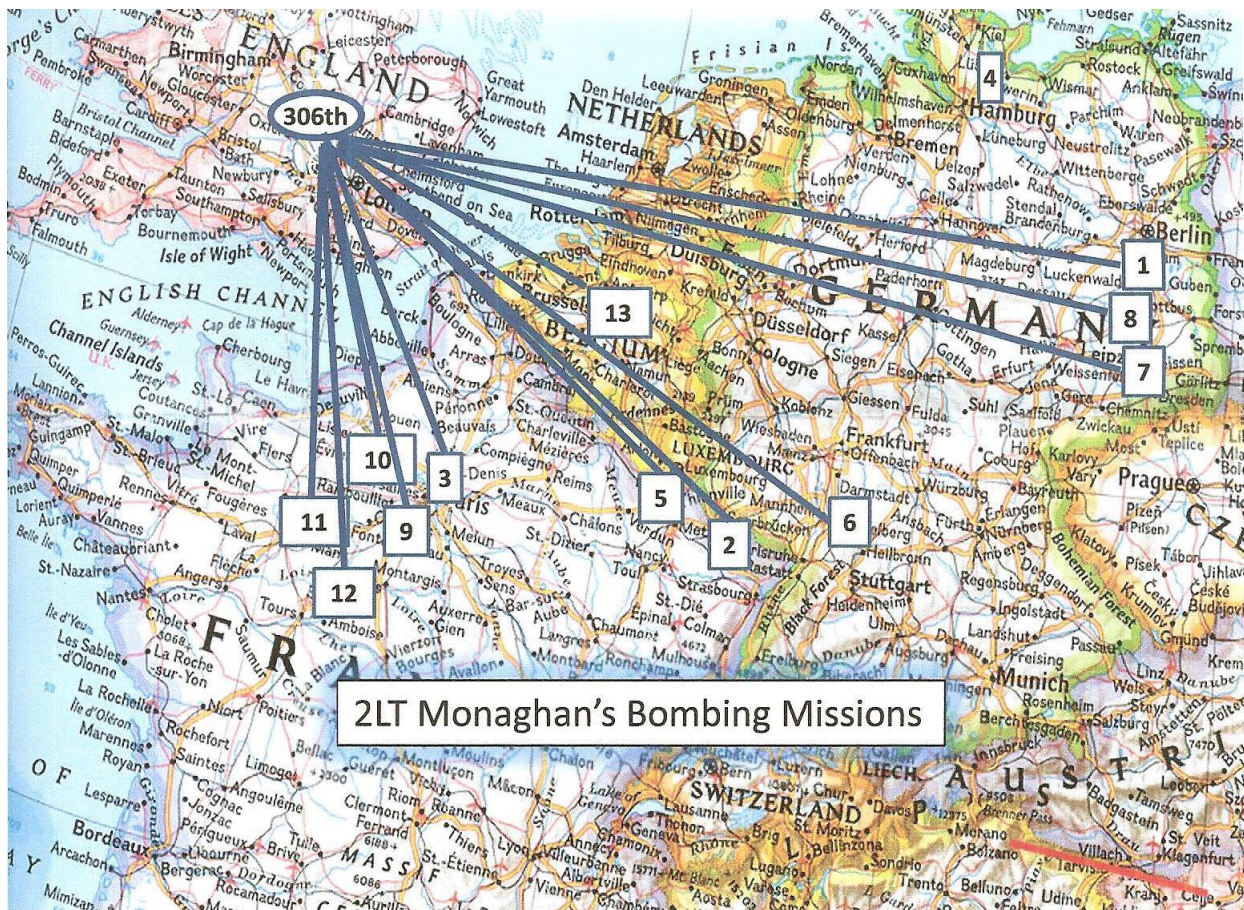
He liked the English people, but could not understand those with heavy Scottish accents at first. Food was better than Hawaii and in the evening they went to the local pubs. He enjoyed the camaraderie and said “it was a lot of fun.”

Army Air Station 111, Thurleigh, England



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COMBAT MISSIONS



The combat wing flies in close formation at 20,000 to 30,000 feet at temperatures to 60 degrees below zero in adverse weather conditions. Pilots with less than 100 combat hours fly in close formation - fifty feet from the wings other aircraft. The crews wear heated suits, oxygen equipment, Mae Wests and parachutes.

Mission #1 Berlin, Germany 4 May 1944

The mission is to bomb Berlin. 2 LT Monaghan flies as Bombardier with 1LT McGuire's crew on B-17 #042. The mission was recalled after crossing the Dutch coast. Group and combat Wing assembly OK. Between points "C" and "1" ran into muck. Groups lost sight of each other and broke up. Dropped from 12,000 to 9,000. 40th reformed and started climb. Crossed enemy coast 0945 at 18,000. Recalled at 10:08. Encountered inaccurate flak on way out and on way home. Brought back all bombs and leaflets.

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Mission #2 Saarbrucken, Germany

11 May 1944

The assignment is to bomb railroad marshaling yards. Encountered severe flak. The crew is flying B-17, tail number # 053U as one of 18 aircraft of the 306th low group. Run was made at 1900 hours but target was not bombed. They circle and make a second run with poor results. On the first run # 053U is hit with flak and loses #3 and #4 engines and half the oxygen system. The aircraft lose altitude rapidly and bombs are slaved to lighten the load. With two engines gone the aircraft could not make it over the Alps, so they head back to England. B-17 # 053U joins another group head for the French coast, but is unable to keep up and loses the formation. Four P51's meet and escort the aircraft to England. The #1 engine blows and everything not tied down, is jettisoned. The plane drops from 18,000 to 6,000 feet near Dover, England, but barrage speaker balloons necessitate a 360 turn. Land is made at Manston, RAF fighter base. The plane rolls off the runway and stops. It is badly shot up. 121 Flak holes are counted in the lower wing area. One 306th aircraft was shot down over the target area.

Mission # Spare Settin, Germany

13 May 1944

The bomb mission targeted the synthetic oil facility at Settin, Germany. 2LT Manger's crew flew as spare on 8 planes were designated as spares. All returned to base as briefed. Did not count as a combat mission.

Mission #3 Orly, France

20 May 1944

The target is airfield and hangers at Orly. Ground haze impairs the bomb sight, but bombing is accurate, with a good bomb concentration on aircraft and hangers. Flak at the target is low and all aircraft return safely.

21 May 1944 New B-17G delivered SN #44-3019 designated # 019-V

This will be 2LT Magner and his crew's new aircraft. The 306th's identification markings were a triangle H and painted on the tail. The aircraft is and named "Myassam Dragon"

Mission #4 Kiel, Germany

22 May 1944

305th and 306th Bomb Groups target a naval arsenal and shipping at Kiel. The 306th flew 12 aircraft in the low group and 6 in high lead group. The flight reaches the German coast seven minutes early, airborne radar direct both groups dropping their bombs from 25,000 ft. Considerable damage to the Naval Arsenal and heavy damage to the shipping. Moderate AA Fire at the target. One B-17 from 305th Bomb Group is hit knocking off wing between engines #3 and #4. Aircraft 305th veers and hits another B-17 in same formation. Both aircraft go down with only one chute seen. All 306th aircraft return to base.

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Mission # Spare Metz, France 23 May 1944

The 306th is flying as low group. The Manger crew is flying as a spare in the event of an abort and returns early. This does not count as a mission for the crew.

Mission # 5 Thionville, France 25 May 1944

The target is the railway marshaling yards and is an almost perfect mission. # 019V is in the high group. Bombing has compact concentration and completely covers the briefed main point of impact. Weather was good, fighters accompanied the formation. No AA fire or damage. All aircraft return without damage.

Mission # 6 Mannheim, Germany 27 May 1944

2LT Manger's # 019V is flying as spare. One B-17 aborts and he replaces the aircraft in formation. No enemy fighters are seen but AA is intense at target. The bomb run permits the group to turn left before reaching the flak area. Bombs strike the marshaling yards and all aircraft return safely. #019 drops 12 x 500 incendiary bombs on target.

Mission # 7 Ruhland, Germany 28 May 1944

Carrying 38 x 100lb. bombs 2LT Magner flies in the low group. Most of the B-17's drop their payload after the wing leader's bomb bay malfunctions causing the signal markers to fall out. The lead bombs fall harmlessly in an open field. The bomb run is continued and the remainder of the bombs is delivered on the target. P-47's and P-51 fighters fly escort and no enemy aircraft are encountered. After leaving the target, AA fire at Meissen, Germany is moderate but accurate. 13 out of 17 aircraft are damaged. All aircraft return to base.

Mission # 8 Cottbus, Germany 29 May 1944

367th is flying as the high squadron in the 40th Combat Bombing Wing (CBW). The flight track is straight towards Berlin. The target is the hangers and aerodrome installation at Cottbus. The squadron breaks away to the south east before Berlin and attacks the target. Strike photos show all three aiming points hit with good patterns. Bombers are attacked by German FW-190's and a few twin engine fighters after the 40th CBW's release on target. One B-17 from low group is shot down. No 306th aircraft are lost. The squadron is picked up at Danish coast by P-51's and escorted to England. No flak at the target, but flak damages two aircraft from the 367th along the route.

Mission # 9 Mass-Palaiseau 2 June 1944

Target is the railway bridge and marshaling yards. The 367th is flying as the low squadron of the group. Bombed primary at 2038 at 18,200 feet. Thick haze. Target visible. 12 x 500 HE dropped. Hit bridge. Flak observed at coast, but not at group.

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Mission # 10 Arromanches, France (In support of D-Day) 6 June 1944

The assignment is to destroy a 105mm Howitzer installation about a mile inland near the town of Arromanches. They are also in direct support of ground forces targeting a defended area near Anselles, Pathfinder Radar is used and with good pattern results. The route is obscured by clouds and the crew is disappointed they could not see the D-Day landing. No flak or Luftwaffe encountered. All aircraft return safely.

Mission # 11 Thury-Harcourt, France (In support of D-Day) 6 June 1944

On the second mission of the day, the 367th flies lead squadron, lead group. The target is the lines of communication in the town of Thury-Harcourt. Adverse weather conditions prevent all the 306th planes from joining up. The target is bombed with no observed results. The "Myassam Dragon" (# 019V) carrying 12 x 500 lb. bombs has a relay malfunction and drops only 6 bombs returning with the rest. No flak or enemy aircraft was seen.

Mission # 12 Illiers L'Eveque, France 11 June 1944

The 367th is the lead squadron as part of the 40th CBW. They are forced to climb to 20,000 ft. due to weather. The lead fears there may be B-17's below him, so no bombs are dropped. The formation returns to England.

Mission #13 Lille / Vendeville, France 12 June 1944

Fifty-two B-17's of the 40th Combat Wing (CW) take off from USAAF Field, Thurleigh England. The target is the Lillie Industrial Center locomotive, freight car and steel works. "Myassam Dragon" # 019-V takes off at 0623 and joins the 40th CW Low Group and head for Lille, France. One aborts due to electrical problems. One spare fills in and the other spares return to base. This is 2LT Monaghan's thirteenth mission. Twelve more combat missions to be completed before being eligible to return to the States

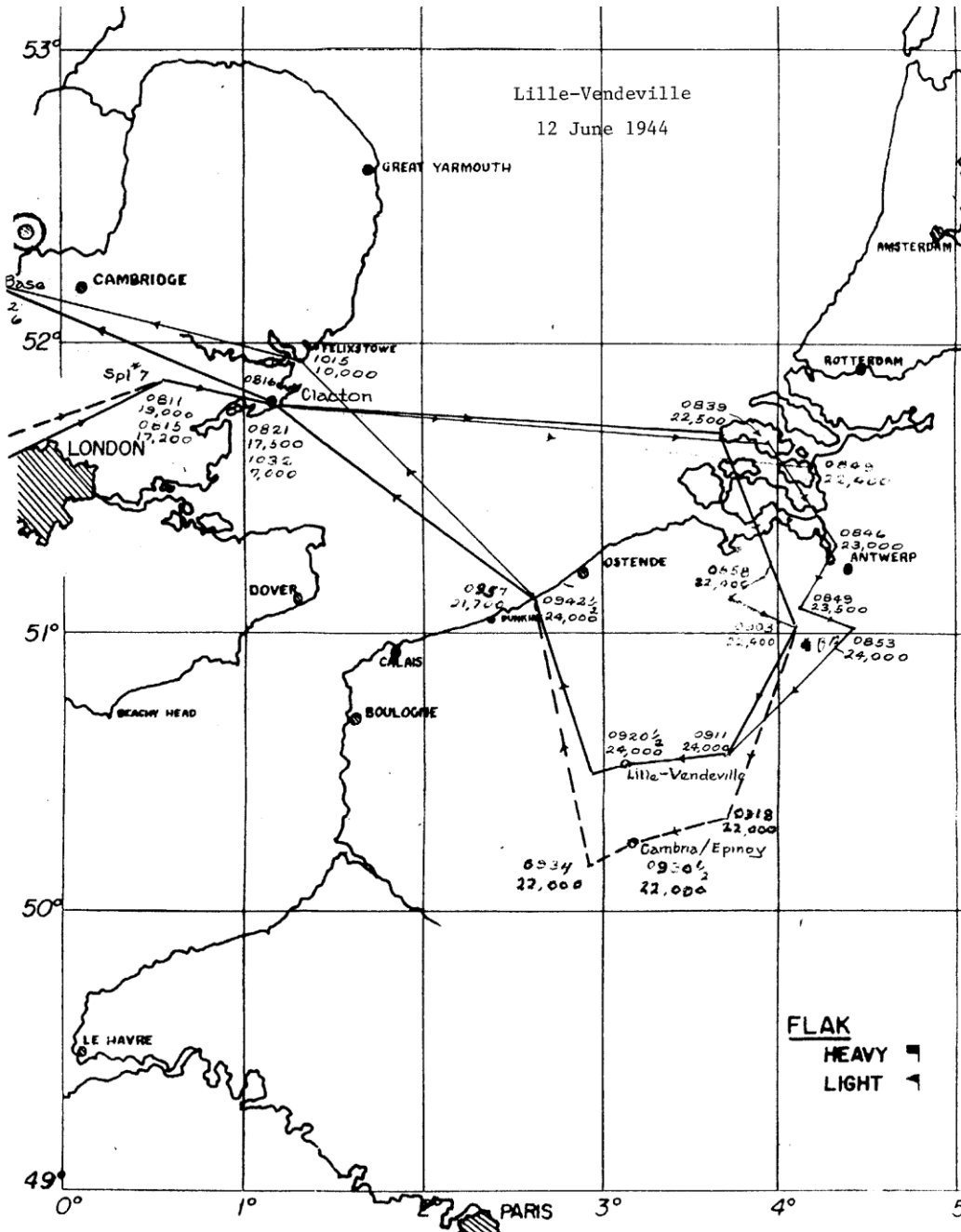
"Myassam Dragon's" crew:

2LT Magner	Pilot and Aircraft Commander
2LT Dodson	Co-Pilot
2LT Chapman	Navigator
2LT Monaghan	Bombardier (<i>Controls B-17 for bomb run via Norden Bomb Sight</i>)
T/Sgt Snifka	Top Turret Gunner and Flight Engineer;
T/Sgt Egelston	Radio Operator;
S/Sgt Sexton,	Ball Turret Gunner
S/Sgt Siedlicki	Waist Gunner
S/Sgt Stuart	Tail Gunner

S/SGT Sexton was a substitute ball gunner. His assigned aircraft will fly the next day, complete their 25th mission, and return to the states without him.

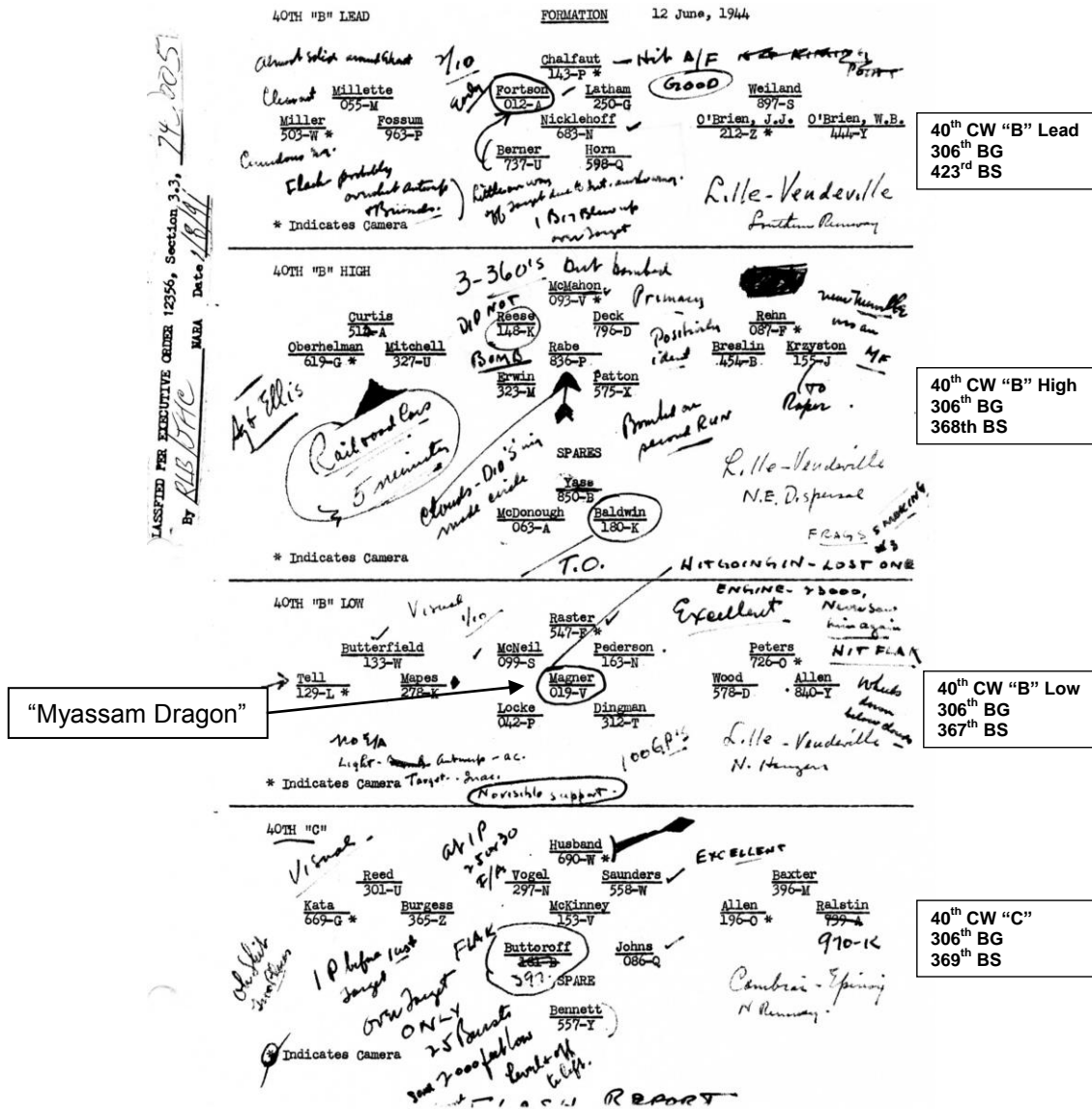
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Mission #13 - Flight route to the Lille industrial center



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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2LT Wagner is flying as Deputy Squadron Leader with the 40th "B" Low Group. The 40th overshoots the control point on the Dutch Coast due to heavier winds than briefed. Turning south just north of Antwerp, the 40th makes a sharp turn right and circles the city. The formations draw heavy and accurate 88mm anti-aircraft fire from Antwerp despite evasive action. Twenty-nine aircraft sustain flak damage, 10 severe. All aircraft of the 368th high Group receive damage.

One in the 367th Low Group receives severe damage - #019-V. "Myassam Dragon" was hit by three bursts of 88mm Anti-Aircraft fire along the fuselage at 19,000 feet. The aircraft loses one engine, engines 3 and 4 are on fire, Wagner let the wheels down to signal the aircraft is leaving the formation and starts a glide toward England.

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019-V was last seen flying into clouds at ~10,000 feet, one engine smoking and no chutes sighted. Heavy flak followed the "Myassam Dragon's" decent additional damage to the aircraft. T/Sgt Snifka calls from the top turret saying "I'm Hit."

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INTERROGATION FORM

CLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, 7/4/91
 By RHS/BAC MABA Date 1/18/91

SQUADRON 367 ##### A/C Number 019 Letter V Date 12-6-44

Bomb Load 38 x 100 P.E. ##### Position in Formation

Time Took off 0623 Time Landed _____

1. HOT NEWS to be phoned in? Yes No
 Details: _____

① Mages says: Wagner dropped wheels and pulled out in glide - Flak followed him - headed toward EN ground.
 friendly A/C in any kind of distress: _____
 (Give position, time, altitude, full details) 2nd Lt. E. J. Wagner Pilot

② Wood says: 2-B-19 hit by flak over antwerp - left formation under controls and headed for home
2nd Lt. R. A. Bobson Co-P
2nd Lt. P. Q. Chapman Nav.
2nd Lt. R. H. Monaghan Bomb

allan says: B-19 out of lead group just before
 ③ TARGET APPROACHED: I.P. Dropped wheels
 Primary Time: headed for coast T/Sgt. L. A. Snifka Top P
 Alternate Height: under control, 0846 hours. S/Sgt. E. L. Sexton Ball T
 Last Report Heading: _____ S/Sgt. J. M. Sieddicki R. Waist
 (circle) _____ L. Waist
 Duration Bomb Run: _____ S/Sgt. J. A. Stuart Tail G.

2. Number of BOMBS dropped on target: _____ Jettisoned: _____ Returned: _____ Abortive: _____

4. Observed RESULTS OF EQUIPMENT (for this plane or others)

Own Bombs: Locke says: 0844 hours, Wagner hit by flak, hit wheels down + pulled off. #2 engine smoking. Saw him down to clouds at
 Other Bombing: 10,000 ft. - no chutes
 any Nickels: yes No
 Number boxes dropped _____
 Number boxes returned _____

5. Any PHOTOGRAPHS taken: Yes? No?

6. GROUND TARGETS ATTACKED BY GUNFIRE AND RESULTS:

7. ROUTE (If different than ordered) (if NEGATIVE give time, place, height of turn; reason for returning early, and Disposition of bombs.)

8. WEATHER: (If it affected mission)

9. FLAK: Encountered on way out, at target and on way home.

Time	Place	Height of A/C	Type (light, heavy), intensity, moderate or slight.	Color of bursts	Location Bursts in relation to A/C	Accuracy
------	-------	---------------	---	-----------------	------------------------------------	----------

⑤ Roster says: Wagner left formation just after antwerp - flak - one engine out - pulled off, put wheels down + headed west for England.
 Crew observations about flak: Dingman says: Wagner hit by flak over antwerp. Pulled out of formation to right with wheels down. All engines still running, was under controls. Last seen down by clouds. No chutes

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box 618

D-A-1

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
United States Forces

AFG 557
12 June, 1944

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative
Mission: Lille/Vendeville, 12 June, 1944

TO : Commanding Officer, 306th Bombardment Group (H)

1. 40th "B", flying over 10/10 cloud, overshot control point at Dutch coast due to winds heavier than briefed. Swung south, got GER fix at 5115N x 0423E, just north of Antwerp. Made sharp leg to right to circle Antwerp and did evasive action to 5101N x 0423E. IP and target as briefed. Hence lead and low groups bombed and came home together while high group circled twice before bombing and followed briefed course home.

2. A.A. Gun Fire

Drew barrage fire from Antwerp and cut left to circle the city. Met accurate tracking, despite evasive action, over whole area from there to 5101N x 0425E. Over target, moderate and accurate, chiefly on high group (on first run). On high group's second run it diminished; on third run was heaviest - moderate and accurate.

3. Bombing

Photos show lead group bombs on center of airfield, covering one-half of the area of the field. Photos show low group's bombs covering both dispersal areas at north-east corner of airfield. High group found target obscured by cloud. "S" did, hoping cloud would drift by. Could not bomb on first run. Made three runs, bombing at 0948. Carried frags. Pictures show bombs away but strikes obscured by cloud.

4. Weather

8/10ths cloud over coast on way in. 1 to 2/10ths in target area. Clear on route out.

5. Aircraft Returning Early

A/C 180-K, pilot Baldwin, hit by flak, turned out of formation. Bombed T.O. (Railway line at 5117N x 0420E) on way back. A/C 012-A, pilot Fortson, turned back at 5130N x 0450W at 0710. Electrical trouble in generators. (Baldwin filled in). A/C 063-A, pilot McDonough, and A/C 850-B, pilot Yass, both spares, returned unbriefed. Each brought back 18 x 250. Fighter

6. Fighter Opposition and Support

No fighter opposition. No friendly support observed.

7. Observations

Many small craft at Nieuport. Many A/C on A/D at 5035N x 0235E (probably Bethune). Two buildings with Red Crosses seen at Douai. 15 A/C at Coxyde A/D.

8. Our A/C in Distress

Our A/C 019-V, pilot Wagner, hit by flak N.W. Antwerp, 5130N x 0410E, about 0844, left formation just after Antwerp with one engine out, peeled off, put down wheels and turned toward coast. A/C did not return to base.

12356, 133, 745, 5
AFG 557
12 June, 1944
HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
United States Forces
SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative
Mission: Lille/Vendeville, 12 June, 1944
TO : Commanding Officer, 306th Bombardment Group (H)
1. 40th "B", flying over 10/10 cloud, overshot control point at Dutch coast due to winds heavier than briefed. Swung south, got GER fix at 5115N x 0423E, just north of Antwerp. Made sharp leg to right to circle Antwerp and did evasive action to 5101N x 0423E. IP and target as briefed. Hence lead and low groups bombed and came home together while high group circled twice before bombing and followed briefed course home.
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Drew barrage fire from Antwerp and cut left to circle the city. Met accurate tracking, despite evasive action, over whole area from there to 5101N x 0425E. Over target, moderate and accurate, chiefly on high group (on first run). On high group's second run it diminished; on third run was heaviest - moderate and accurate.
3. Bombing
Photos show lead group bombs on center of airfield, covering one-half of the area of the field. Photos show low group's bombs covering both dispersal areas at north-east corner of airfield. High group found target obscured by cloud. "S" did, hoping cloud would drift by. Could not bomb on first run. Made three runs, bombing at 0948. Carried frags. Pictures show bombs away but strikes obscured by cloud.
4. Weather
8/10ths cloud over coast on way in. 1 to 2/10ths in target area. Clear on route out.
5. Aircraft Returning Early
A/C 180-K, pilot Baldwin, hit by flak, turned out of formation. Bombed T.O. (Railway line at 5117N x 0420E) on way back. A/C 012-A, pilot Fortson, turned back at 5130N x 0450W at 0710. Electrical trouble in generators. (Baldwin filled in). A/C 063-A, pilot McDonough, and A/C 850-B, pilot Yass, both spares, returned unbriefed. Each brought back 18 x 250. Fighter
6. Fighter Opposition and Support
No fighter opposition. No friendly support observed.
7. Observations
Many small craft at Nieuport. Many A/C on A/D at 5035N x 0235E (probably Bethune). Two buildings with Red Crosses seen at Douai. 15 A/C at Coxyde A/D.
8. Our A/C in Distress
Our A/C 019-V, pilot Wagner, hit by flak N.W. Antwerp, 5130N x 0410E, about 0844, left formation just after Antwerp with one engine out, peeled off, put down wheels and turned toward coast. A/C did not return to base.

12356, 133, 745, 5
AFG 557
12 June, 1944
HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
United States Forces
SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative
Mission: Lille/Vendeville, 12 June, 1944
TO : Commanding Officer, 306th Bombardment Group (H)
1. 40th "B", flying over 10/10 cloud, overshot control point at Dutch coast due to winds heavier than briefed. Swung south, got GER fix at 5115N x 0423E, just north of Antwerp. Made sharp leg to right to circle Antwerp and did evasive action to 5101N x 0423E. IP and target as briefed. Hence lead and low groups bombed and came home together while high group circled twice before bombing and followed briefed course home.
2. A.A. Gun Fire
Drew barrage fire from Antwerp and cut left to circle the city. Met accurate tracking, despite evasive action, over whole area from there to 5101N x 0425E. Over target, moderate and accurate, chiefly on high group (on first run). On high group's second run it diminished; on third run was heaviest - moderate and accurate.
3. Bombing
Photos show lead group bombs on center of airfield, covering one-half of the area of the field. Photos show low group's bombs covering both dispersal areas at north-east corner of airfield. High group found target obscured by cloud. "S" did, hoping cloud would drift by. Could not bomb on first run. Made three runs, bombing at 0948. Carried frags. Pictures show bombs away but strikes obscured by cloud.
4. Weather
8/10ths cloud over coast on way in. 1 to 2/10ths in target area. Clear on route out.
5. Aircraft Returning Early
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6. Fighter Opposition and Support
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2nd Lieutenant Robert H. Monaghan World War II Military Service

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

785072
By WGL/SB NARS, Date 11/21/82

WAR DEPARTMENT -
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

5627

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAP Sta 111 ; Command or Air Force: 8th Group 306th Bomb (H) ; Squadron 367th Bomb (H) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Thurleigh, England ; Course as prescribed
Intended Destination Lille, France ; Type of Mission heavy bomb
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
5/10 Cloud - good visibility
4. GIVE: (a) Date 12/2/44 ; Time 0844 ; and Location Over Antwerp
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether (x) Last Sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forced Down; () Seen to Crash; or () Information not Available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one () Enemy Aircraft; (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G ; A.A.F. Serial Number 44-6019
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) SW-015112 X
(b) SW-014189 ; (c) SW-015192 ; (d) SW-013381
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) B-1296478 ; (b) B-1296280 ; (c) B-1296392 ; (d) S-1191021
(e) B-1296010 ; (f) B-1192104 ; (g) B-1296345 ; (h) S-1191489
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty x
or (b) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 9
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: if more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot - Pilot	<u>*Magner, Edward J.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-809828</u> <i>RTD</i>
2. Pilot - Co-Pilot	<u>Dobson, Robert A.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-818642</u> <i>RTD</i>
3. Navigator - Navigator	<u>*Chapman, Paul Q.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-707768</u> <i>RTD</i>
4. Bombardier - Nose Gunner	<u>Monaghan, Robert H.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-757904</u> <i>RTD</i>
5. Aer. Eng. - Top Turret Gun.	<u>*Snifka, Laurence A.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>36807550</u>
6. Radio Opr - Radio Opr.	<u>Egelston, George K.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>12012557</u> <i>RTD</i>
7. Aer. Eng - Ball Turret Gun.	<u>Serton, Elvin L.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>38395571</u> <i>RTD</i>
8. Aer. Eng - Waist Gunner	<u>*Siedlicki, John M.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>31168778</u>
9. Aerial Gunner - Tail Gunner	<u>*Stuart, Joseph A. Jr.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>39112435</u>

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME.

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted				Check Only One Column	
			By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing		
1. <u>Edward S., Joseph W.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-809805</u>	<u>X</u>					
2.								

2nd Lieutenant Robert H. Monaghan
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) (G-B-3)
Office of the Commanding Officer
United States Forces

APO 557,
13 June, 1944.


SUBJECT: Eye-witness account of Aircraft #44-6019, Pilot Lt E.J.
MAGNER, Missing in Action, 12 June, 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Hq., First Bombardment Division, APO 557.

1. According to 2nd Lt JOSEPH W. PEDERSEN, O-809865, the following
is what happened to Aircraft #44-6019, Piloted by Lt E.J. MAGNER;

Our aircraft #019, Pilot Magner, hit by flak N.W. Antwerp,
about 0844, left formation just after Antwerp with one engine out,
peeled off, put down wheels and turned toward coast. Aircraft did
not return to base. No parachutes were seen.

For the Commanding Officer:


PAUL J. RAILLIE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

T/SGT Snifka comes out of the turret bleeding and looks as if he will pass out. He is bandaged, but the head wound is serious and requires immediate medical attention. The Pilot tells Dobson and Chapman to pull Snifka's parachute rip-cord and push him out the hatch hoping he can receive medical care from the Germans. LT Monaghan is also wounded taking shrapnel in his arm. Chapman helps bandage him.

I do recall he said the procedure the German Doctor did for his injuries - that doctor had undoubtedly practiced many times on the Jewish prisoners.

LT Magner shuts down engines three and four. There is also a fire in the bomb bay. The "Myassam Dragon" is now down to one engine, the bomb bay on fire, and receiving

2nd Lieutenant Robert H. Monaghan World War II Military Service

heavy anti-aircraft fire. The pilot gives the order to “Bail Out”. He trims the aircraft. Egelston bails first, followed by Seidlicki and Sexton. Monaghan and Dobson jump from the back of the B-17. LT Magner goes to the hatch and finds Chapman waiting.

Chapman says “you go first.” Magner says he is in command and orders Chapman to jump first and then follows him out the hatch. When Magner jumps he hits his hip on the horizontal stabilizer. LT Monaghan is in a spin after his parachute opens. He had read somewhere extending your arms and legs would stop the spinning. The extension worked and he stops spinning. He lands on his side and cannot walk. The crew receives ground fire as they descend.

“Myassam Dragon”, # 019-V still carrying its bomb load crashes and explodes. With #019-V missing, another aircraft replaces her. On 13 June B-17, SN # 43-37715 called “Lassie Come Home” has the # 019-V painted on her tail.

MISSING IN ACTION

By 0905 hours seven of the crew is captured and held at an AA Battery near the town of Bevern, Belgium. T/Sgt Snifka had “heavy head injuries’ and was dead upon recovery. T/Sgt Seidlicki was injured in the groin and his insides exposed. Lt Chapman has an injured leg.

Sgt Sexton the Ball Turret Gunner does a free fall from ~ 11,000 feet in hopes of escaping. He lands in the North Sea and is picked up by a German U-boat who returns him to the mainland. S/SGT Stuart’s body is recovered from the Shelde River on June 21, 1944.

Monaghan’s shrapnel wound became infected. He is transferred to the Hospital of the Luftwaffe, St. Giles Hospital, Brussels, Belgium for treatment. Monaghan finds Seidlicki is at the same hospital and badly injured with a groin wound. T/SGT Seidlicki is kept in a dark room. Monaghan tries giving him water. He is not aware T/SGT Seidlicki will eventually die from his wounds.

Magner, Chapman, Dodson, Egelston, and Sexton are captured and transferred to a civilian jail and later taken to a POW collection Center.

The officers and enlisted are split up. The enlisted are sent to Wetzler and then to Stalag IV. The officers are transported in a prison train to Dulag Luft, an interrogation center, (*The Luftwaffe Reception Center*) and placed in solitary confinement. The crew is interrogated and do not know night from day. They are treated like animals.

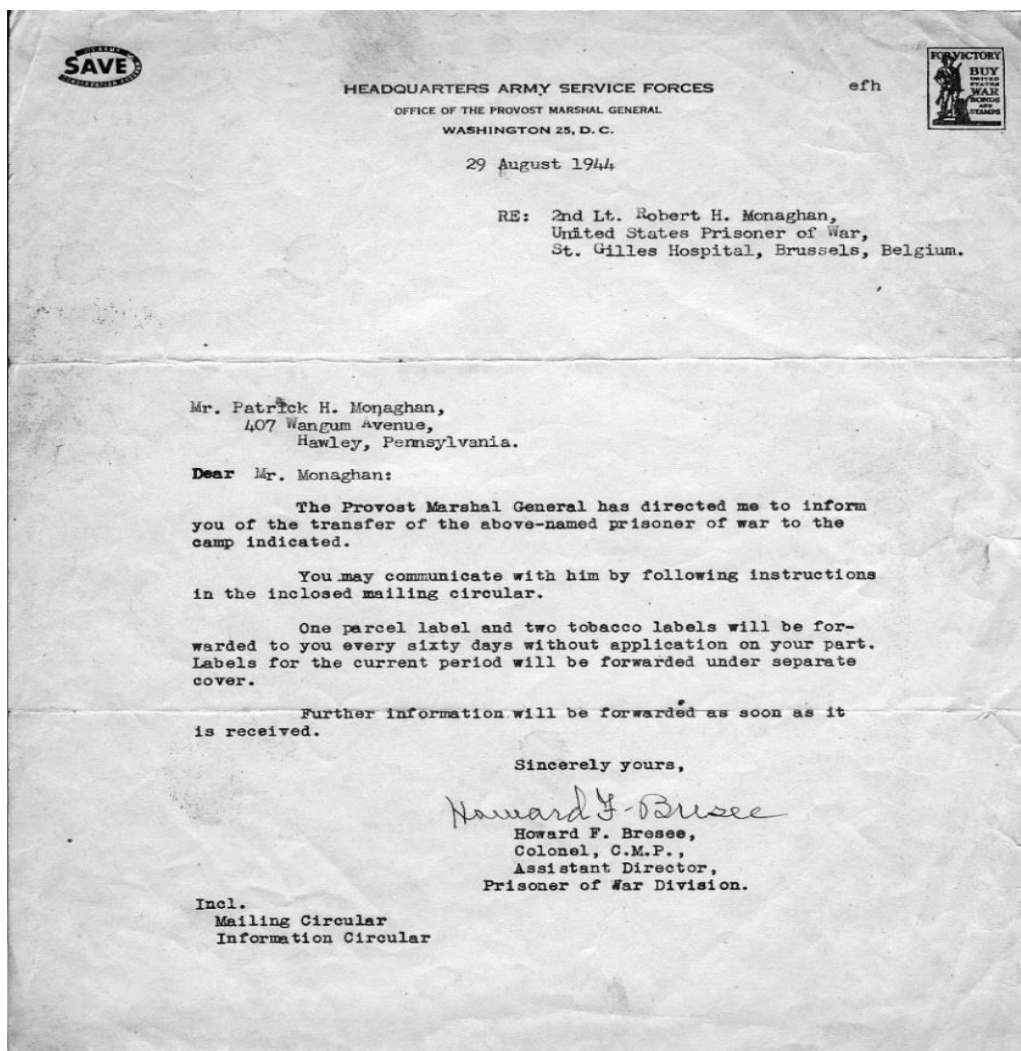
At Dulag Luft an interrogator speaking excellent English uses cigarettes and baseball chat in an effort to get close to the prisoners. They give only name, rank and serial numbers. The Germans even have pictures of the married officer’s wives from spies. Magner estimates they are at Dulag Luft for 20 days, but is uncertain.

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Magner, Dobson and Chapman are sent by train to Stalag Luft III at Sagan, Germany near the Polish border. Chapman is separated from them. Magner is placed in the East Compound with the British.

Nine of the crew end their war after only 46 days with the 367th Combat Squadron, six in Prisoner of War camps and three killed. 2LT Monaghan completed 13 combat missions with a total of 169 combat flying hours and delivered 28 tons of bombs.

Back at Thurleigh the crews personal effects are inventoried and shipped back to the States. Quartermaster issue is returned to supply and the bunks are assigned to the filler crew. The war goes on.



At home his sister Alice receives the news LT Monaghan is Missing-In-Action and tells Emily, (his mother), John Morgan and Francis Monaghan. Emily goes into the bedroom for a few minutes to cry and then returns to the kitchen. On July 28, 1944 the family receives word 2 LT Monaghan is a Prisoner of War.

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World War II Military Service
PRISONER OF WAR

Lt Monaghan was taken prisoner wearing his flight suit and sheepskin boots. He would later wear the boots on the Sagan Death March from Stalag Luft III to Moosburg during the winter of 1945. June 16 he wrote home from Dulag Luft and said he was recovering from minor wounds in his right arm, but able to use his arm. After treatment for his wounds at St Giles', Monaghan was taken to "Durchgangslager der Luftwaffe" or "Transit Camp of the Luftwaffe" was called Dulag Luft by the POWs. It was located at Oberursel, north-west of Frankfurt-am-Main. Nearly all captured Allied airmen were sent there to be interrogated before being assigned to a permanent prison camp. While at Dulag Luft prisoners were kept in solitary confinement. The average stay in solitary at Dulag Luft was one or two weeks. POWs could not be kept in solitary confinement for interrogation purposes for more than 28 days per the Geneva Convention.

Excerpts from the book "Kriegie" by Kenneth W. Simmons, published 1960.

"At Dulag Luft each prisoner was studied by several psychologists in order to learn his likes, dislikes, habits and powers of resistance. The method of procedure was then determined, and the machinery was set into operation to destroy his mental resistance in the shortest possible time. If the prisoner showed signs of fright or appeared nervous, he was threatened with all kinds of torture, some of which were carried out, and he was handled in a rough manner. Others were bribed by luxuries. They were traded clean clothes, good living quarters, food and cigarettes for answers to certain questions. Those who could neither be swayed nor bribed were treated with respect and handled with care in the interrogator's office, but were made to suffer long miserable hours of solitary confinement in the prison cells.

Nothing was overlooked by the German interrogators. They studied the results of each interview, and devised new methods to gain the desired information. Allied Air Corps Intelligence started a counter attack against Dulag Luft by training every flier in its command on how to act as a prisoner of war. Every method used to gain information from prisoners was illustrated with films and lectures. (See our Documents page for examples) Interviews between prisoners and their interrogators were clearly demonstrated to bring out the tactics of the German interrogators. Name, rank and serial number became the byword of the counterattack. Men were drilled and trained by Intelligence until they knew exactly what to expect and what to do. Patriotism and loyalty were stressed, and American airmen were shown the results of information the Germans had secured from prisoners at Dulag.

The camp was built on level ground. There were large white rocks that covered the length of the front lawn forming the words "Prisoner of War Camp". The same identification was painted in white letters across the roof of nearly every building. Dulag Luft was of great importance to the Germans and they knew the Allies would never bomb it as long as it could be identified from the air. The camp was estimated to cover about 500 acres. The boundaries of the camp were formed by two parallel fences ten feet apart and they stood 12 feet tall, with trenches and barbed wire entangled between them. Watch towers were spaced around the camp at one hundred yard intervals. Trained dogs prowled the outer boundaries and heavily armed pill boxes were scattered beyond the barbed wire."

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After the Germans complete his interrogation, LT Monaghan is transferred to Stalag Luft III at Sagan, Germany. He is placed in the center compound and never sees any of the crew again. 2LT Monaghan is Prisoner No. 6337.

STALAG LUFT III, SAGAN, GERMANY


Stalag Luft III was a Luftwaffe-run prisoner-of-war camp during World War II that housed captured air force servicemen. It was in the German province of Lower Silesia near the town of Sagan (Żagańis now in Poland), 100 miles (160 km) southeast of Berlin. The site was selected because it would be difficult to escape by tunneling.

The camp is best known for two famous prisoner escapes that took place there by tunneling. Former prisoners Paul Brickhill and Eric Williams wrote books from which these films were adapted. "The Great Escape" (1963) and "The Wooden Horse" (1950).

The camp was very secure. Despite being an officers-only camp, it was referred to as a Stalag camp rather than Oflag (Offizier Lager) as the Luftwaffe used their nomenclature. Later camp expansions added compounds for non-commissioned officers. Captured Fleet Air Arm (Royal Navy) air crews were considered to be Air Force by the Luftwaffe and no differentiation was made. At times non-airmen were interred at Stalag Luft III.

Many escapes were attempted. The Kriegies would have unannounced roll-call or "Appel" to disrupt or prevent any escape attempt. If the count was not exact, the guards would conduct a prisoner picture verification appel. Prisoners had to stand at roll calls morning and night. The roll calls were punitive as the prisoners were pointlessly made to stand for hours outside in inclement weather.

PRISONER IDENTIFICATION CARD

	Name: Monaghan
	Vorname: Robert H.
	Dienstgrad: 2. Lt.
	Erk.-Marke: 6337-Kriegsgefangener
	Serv.-Nr.: 0 - 757 904
	Nationalität: U.S.A.
Baracke: 22/11	
Raum:	

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In 1967 after John Gallagher (a cousin) returned from Viet Nam, he and his wife visited my dad and grandparents. Off to the side our Dad talked about his time as a POW and the escape attempts. After the escape attempts the Germans would fall the troops out in winter and then hose them down with water in freezing weather. It became such that the senior officer ordered no more escape attempts.

The German guards were referred to as "Goons" and, unaware of the western connotation, willingly accepted the nickname after being told it stood for "German Officer or Non-Commissioned". German guards were followed everywhere they went by prisoners, who used an elaborate system of signals to warn others of their location. The guards' movements were then carefully recorded in a logbook kept by an assigned rotation of officers. Unable to effectively stop what the prisoners called the "Duty Pilot" system the Germans allowed it to continue and on one occasion the book was used by Kommandant von Lindeiner to bring charges against two guards who had slunk away from duty several hours early.


The camp's 800 Luftwaffe guards were primarily either too old for combat duty or young men convalescing after long tours of duty or from wounds. Because the guards were Luftwaffe personnel, the prisoners were accorded far better treatment than that granted to other POWs in Germany.

Stalag Luft III had the most well organized recreational program of any POW camp in Germany. Each compound had athletic fields and volleyball courts. The prisoners participated in basketball, softball, boxing, touch football, volleyball, table tennis and fencing, with leagues organized for most. A pool, 20 feet by 22 feet by 5 feet deep, was used to store water for firefighting and "occasionally" available for swimming.

A substantial library with schooling facilities was available where many POWs earned degrees such as languages, engineering or law. The exams were supplied by the Red Cross and supervised by academics such as a Master of King's College, who was a POW in Luft III. The prisoners also built a theatre and put on high-quality bi-weekly performances featuring all the current West End shows. The prisoners used the camp amplifier to broadcast a news and music radio station they named Station KRGY, short for Kriegsgefangener, a term meaning "POWs", and also published two newspapers, the Circuit and the Kriegie Times, which were issued four times a week.

To prevent Germans from infiltrating the prisoner population, newcomers to the camp had to be personally vouched for by two existing POWs who knew the prisoner by sight. Anyone who failed this requirement was severely interrogated and assigned a rotation of POWs who had to escort him at all times until he was deemed to be genuine. Several infiltrators were discovered by this method, and none are known to have escaped detection in Luft III.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Personalkarte I: Persönliche Angaben																		Bezeichnung der Erkennungsmarke: Nr. <u>6337</u>						
Kriegsgefangenen-Stammnummer: <u>1000</u>																		Lager:						
Name: <u>Monaghan</u> Vorname: <u>Robert H.</u> Geburtstag und -ort: <u>15.6.19 Hawley / Pa.</u> Religion: <u>evk.</u> Vorname des Vaters: _____ Familienname der Mutter: _____												Staatsangehörigkeit: _____ Dienstgrad: <u>2. Lt.</u> Truppenteil: _____ Komp. n/w.: _____ Zivilberuf: <u>Student</u> Berufs-Ort: _____ Matrikel Nr. (Stammrolle des Heimatstaates): <u>0 - 757 9</u> Gefangennahme (Ort und Datum) <u>Ostende 12.6.44</u> Ob gesund, krank, verwundet eingeliefert: _____												
Bild												Nähere Personalbeschreibung												
												Größe:	Haarfarbe:					Name und Anschrift der zu benachrichtigenden Person in der Heimat des Kriegsgefangenen: <u>Mr. P. H. Monaghan</u> <u>407 Waugum Ave</u> <u>Hawley / Pa.</u>						
												blond												
Fingerring des rechten (l) Zeigefingers												Bemerkungen:												
_____												<u>2000</u> <u>MONAGHAN, R.H.</u>												
Personal-Beschreibung:																								
Figur: <u>schlank</u> Größe: <u>sehr groß</u> Alter: <u>15.6.19</u> Gesichtsform: <u>lang</u> Gesichtsfarbe: <u>gesund</u> Schädelform: <u>oval</u> Augen: <u>blau</u> Nase: <u>gerade</u> Haare: <u>blond</u> Bart: _____ Gebiß: <u>gut</u> Besondere Merkmale: <u>kl. Narbe li. Stirnseite, Wunde am li. Oberarm</u> Deutliche Sprachkenntnisse: _____												Bemerkungen: _____ _____												
Name: _____												Lager: _____												

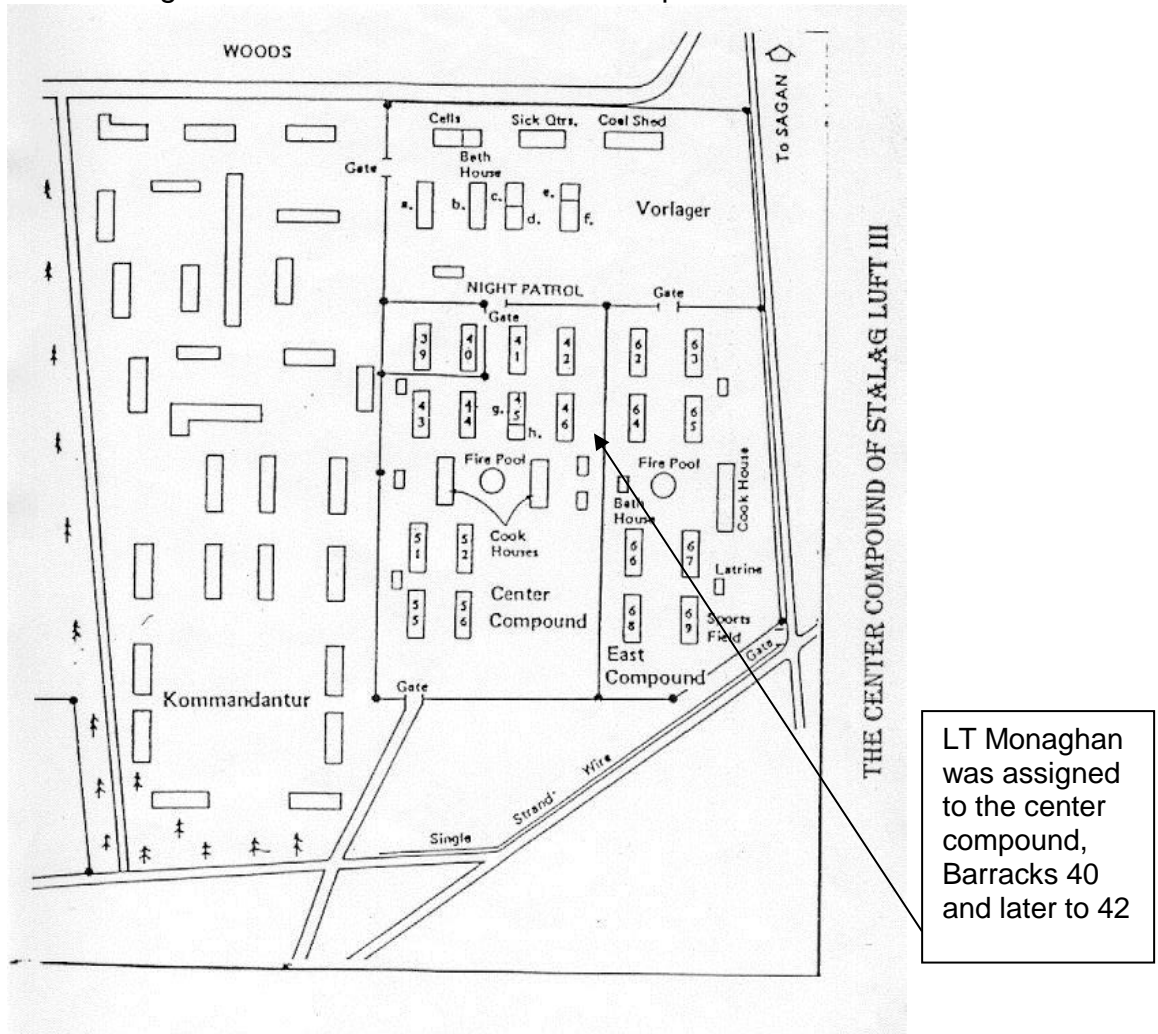
The backside of his prisoner personnel sheet notes he was at Dulag Luft and later transferred to Kriegsgefangener, Luftwaffe 3 (Stalag Luft III) July 7, 1944.

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World War II Military Service

Beschreibung der Erkennungsmarke Nr. _____		Charaktereigenschaften u. a.	Besondere Fähigkeiten	Sprachkenntnisse	Führung	
Lager: _____						
Strafverurteilung im Nr.-Gef.-Lager	Datum	Grund der Verurteilung	Strafmaß	Verbüßt, Datum		
Schutzimpfungen während der Gefangenschaft gegen			Erkrankungen			
Wochen	Sonstige Impfungen (Ty-Paraty, Ruhr, Cholera usw.)		Krankheit	Revier von bis	Lazarett - Krankenhaus von bis	
am	am	am	<i>Flakwurde am H. Oberarm</i>	<i>14. 7. - 2. 8. 44</i>		
Erfolg	gegen	gegen				
am	am	am				
Erfolg	gegen	gegen				
am	am	am				
Erfolg	gegen	gegen				
am	am	am				
Erfolg	gegen	gegen				
Verlegungen	Datum	Grund der Verlegung	Neues Nr.-Gef.-Lager	Datum	Grund der Verlegung	Neues Nr.-Gef.-Lager
	<i>2/9 44</i>		Dulag Luft Krgsgelld.d.Lw.3			
Kommandos						
Datum	Art des Kommandos				Wahltermin	

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The first compound (East Compound) of the camp was completed and opened on 21 March 1942. The first prisoners, or "Kriegies", as they called themselves (from "Kriegsgefangene"), to be housed at Stalag Luft III were British RAF and Fleet Air Arm officers, arriving in April 1942. The Center Compound was opened on 11 April 1942, originally for British sergeants, but by the end of 1942 American Officers had replaced the British. POW Monaghan was billeted in the center compound.



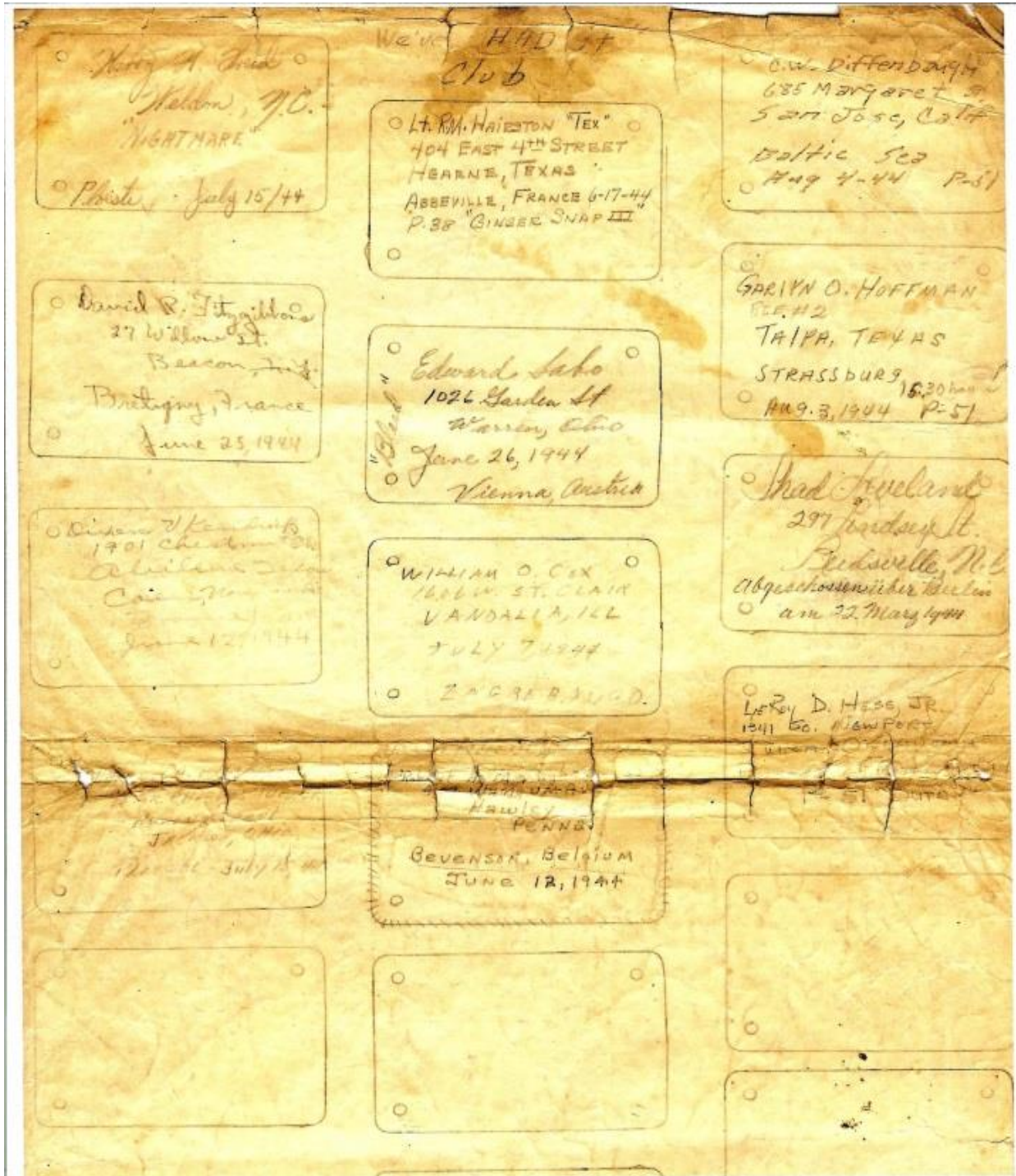
The North Compound for British airmen, where the Great Escape occurred, opened on 29 March 1943. A South Compound for Americans was opened in September 1943 and USAAF prisoners began arriving at the camp in significant numbers the following month and the West Compound was opened in July 1944 for U.S. officers.

Stalag Luft III grew to approximately 60 acres in size and housed about 2,500 Royal Air Force officers, about 7,500 U.S. Army Air Forces, and about 900 officers from other Allied air forces, for a total of 10,949 inmates, including some support officers.

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Each compound consisted of fifteen single story huts. Each 10-by-12-foot bunk room slept fifteen men in five triple deck bunks. The men in LT Monaghan's group bunkroom or combine, called themselves the "We've Had It Club."

Stalag Luft III Combine members – "We've Had It Club"



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“We’ve Had It Club” (*Transcribed*)

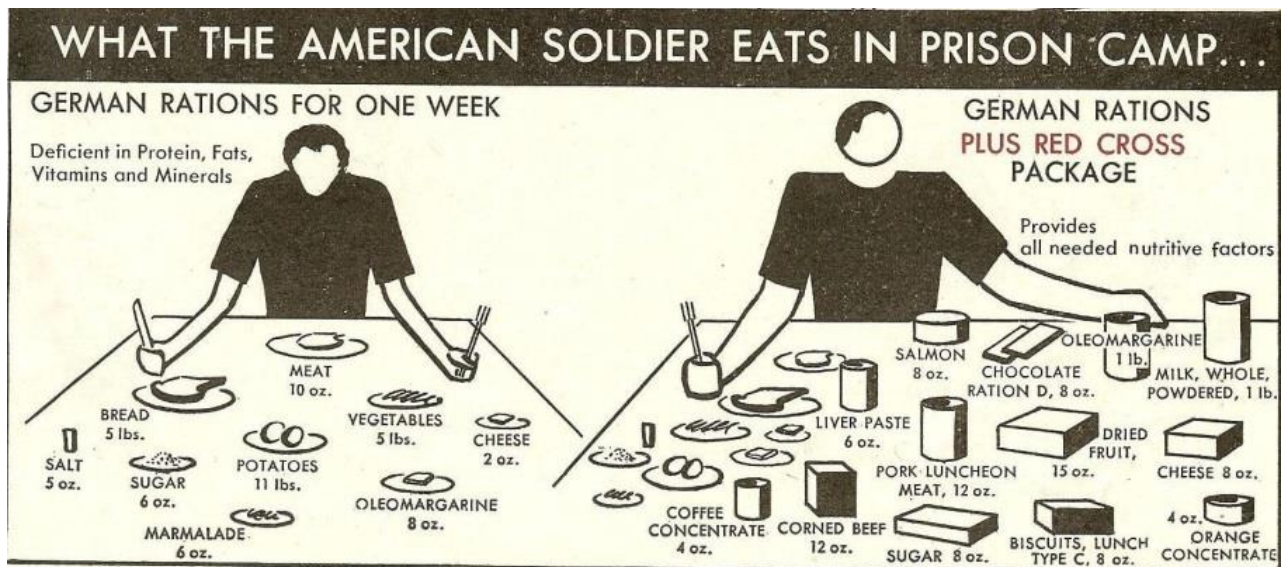
1. 2LT Harry A. Freid, SN# O 555883, Weldon, NC, Ploesti, Romania; July 15, 1944; 304th BW, “Nightmare”
2. 2 LT David R. Fitzgibbons, SN# O 695593, 27 Willow St., Beacon, N.Y. Bretigny, France; June 25, 1944, 466th Bomb Group
3. 2LT Dixon V. Kendrick, SN# O 753677, 1901 Chestnut St., Abilene, Texas, Caen, Normandy, France; June 12, 1944,
4. 1 LT. Richard M. Hairston “Tex”, SN# O 2044641, 404 East 4th Street, Hearne, Texas, Abbeville, France; June 17, 1944; P-38 “Ginger Snap III”
5. 2LT Edward Sabo, SN# O 750855, 1026 Garden St., Warren, Ohio, Vienna, Austria; June 26, 1944; 455th Bomb Group, “Blood”d
6. 2LT William O. Cox, 1 SN# O700703, 606 W. St Clair, Vandallia, IL, Zagreb, Yugoslavia ; July 7, 1944, 451st Bomb Group
7. 2LT Clyde W. Diffenbaugh, SN# O 763108, 685 Margaret, San Jose, CA, Baltic Sea, Aug 4, 1944; Pilot, P-51,
8. 2LT Garlyn O. Hoffman, SN# O 692679, Rte #2, Talpa, Texas, Strasbourg, Germany; 1530 hours, Aug 3, 1944, P-51,
9. LT LeRoy D. Hess, Jr., SN# O 454902, 1341 So. Newport, Tulsa, OK, Prisse’, France, 359th Fighter Group, P-51 “Dutch”
10. LT Steven “Shad” Loveland, SN# O 439135, 297 Lindsey St, Reidsville, N.C. Abgeschossenuber (Shot down), Berlin, AM, 22 March 1944, Bombardier, B-17, 305th BG, 422nd BS
11. 2LT Robert H. Monaghan, SN# O 757904, 407 Wangum Ave, Hawley, PA, Bevenson, Belgium; June 12, 1944, 306th Bomb Group, 367th Bomb Squadron, Bombardier, B-17, “Myassam Dragon”
12. 2LT Charles A. Patterson, SN# O 696958, c/o Mr. Turner, Huron Street, Jackson, OH, Plessitel, France; July 15, 1944, Co-Pilot ,B-24 ,459th BG, 757th BS

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RED CROSS RATIONS



The recommended dietary intake for a normal healthy inactive man is 2,150 calories. Luft III issued "Non-working" German civilian rations which allowed 1,928 calories per day, with the balance made up from American, Canadian, and British Red Cross parcels and items sent to the POWs by their families.



As was customary at most camps, both Red Cross and individual parcels were pooled and distributed to the men equally.

The camp also had an official internal bartering system called a Foodacco — POWs marketed surplus goods for "points" that could be "spent" on other items. The Germans paid captured officers the equivalent of their pay in internal camp currency (lagergeld), which was used to buy what goods were made available by the German administration.

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Every three months a weak beer was made available in the canteen for sale. As NCOs did not receive any "pay" it was the usual practice in camps for the officers to provide one third for their use but at Luft III all lagergeld was pooled for communal purchases. As British government policy was to deduct camp pay from the prisoners' military pay, the communal pool avoided the practice in other camps whereby American officers contributed to British canteen purchases.

LT Monaghan's Stalag Luft III issued spoon



Note Luftwaffe insignia

LT Monaghan wrote home that he enjoyed cooking alone as it took all day and was an enjoyable way to pass the time.

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RED CROSS RATION CONTENTS BY COUNTRY

<p>British Regular (Pow)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2oz. Tea 1/2 lb. Sugar 4 Dried Eggs 1 Processed Cheese 1 Compressed Rolled Oats 1 CAN Sweet Condensed Milk 1/4 lb. Cocoa 12oz. JAM 1/4 lb. Candy 12oz. SPAM - Bacon 8oz. Biscuits (Round) 12oz. Can Cottage Pie 1oz. Can. Mixed Vegetables 2 Pks. Concentrated Oats 8oz. Pilchard 1 CAN Creamed Rice 1 CAN Butter (Med.) 15oz. Stewed Steak 	<p>Scottish Xmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16oz. Cottage Pie 16oz. Steak 4oz. Honey 4oz. Butter 4oz. Beans 1 Box Custard 2oz. Tea 6oz. Candy 4oz. Short Bread (Cookies) 1/2 lb. Sugar 1 Plum Pudding 1 Fruit Cake 1 Condensed Milk 1 CAN SPAM 1 CAN SARDINES (small) 	<p>British Xmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4oz. Choc. Bar 12oz. SPAM 16oz. STEAK 6oz. BEANS 16oz. Pork & stuffing 2oz. Tea 1 CAN Honey 1 1/2 large Condensed Milk 1/2 lb. Sugar 1 CAN SARDINES (small) 1 Yorkshire 1 Custard Powder 1/2 lb. Butter 1 Plum Pudding 1 Christmas Cake
<p>British Regular (No. 16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12oz. JAM 1/2 lb. SPAM 2oz. Tea 1 Tin Crackers 1 CAN Cocoa 1/2 lb. Bar Chocolate 1/4 lb. Sugar 3oz. Processed Cheese Butter Vegetables 16oz. Beef & Vegetables Bacon 1 Salmon 1 Condensed Milk 1 Pkg. Raisins 1 Compressed Roll Oats 	<p>Scottish Regular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12oz. Meat Roll 1/2 lb. Marmalade 1 Candy (any kind) 1 5oz. Mince small 1 6oz. Honey small 1 2oz. Marmalade Pudding 1 CAN Condensed Milk 1 CAN Processed Cheese 1 CAN Powdered Eggs 1 CAN Bacon 1 1/2 lb. Sugar 2oz. Tea 1 CAN Midlothian Oats (large) 3 16oz. Cottage Pie 136 Crackers 	<p>Canadian Regular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5oz. Chocolate Bar 10 1/2 oz. SPAM 10oz. JAM or Marmalade 12oz. Canned Beef 1 CAN SARDINES (flat can) 1 CAN Salmon 13 or 13 Crackers (large) 7oz. Tea or Coffee 16oz. Real Butter 4oz. Cheese 8oz. Sugar 1 lb. KLIM 7oz. Raisins 7oz. Pineapples 1 Packet Salt Pepper (small)
<p>American Regular (D)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4oz. "D" Bar 4oz. M+M Candies 1/2 lb. Sugar Cubes 1 lb. KLIM 12oz. Meat & Vegetable steak 12oz. SPAM 12oz. Meat & Beans 12oz. Canned Beef 7 1/2 oz. Salmon 6oz. JAM 2 cakes Soap 	<p>American Regular (A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 lb. Cheesecake 7oz. "K2's" or "C" Ration Biscuits 6oz. Rose mill pate 1/2 lb. Processed Cheese 3oz. Powdered Coffee 1oz. Salt & Pepper 1 lb. Pineapples 15oz. Raisins 	<p>American Regular "A"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4oz. Orange Jelly 4oz. Dehydrated Onions 2 Pks Gum 5 1/2oz. Preserved Butter 13oz. Canned Beef Hash 1 Doz. Dried whole Eggs (small) 3 1/2oz. Sliced Peaches 12 Bouillon Cubes 1 lb. KLIM 100 Vitamin Pills 1 Box Sugar Tablets 1 1/2oz. Box Type III Biscuits 1 1/2oz. Soap

The POW's developed recipes for meals from Red Cross food packages and camp rations.

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LT Monaghan's Ration recipes



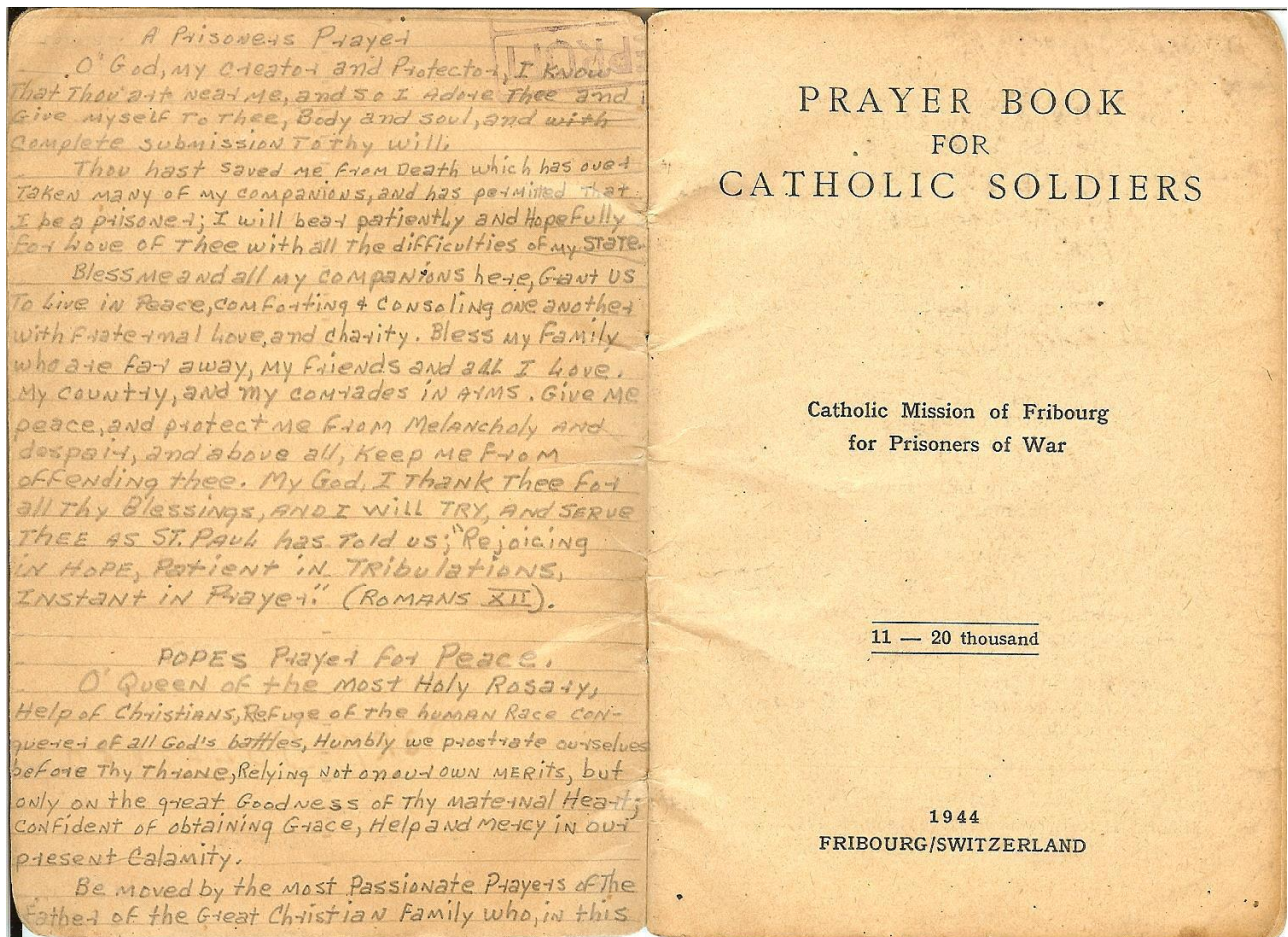
According to discussion with my father and letters home, their German rations were insufficient and items became increasingly scarce during his time in Stalag Luft III. Sunday's they would receive a potato and his combine kept his ration until he returned from Mass. At this point in the war Germany was experiencing food shortages and the POW's increasingly depended on the Red Cross rations. German supplied meals were what he called "slop and black bread".

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RELIGION

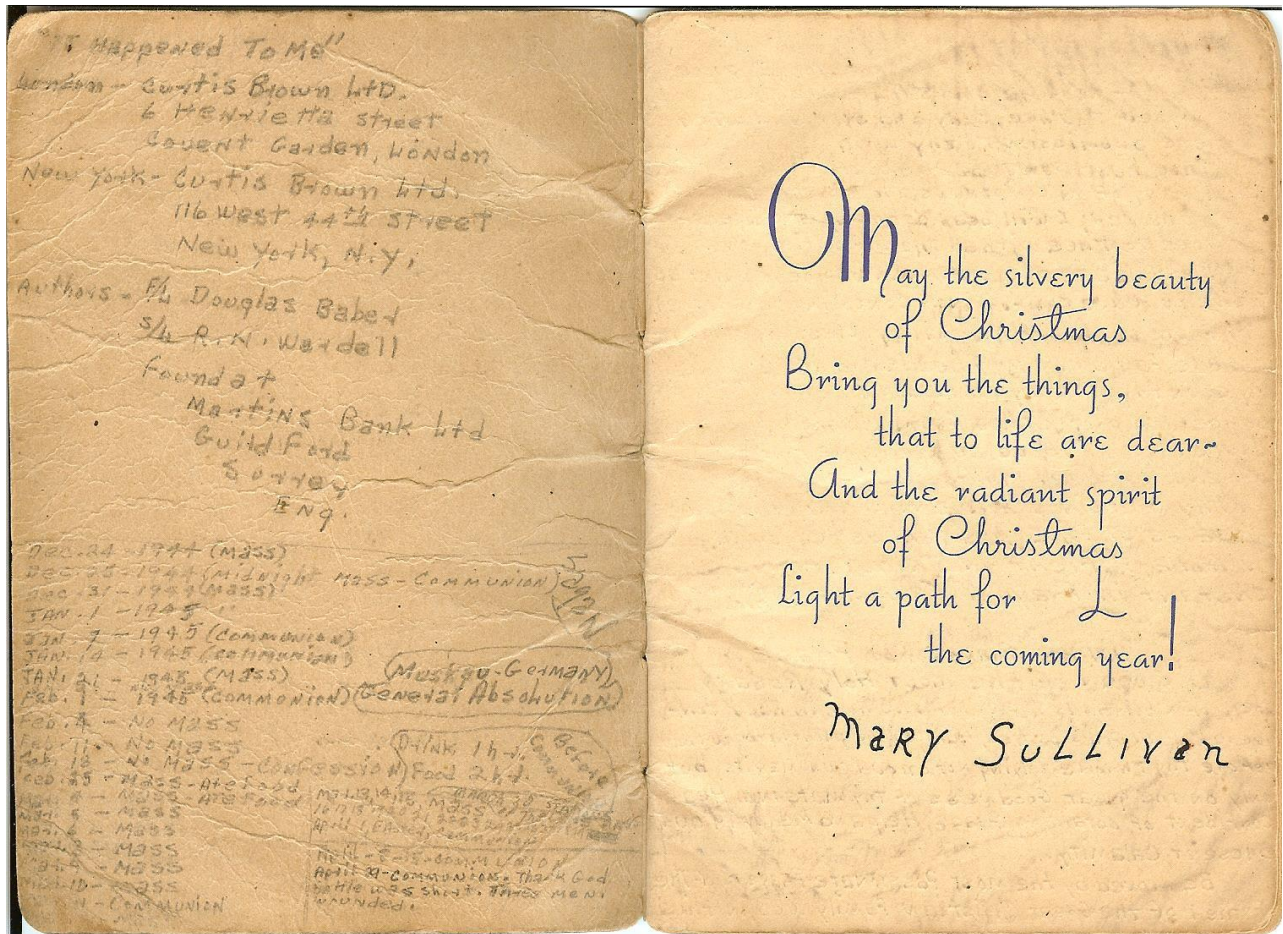
Religious services were held as regularly as possible. His prayer book was provided by the Catholic Mission of Fribourg, Switzerland. On the inside of the prayer book are the dates he attended mass.

**2 LT Monaghan's Prayer Book
(Back and Front pages)**



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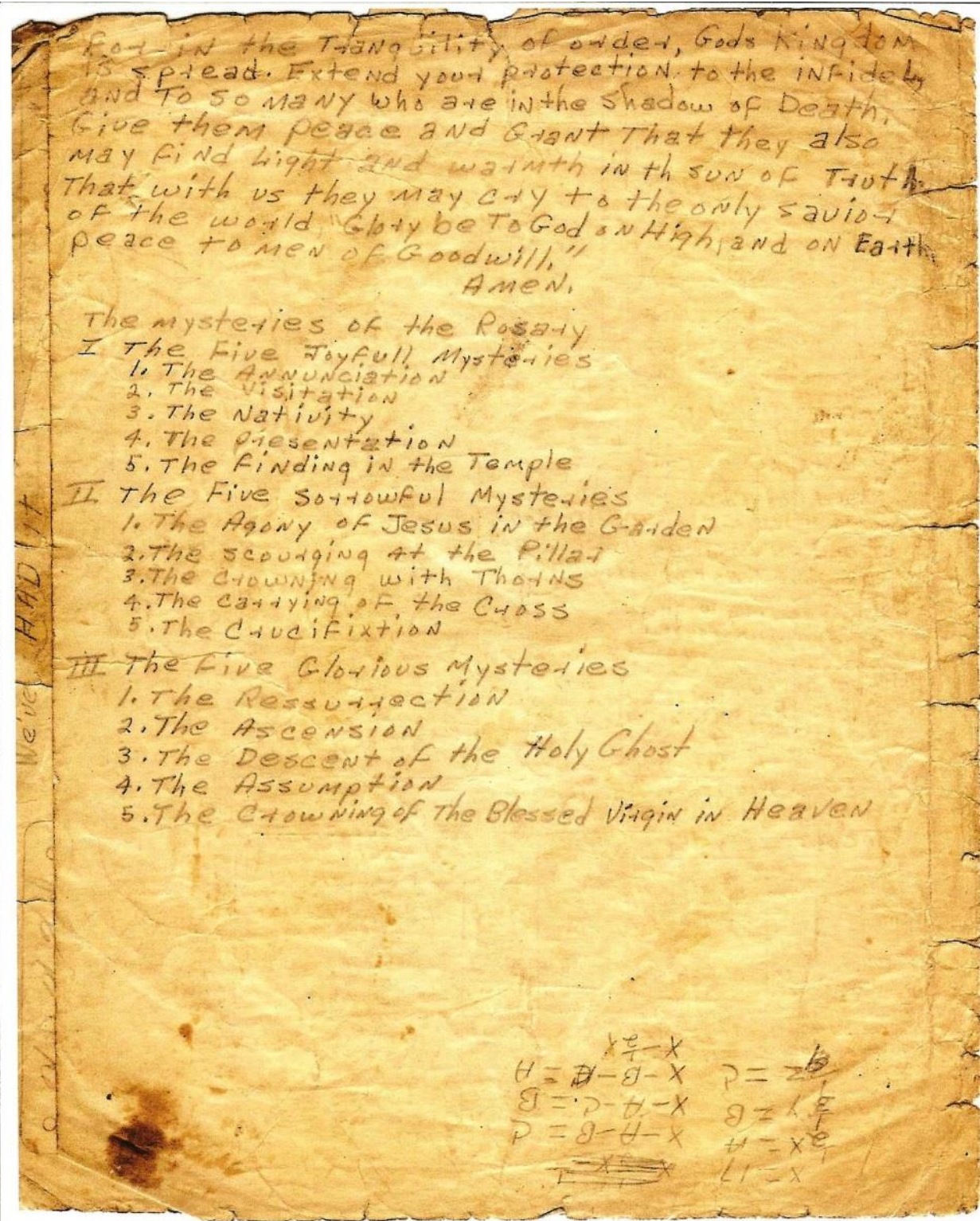
**2 LT Monaghan's Prayer Book
(Inside Front and First page)**



Several documents have prayers written in them including the one below, which has a prayer and the Mysteries of the Rosary outlined. Religious conviction helped the prisoners mentally cope with the stress of prison camp life. Church services marked the end of a week and also provided respite from the "Goons".

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PRAYER PAGE FROM LT MONAGHAN'S SAGAN MARCH DIARY

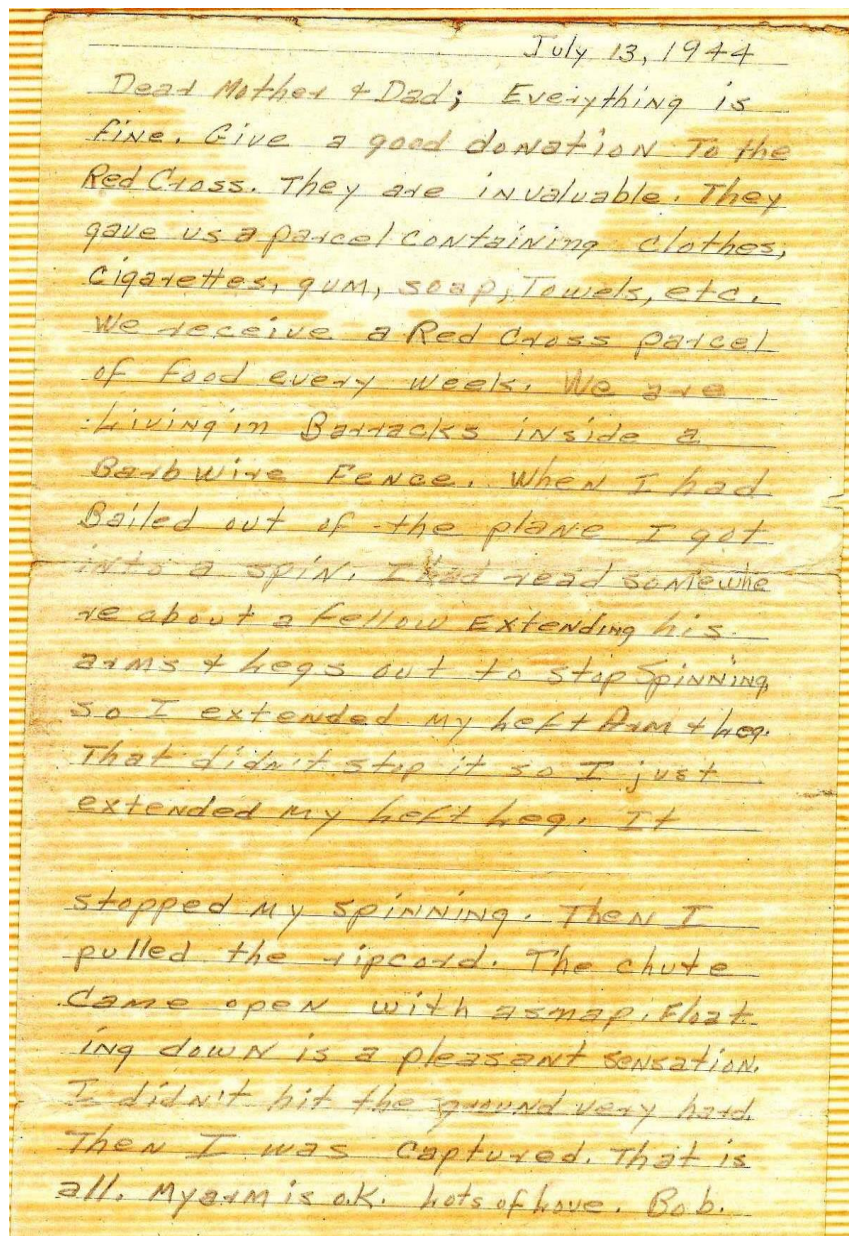


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LETTERS HOME

Prisoners were allowed three letters and four post cards per month. Each had to be on specially printed stock and all messages had to be printed. Messages could not contain any information relating to the military and war effort in general. The letters and post cards were censored by the United States and Germany. Fortunately the family kept several letters and post cards written by Bob and the family.

In his July 13, 1944 letter, he describes how he stopped his spinning after exiting the aircraft. Reassures his family the injured arm is ok and thanks the Red Cross for the care packages.



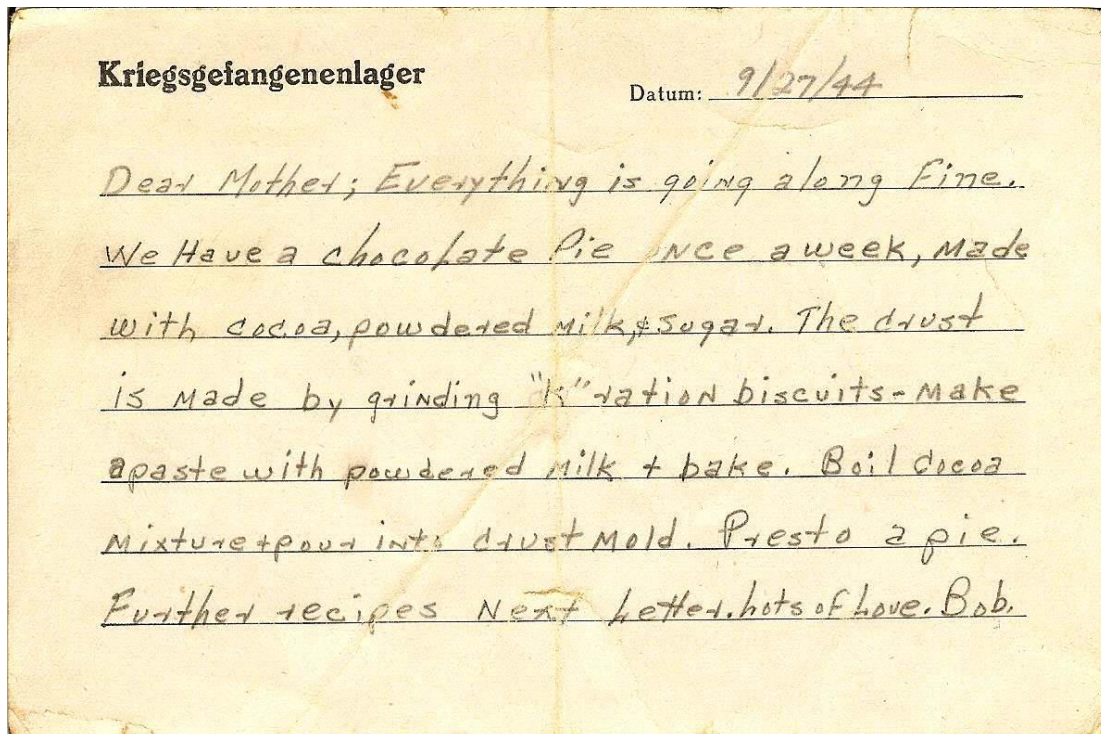
July 13, 1944
Dear Mother & Dad; Everything is
fine. Give a good donation to the
Red Cross. They are invaluable. They
gave us a parcel containing clothes,
cigarettes, gum, soap, towels, etc.
We receive a Red Cross parcel
of food every week. We are
living in barracks inside a
Barbed wire fence. When I had
bailed out of the plane I got
into a spin. I had read somewhere
about a fellow extending his
arms & legs out to stop spinning
so I extended my left arm & leg.
That didn't stop it so I just
extended my left leg. It
stopped my spinning. Then I
pulled the ripcord. The chute
came open with a snap. Falling
down is a pleasant sensation.
I didn't hit the ground very hard.
Then I was captured. That is
all. My arm is ok. Lots of love, Bob.

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In a July 5, 1944 postcard home, he allays their fears by telling his family "everything is going fine". He is in a POW Camp and Red Cross packages with food and clothing are excellent.

August 4th he reinforces that his arm is fine and hopes everyone at home is alright. Candy is scarce. Apparently he has a sweet tooth. He asks if there have been any marriages since he left England. Bob also initiated a pay allotment to his father.

His September 27th post card lets is family know he was enjoying the food and challenges of making deserts from Red Cross Rations.



He sent a second post card on September 27th regarding his arm. Two pieces of shrapnel were taken out with a couple of pieces remaining in his arm. He had corned beef and cabbage for dinner.

October 10, 1944 in a post card to his brother Ed he requested parcels from home include noodles, candy, powdered soup, vitamin pills, spices, etc. Reassured everything was alright with him and sent his love.

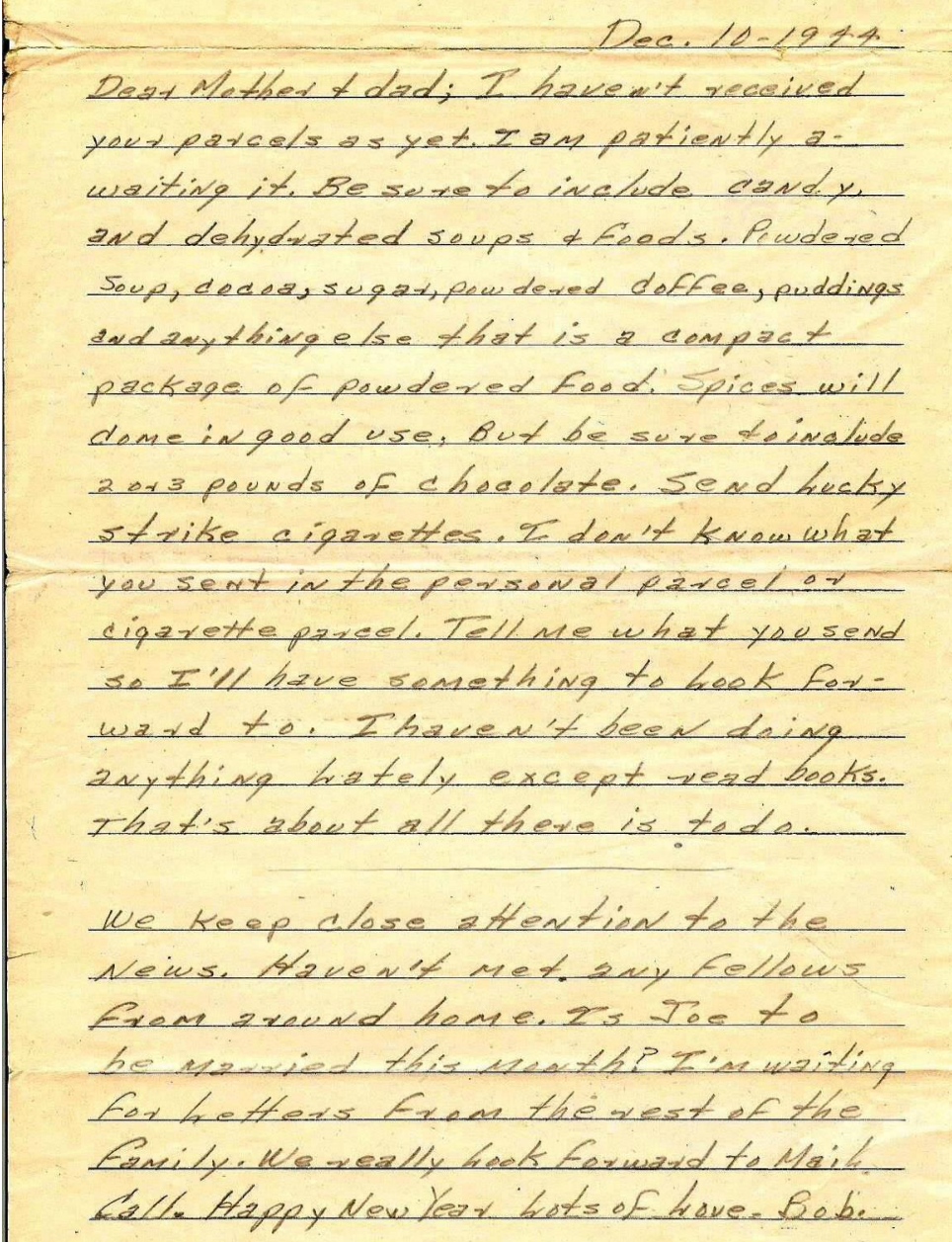
In a card to his Aunt Sara, Bob requested she check with the Red Cross to see if she could send him parcels. He requested item that his Mother could not obtain at home.

November 9, 1944 he writes Christmas is approaching and requested his Mother and Dad to buy presents from him for the family. He also received a letter from Jane Murphy. He signed off with a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year".

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The following day, Robert wrote a card to his sister Alice wishing her a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He asked if she had received his money order that he sent. He also asked about his brother Joe and was happy to hear Alice was a junior. He had received two letters from Jane. Again he requested his mother and father to include candy and food in their parcels to him.

The November 15, 1944 letter to his Mother and Dad, Bob detailed the number of letters and postcards POWs were allowed to send. Food was again requested, with specific items including vitamins, chocolate and sugar pills. He inquired about his POW notification, status of his brother Joe and asked if Ed and Dad had gotten their deer.



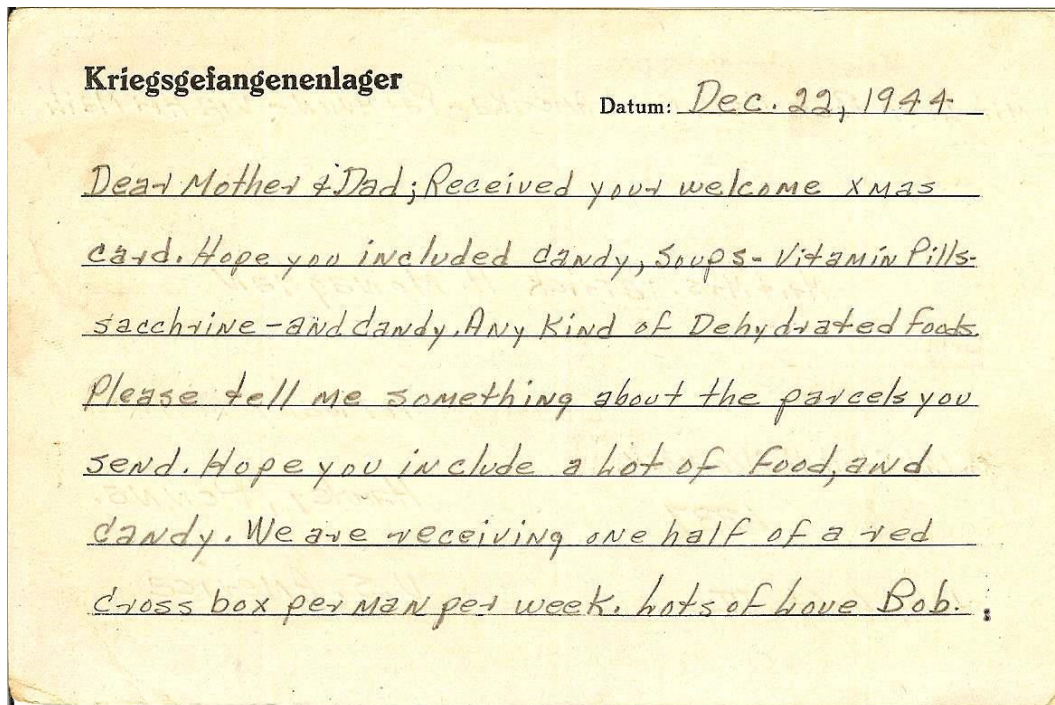
Dec. 10-1944

Dear Mother & Dad; I haven't received your parcels as yet. I am patiently awaiting it. Be sure to include candy, and dehydrated soups & foods. Powdered Soup, cocoa, sugar, powdered coffee, puddings and anything else that is a compact package of powdered food. Spices will come in good use, but be sure to include 2 or 3 pounds of chocolate. Send lucky strike cigarettes. I don't know what you sent in the personal parcel or cigarette parcel. Tell me what you send so I'll have something to look forward to. I haven't been doing anything lately except read books. That's about all there is to do.

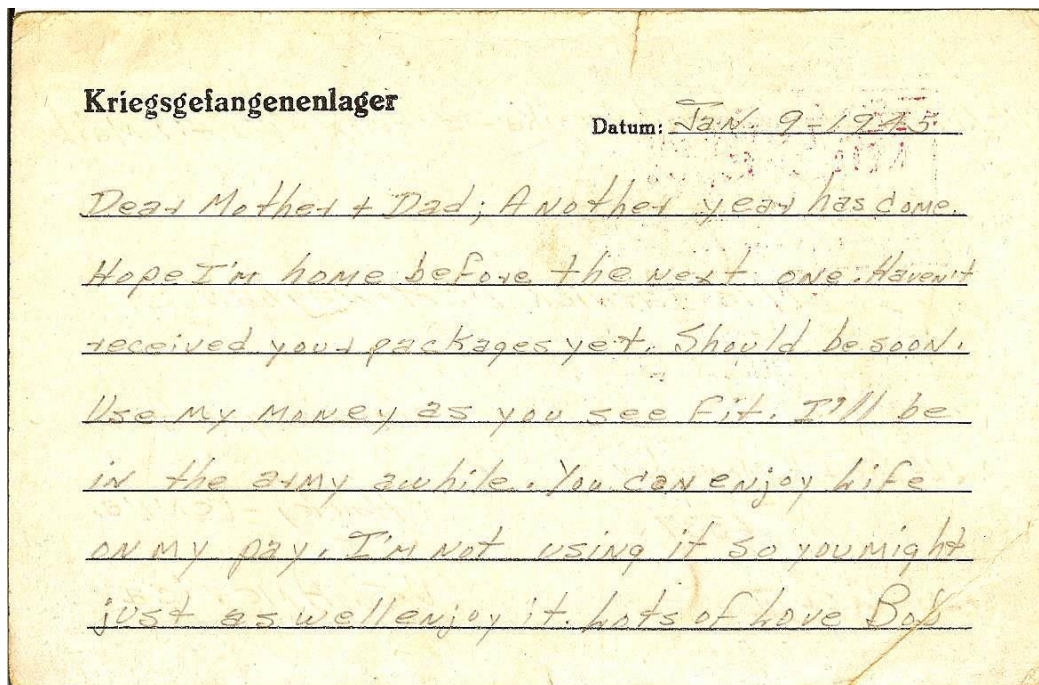
We keep close attention to the news. Haven't met any fellows from around home. Is Joe to be married this month? I'm waiting for letters from the rest of the family. We really look forward to mail. Well, Happy New Year lots of love. Bob

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By December food was becoming scarce, Red Cross rations were not as plentiful. They were receiving one half of a Red Cross Ration box per man per week.



The New Year (1945) - Another year away from home and confined as a POW brought out his frustration. His thoughts and mind set are illustrated in the post card below.



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His Mother sent him a letter on December 26, 1944, but it was not delivered and subsequently returned. The letter apparently arrived after the camp was evacuated. He did write home on January 21, 1945 and was pleased to have received a letter from his parents. He had not received any mail in a long time. He also received a Christmas card from a Mary Sullivan. He was more upbeat in his letter.

The letters and post cards abruptly end in January. Mail delivery was difficult due to the Allies advance on Germany. The Russians were in Poland and pushing towards the German border. Hitler ordered the camps to be evacuated. Thus began Lt Monaghan's challenge to stay alive during a brutal march towards Bavaria in one of the coldest winters in Europe. It became known as the Sagan Death March.

SAGAN DEATH MARCH

The official account of the march from Sagan to Stalag Luft IIA, Moosburg, (Bavaria) has the camp evacuated shortly before midnight on Monday, January 27, 1945. The Germans ordered the 11,000 prisoners of Stalag Luft III to move out. The Soviet Army was advancing through Poland towards the German border. The Camp commander ordered the movement of all prisoners away from the advancing Russians.

This started the brutal forced march known as the Sagan Death March. It began with 1800 American and British airmen in blizzard conditions during one of the coldest winters in Germany. In below freezing temperatures and 6 inches (15 cm) of snow, 2,000 prisoners were assigned to clear the road ahead of the main group.

Lt Monaghan kept a dairy of his experience on the Death March and Stalag Luft IIA camp experience till their release by the 7th Armored Division, which is transcribed below. A copy is included after the transcription.

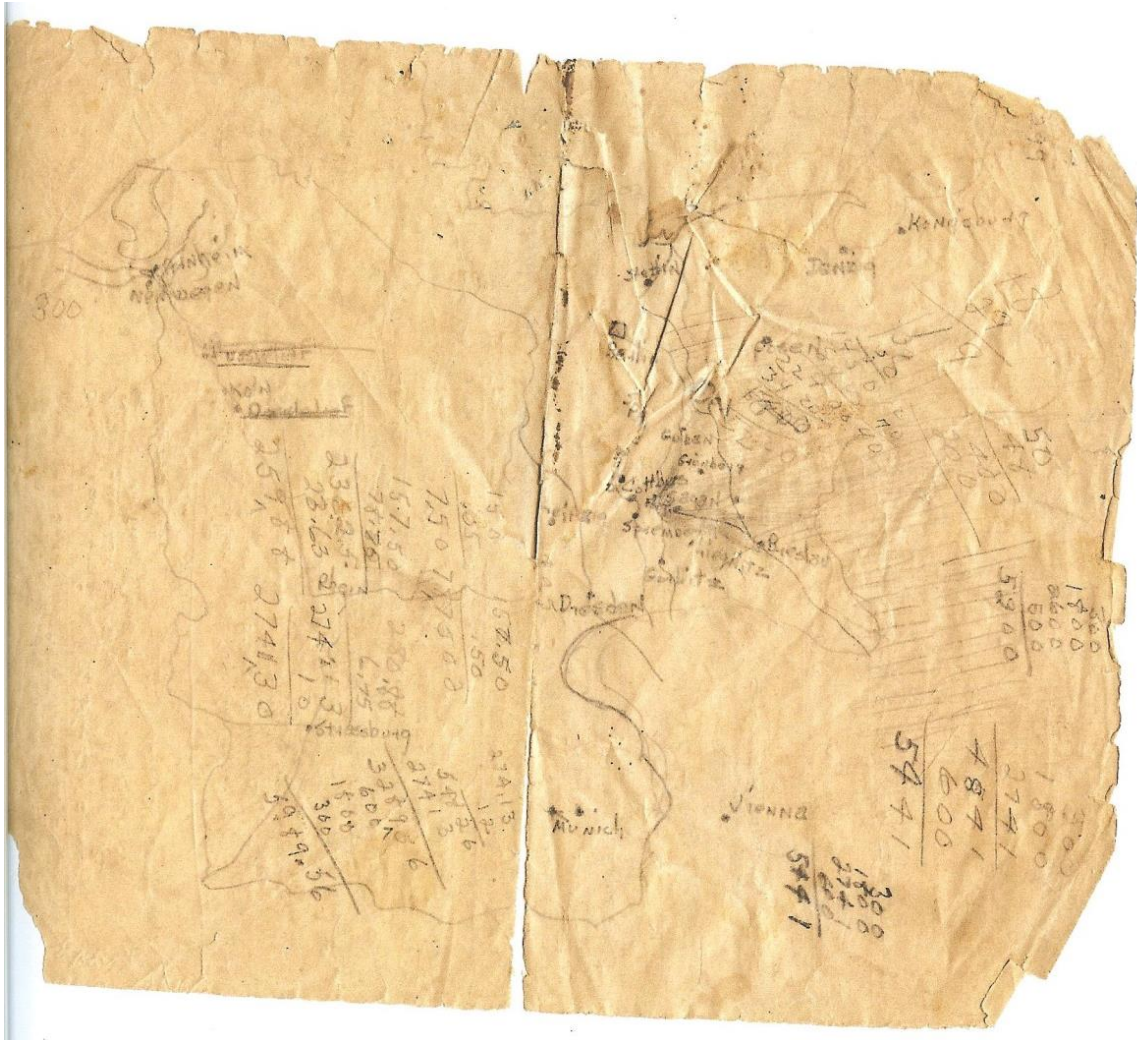
Lieutenant Monaghan's Sagan March Diary

Evacuation – *Diary start date Jan. 28-1945*

Jan 28 Left **Stalag Luft III** morning Jan. 27 - 5 AM to walk westward. Walked 17 kilometers to Halbau, where we stayed overnight in a church. Weather very cold & snowing. Traded cigarettes & soap for sleds to pull out loads. When we were leaving camp Luft III, we were issued a Red Cross box per man. Many men took only canned meat, O bars, sugar & left the rest of the food. Our combine picked up a lot of this extra food. We are now eating it & saving our own parcels.

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LT MONAGHAN'S HAND DRAWN ROUTE MAP



- Jan 29 2nd day we walked 19 kilometers to Lieppa where we stayed in a barn. Left Haubau at 7 AM. Church was built in 1725. Slept sleeping sitting up. People gave us onions (1st in 7 months), milk (1st in 10 months), coffee, hot water, and apples (1st in 8 months) for cigarettes, & soap. Slept in a barn in Lieppa. Quite cold. Snowing.
- Jan 30 Stayed in barn all day Jan. 30.
- Jan 31 Left Lieppa Jan 31, 6 AM. Snowing & cold. At a town called Friedwalhau a sign said 35 miles to Sagan. When we passed thru there on Jan 29th, and we passed thru Preibus, 8 Kilom. from Lieppa. A sign said (unreadable) to Sagan. Arrived Muskau to-night 5:30 PM. A sign said 36 kilometers to Sorau. We are supposed to board a train here. Have been told there is not a train. We have marched 28 Kilom. to-day. We are staying in a pottery factory.

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- Feb. 1 Awoke after sleeping on a wood floor feeling very much better. A bit sore but sleeping in the first warm place in 5 days feels good. The fellows who did not take much food are now short on food. We have sufficient food for a week. Went to mass at 2 PM. To-day received general absolution. Went to communion.
- Feb 2 We are still in the pottery factory. They mold clay into desired shape then place the pottery in a huge oven. Heat it to 1200⁰ F. for two days then allow it to cool for 7 days. At the end of 7 days water can still be boiled against the walls of the oven. 80 members of the North, South & West Camp who were marched 30 hours straight are here with frozen feet. We have been very fortunate. A barley issue to-day brought in 6 loaves of bread and 33 small blocks of margarine (12 men in our combine).
- Feb 3 Awoke 4:30 AM – Left factory 7:30 AM. Walked 18 kilometers – passed thru (no entry). Arrived Grasustin 3 PM. Quartered in a barn again. Weather warmed up-snow gone, sleds deserted. Farmer let us use his stove for cooking. Also supplied hot water. Walk was quite hard. Too many rest stops. Straw was very warm.
- Feb 4 Walked 8 kilometers to Spremberg where we had barley soup & stayed in a garage as a German Army Port. Boarded box cars. 40 & 8 cars. 50 men to a car.

At Spremberg, the Americans from the south and center compounds were divided into groups of 2000 and loaded into box cars, which were littered with manure. The Germans packed many more than 40 POWs into such cars. The box cars were so crowded that they could not all sit or lie down at the same time. They were locked in these cars with only two breaks for three days and two nights before reaching Stalag VIIA.

- Feb 5 Feb 5th – 1945 Spent 2 miserable nights on train. Too crowded. But better than walking. Went thru Hollenboeka, Ruhland, Dotstharda, Muckenbergl, Plessa, Elsterwerda, Resia, crossed Elba, River, Cheminitz. Air raid sirens blew while we were in marshaling yards. We left there in a hurry.
- Feb 6 Spent another sitting up all night. Very little sleep. Stopped in Zwickau, Neumark, Reichenbach. Had air raid alarm. Left town. Netzchkau, Limbach, Jocketa, Plauen, Syrau, Schoenburg, Guentenfurst, Felesich, Hof, crossed Sale River, Kirklemitz ost, Hohenbruan, Marketezwite, Wardershof.

According to Lt Monaghan's sister he said "When the train stopped, we (the prisoners) would forage the fields next to the railway for frozen rotted cabbage left over from the Harvest".

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- Feb 7 Another night in box car. Roth, 2 AM – cold & raining. Augsburg, Miring, Maircoch, Alching, Munich, New Fahrn, Faresing, Langenbach, Moosburg.

Stayed in Wehrmacht Stalag VIIA prison camp. Vary crowed. Slept on straw filled palliasis on floor. Place is like a pig sty. Many sick, diysentary prevalent. We are supposed to move into a new camp.
- Feb 8 Still here
- Feb 9 Still here. Slight touch of dysentaryia. Received a R.C. (Canadian) Box for 12 men per day. Half rations gash (1/2 parcel per man)
- Feb 10 Still here – am ok.
- Feb 11 Sunday - Moved to different part of Stalag VIIA. Had excellent shower. Clothes were deloused. In barracks now. No heat. No coal.
- Feb 12 Bed bugs galore – miserable hole –very poor ventilation –very poor lighting – War come to an end. – Made a Kriegiecamp to heat water.
- Feb 13 Slept very little – felt sick
- Feb 14 Felt better, -St Valentine’s Day
- Feb 15 Slight dyrrhea – haven’t eaten for a day.
- Feb 16 Had a good night’s sleep. Bitten by bedbugs. 15 bites so far.
- Feb 17 Felt better – sunny day – confession
- Feb 18 Appell started 8:30 Am. Ended 11:00 Am. No Mass. Germans require interpreter to be present when Mass is being said.
- Feb 19 No Mass. Am gradually recovering from Dyrrea. Have eaten very little for past week. News very good to-day. Sagan fell to the Russians.
- Feb 20 Felt much better. No Mass. Ate more food to-day than in past week. News good. Conditions so bad – we were ordered not to fall out for Appell. About overflowed to perimeter area. Germans agreed to better conditions. Begin immediately to pum out about.
- Feb 21 Very hungry news good
- Feb 22 Moved back to first barns, called “Snake Pit” to go to delousing & shower. Barracks are to be deloused. Those beds are full of fleas.

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- Feb 23 Ate cold meals to-day, but had hot brews. Germans refuse to allow us to have fires of any kind for cooking while in this part of camp. They threaten to take the boiler away if we start any cooking fires.
- Feb 24 We were deloused & had excellent shower this morning, then moved back to barracks. Smelled of cyanide. Hope bed bugs are dead. Took a chance on a watch for a pack of cigarettes and won the watch. It is a, "Rode". Number "13" won. 50 chances.
- Feb 25 Hungry, nothing else. News good
- Feb 26 Hungry, nothing else. News good
- Feb 27 Hungry, nothing else. News good
- Feb 28 Hungry, nothing else. News good
- Mar 1 Hungry, nothing else. News good
- Mar 2 Hungry, nothing else. News good
- Mar 3 Received a half Red Cross parcel to-day for 8 men. This is the last of the parcels.
- Mar 4 Sunday church
- Mar 5 Won a can of mixed nuts, a plum pudding & 2 fruit bars for a pack of cigarettes. 30 chances. Split with Hoffman, Hairston, & Kendricks. Breaking the monotony of this life very difficult. The best way is to be very slow and meticulous at whatever you are doing. `It keeps me busy. Hope present allied offensive continues. This life is bearable when news is good. No parcels in yet. Church
- Mar 6 Mass. This morning news good. Our meals are very slim without the Red Cross parcels. One slice of bread with marge & sugar or very slim covering of jam for breakfast. Two slices of bread with German cheese or a pate made of a half can of cheese+ milk and half a can of soup for dinner. One or two slices of bread with ½ can of salmon, 6 potatoes for supper. One slice of bread for & marge for brew.
- Mar 7 News Good
- Mar 8 70 carloads of Red Cross parcels arrived at Moosburg to-day. We will receive 8 of the cars. It will mean half rations for about 2 weeks. Our combine (6 men) won 2 eggs to-day. Made omelet of milk, eggs, mashed

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spam. It was excellent. First fresh eggs in 11 months. Paid 16 cigarettes for them.

- Mar 9 No parcels yet
- Mar 10 Red Cross Parcels came into camp. Rec'd ¼ parcel per person. Rumor started by enlisted men in another part of camp that "the War is over". Hope and pray it is true. Allies crossed the Rhine.
- Mar 11 All English parcels. Very good.
- Mar 12 Nothing
- Mar 13 Nothing
- Mar 14 Nothing
- Mar 15 Won a can of meat & beans in a raffle. No. 18 won. Cost 10 English cigarettes or 5 American per chance. We took 2 chances. Nos. 15-18. 20 chances altogether.
- Mar 16 News good
- Mar 17 News good
- Mar 18 News good
- Mar 19 News good.
- Mar 20 News good. Sold my watch for 4 "D" bars and 3 English bars.
- Mar 21 News good. Went on full parcels to-day. Germans cut rations. We get potatoes Mon., Thur., & Sun.
- Mar 22 News good. A fellow tried to eat a Scottish Red Cross parcel in 8 hrs. He didn't do it. Ate my last choc. bar to-day.
- Mar 23 News good
- Mar 24 News good
- Mar 25 Palm Sunday. – News good. Another fellow tried to eat a British Red Cross parcel in 8 hrs. He didn't do it.
- Mar 26 News excellent

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Mar 27-28-29-30-31 (No entries)

April 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20 –

Moved to tents. Slept on straw. Went alone for cooking. Like it much better. Preparing meals all day makes the day pass very quickly. Allies getting close.

April 21-22 Mass - communion. Air raids on Munich, Nuremburg, Regensburg about every day. Saw one plane blow up & another go down in flames during raid on Munich. Not sure about date.

April 23-24-25 - Received Canadian parcel, split with Fried. Rumbblings of Allies continually going on.

April 26-27 Have case of hives. Sick stomach. Allied M.P's composed of camp personnel went on duty at 1500 to-day. Allies (Americans) about 30 miles away. Rumor has it we will not move.

April 28th Uprising in Munich for peace. It was stopped by the Nazis. Rumbblings getting closer. Col Good, our S.A.D. went out under flag of truce and tried to get the S.S. troops to leave this area without fighting for it. S.S. Commander agreed if Allies wouldn't bring offensive weapons into this area. Col Good couldn't agree to it. Allies were contacted at 5 A.M. April 29 and battle for this area.

With the approach of U.S. forces on 13 April, the American prisoners at Stalag XIII-D were marched to Stalag VII-A. While the majority reached VII-A on 20 April, many had dropped out on the way with the German guards making no attempt to stop them. Built to hold 14,000 POWs, Stalag VII-A now held 130,000 from evacuated Stalag's with 500 living in barracks built for 200. Some chose to live in tents while others slept in air raid slit trenches.

Stalag Luft IIA Captured by Allies

April 29th Started at 9 A.M. Lasted until 12 noon. American 7th Armored Division tank came into camp preceded by 2 peep with LTC Lamb hiding in peep. Battle was between Americans & Rearguard troops. Received communion this morning. All men in camp were safe. 3 were wounded.

The U.S. liberated Stalag VII-A on 29 April. 2LT RH Monaghan was liberated after 10 months and 17 day as a German Prisoner of War.

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March 17, 1945

Dea Jane; Please Notice the change of address. I'm at Stalag VII A, instead of Stalag Luft III. We are near the town of Moosburg. We are in barracks, and sleep in Tiers of twelve men. The supply of Red Cross parcels gave out for a while, but a new supply is here now. Haven't received any mail in two months, but that's due to our change of address. Parcels are coming from Switzerland, so mail will probably come too. Spring is coming. It won't be long until I've been down a year. Those summer nights on the lake would be something to look forward too. There is nothing new going on here which makes it very

difficult to write about anything. I'd put Howard Johnson's out of his place, because I'd live there for quite a while. Find a good spot for I'm going to visit him very often. Call Mother + Dad for me. All my love



1/1957

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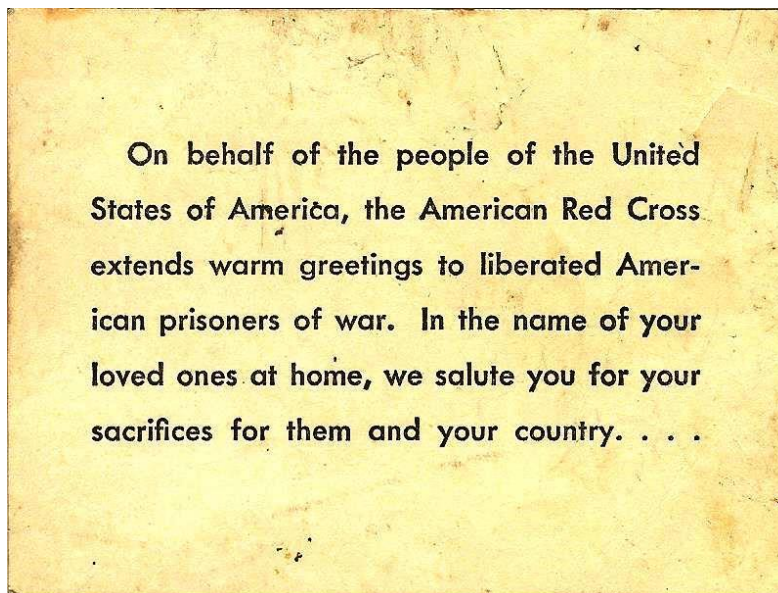
- May 1-4 *No record of entries*
- May 5th We were deloused. Told we are going to leave tomorrow.
- May 6th Left Stalag Luft II-A for an airfield at Staubing. Airfield is about 8 kms. Of Staubing. Boarded G.I. trucks and drove thru Landshut, Worth, Holl, Mengkofen, Ettenkofen, Puchhausen, Leibfimg, Salching & then to field. Airfield is quite shot up. Ate dinner in G.I. mess hall. Not leaving to-day.

CAMP LUCKY STRIKE

- May 7th 7 more FW-190's and 2 JU-52's have come in. One JU-52 had pigs, rabbits & a keg of wine aboard. We left in C-53's. Arrived Le Havre about 0100. Had a shower & deloused. Had excellent hot meal. Issued 4 blankets & mess gear.
- May 9th Slept on G.I. cot, in tents. Good breakfast.

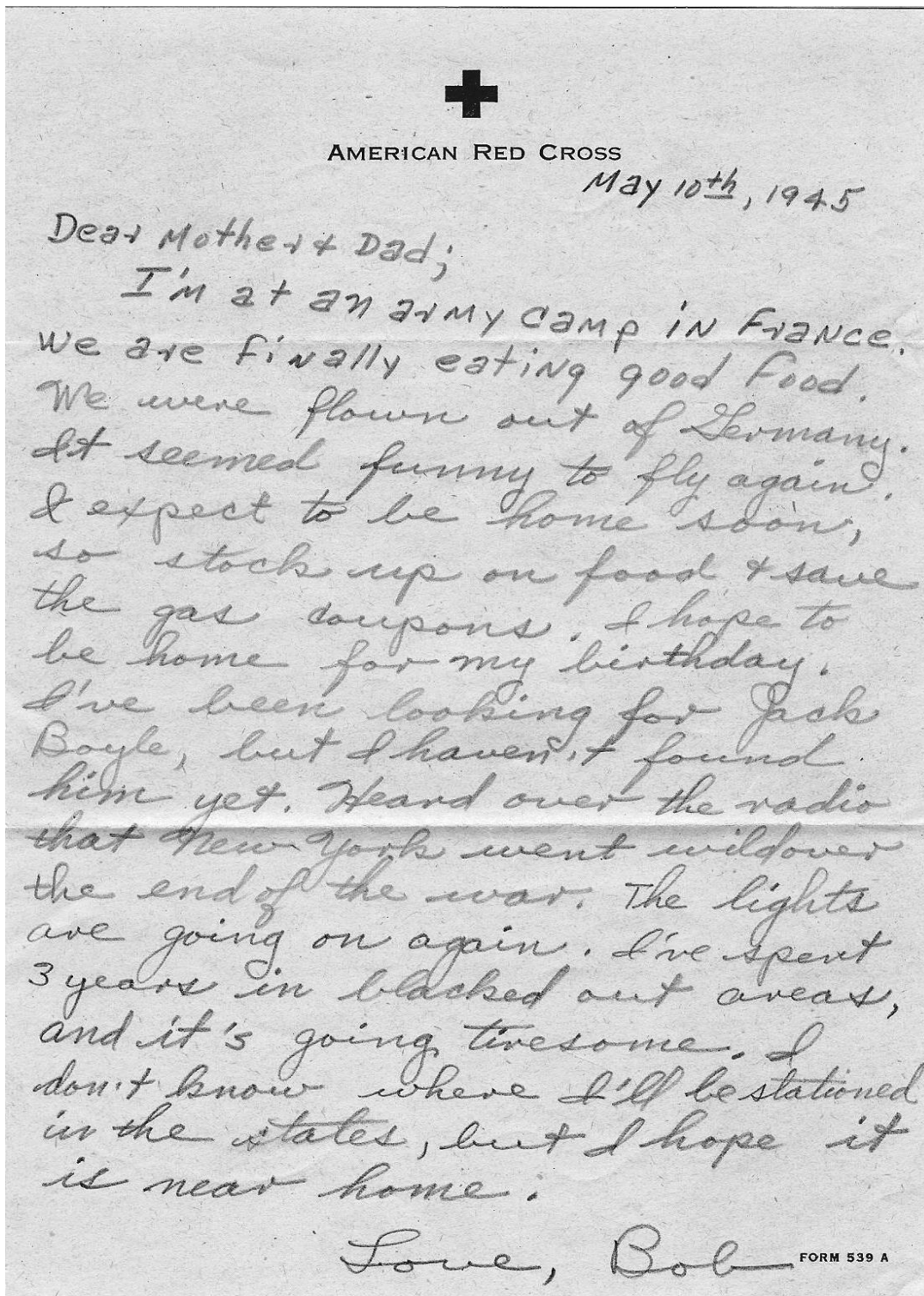
The diary ends at Camp Lucky Strike; Saint-Sylvian France where 2LT Monaghan and the other liberated prisoners arrived on May 7th.

American Red Cross Welcome Card -Camp Lucky Strike



2nd Lieutenant Robert H. Monaghan
World War II Military Service

LT Monaghan wrote his Mother and Dad the day after arriving at Camp Lucky Strike.



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World War II Military Service**

A POW Identity Card issued by Allied Forces has 2LT Monaghan in Tent 10, Camp Lucky Strike, Saint-Sylvian, France on 11 May 45.

LT MONAGHAN'S CAMP LUCKY STRIKE EX-PRISONER OF WAR IDENTITY CARD

Endorsements

IDENTITY CARD

FOR

EX-PRISONER OF WAR

This Identity Card **MUST** be retained until collected at the Reception Camp in the United Kingdom

AGPD 2-45/225M/C546ABCD

Tent: 10

Service No. } 0-757904 Nationality AMERICAN
Serial No. }

Surname } MONAGHAN
Last Name }

Initials R. H.

Rank 2nd Lt.

Regiment, Squadron, Ship } 367th Sqdn. 306th Bomb. Grp.
or Organization }

Holder's Signature Robert H. Monaghan

Signature of P.W. Camp Contact Officer William E. Cady, G.I.C.

Issued at CAMP LUCKY STRIKE on MAY 11 1945

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Camp Lucky Strike was situated in the town of Saint-Sylvian, 5 kilometers from Saint-Valery-en Caux near Le Havre France.



Camp Lucky Strike was a tent city with tents set-up on either side of a captured German built airstrip. The camp was divided into four sections: A, B, C, and D. Each section was made up of 2,900 tents under which were housed 14,500 men.

The camp became the most important military camp in Europe. It extended over 600 hectares (1 hectare = approximately 2 ½ acres). Over one and a half million men transited through Camp Lucky Strike. The Camp was also used as a reception station for soldiers on leave and repatriating soldiers and liberated POWs. There were 100,000 men in the camp each day — 100,000 men to lodge, feed, train, and entertain.

CAMP LUCKY STRIKE (Aerial Photo)



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Le Havre was the port of entry for American soldiers entering the European Theater and only port liberated on the western coast that could accommodate large ships to repatriate soldiers and POWs. Each day 6,000 soldiers and POWs departed from Le Havre by plane or ship.

2LT Monaghan departed Le Havre 21 May, arriving in New York on June 9th. He was assigned Army Service Forces, Second Service Command, Reception Station No 2, 1262d SCU Personnel Center, Fort Dix, NJ on 12 June 1945, Special Orders # 163. He was granted sixty days off (not counted as leave) for recuperation, rehabilitation and recovery plus 4 days travel time.

REPATRIATION



Logo of Special Collections, USAF Library, US Air Force Academy

Lt Monaghan departs for home on 17 June 1945. He was met by his mother Emily, father Patrick and Sister Alice at the railway station. Alice recalls they did not recognize him as he approached. Only after he addressed them did the parents realize it was their son. Former POW Monaghan's appearance resembled a walking skeleton.

After 60 days at home, 2LT Monaghan was reassigned to Army Air Force Redistribution Station #2, Miami Florida, Flight 813-C reporting on 14 August 1945 (Personnel Memorandum 226). 2LT Monaghan reported to Group E 1028-2B (Project R) Flt 813-C. He was billeted in Room 720, Caribbean Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida at the expense of the US Government between 14 28 August 1945. His bill for BOQ service was \$3.50 and Officers' Mess Dues of \$1.00. The documents indicate the government used civilian properties for billeting, processing and mess.

While in Florida he flew out of Homestead Army Air Field. His flight record states 4:10 hours flight time as an Observer in a C-87 Liberator Express, Long Range Transport. 2LT Monaghan was not happy with the assignment or the risks pilots were taking after the War. He loved flying but when LTC Bill Smith flew his B-25 bomber into the Empire State Building, he decided to leave the Army Air Corps and return to civilian life.

As a footnote, I met Bill Smith's son while we were both living in Libertyville, IL and had an opportunity to discuss post WWII flying and his Father's accident.

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August 26, 1945 he wrote home hoping to be reassigned to Indiantown Gap. The air personnel were offered jobs by Eastern Airlines, but he turned the airline down due to his dislike of the Miami area. He wanted to go home. LT Monaghan requested release from the service. His request was approved and was reassigned on 27 August 1945 and departed 28 August 1945 for WP 3D Svc Separation Center, Indiantown Gap, PA. 2LT Monaghan was released from active duty 6 September 1945 (Special Orders 220, dated 6 Sep 1945) and reverted to inactive status.

He was discharged from the Army Air Corps on 8 November 1945 at the WP 3D Separation Service Center, Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania and assigned to the Inactive Reserve. On 14 February 1947 he was promoted to First Lieutenant, AUS (Reserves).

LT Monaghan returned home to 407 Wangum Avenue, Hawley, Pennsylvania, a Pearl Harbor survivor, former Prisoner of War and decorated war veteran. On September 21, 1945 he married Mary Jane Murphy. They moved into the Spring Family home at 212 Wangum Avenue, which they subsequently purchased. Bob and Jane raised five children; Robert, Patricia, Richard, James and Daniel.

After the war he was an active member of American Legion Post 311, Hawley, Pennsylvania. He served as Commander during Legion Year 1956-1957. A member of St Philomena's RC Church (Re-dedicated as Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace RC Church) and a Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus.

John Gallagher recalls "When I came back from Korea to bury my dad - Bob brought your grandmother down to Easton for the funeral. I believe he made a comment about "glad they don't have a squad here to volley or something like that". I remember standing at the edge of the opening when he said something like that. I don't recall him ever going hunting after he came home. When your grandpa died I remember going down the American Legion with your dad and /uncles Joe & Ed. It was hard for your dad to stand around and talk-he was always moving around-antsy."

Our family observed the "antsy behavior" as he was always wandering in stores, shops, around town. He had to go somewhere. Our Mom, a nurse for 49 years, believed he suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) caused by the war. He also suffered from dementia in his later years. While he never took me hunting, my brothers and I were encouraged to enjoy hunting deer and small game. Dad said "he couldn't take the cold" since his feet froze during the sub-zero Sagan March.

After he was released from the service he complained of numbness in his feet. In 1967 he had a Vagotomy, a surgical procedure that involves resection of the vagus nerve. . His stability on his feet worsened progressing to where he could only walk a few feet straight on. He also experienced difficulty in climbing and in turns. The damage caused by the freezing developed into neuropathy on both feet and legs.

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Unsteady on his feet he fell and broke his hip. Inoperable due to his age and condition, pneumonia filled his lungs causing in his death. LT Robert Henry Monaghan passed away on August 4, 1999 at the age of 80 in the Pennsylvania Veterans Hospital, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. He is buried in the Queen of Peace cemetery, Plot 27, Mother of Sorrows Section, Hawley, Pennsylvania with his wife Jane. His parents and grandparents are buried close by in the Grotto Section.

Personal Notes:

While serving with the 5th Special Forces in Viet Nam, I met a Sergeant who ran our radio relay base in Quang Ngai, Southern I Corps. When I arrived at the site he looked at me and said he "knew me". After some back and forth discussion we discovered he was in the same bomb squadron as my Dad and was a POW in Stalag Luft III. The sergeant was a pilot in the Army Air Force and left the army after the war. With the start of Viet Nam he enlisted and served with a Utah National Guard Special Forces Group. In 1969 he volunteered for Viet Nam. The Sergeant said I looked just like my Dad as he remembered him. I checked with my Dad and he remembered him and his crew at Thurleigh, England. Small world!

While working with the Pacific Division of American Hospital Supply Corporation (AHSC) I often interfaced with the President of AHSC Japan, Frank Nakamoto. Frank was a dive bomber pilot during the raid on Pearl Harbor. We had interesting friendly discussions. They sent each other greetings and never exhibited any animosity.

During the 1990's I was in Japan on an army assignment. A government civilian with the section I was working in provided me a tour of former Emperor Hirohito's Sumo Viewing Room. The room was reassembled in the Mason's Hall, Tokyo, Japan courtesy of General MacArthur. The visit provided the opportunity to sit at the Emperor's desk, where Admiral Yamamoto planned the invasion of Pearl Harbor. Truly a small, small word!

2nd Lieutenant Robert H. Monaghan World War II Military Service

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World War II Military Service

APPENDIX A

SAGAN DEATH MARCH DIARY

Evacuation - Jan 28 - 1945
Left Stalag Luft III Morning Jan. 27 5 A.M. to
walk westward, walked 17 kilometers to Halbau
where we stayed overnight in a church.
Weather very cold & snowing, Tasted cigarettes
& soap for sleds to pull our loads. When we
were leaving ^{Camp III}, we were issued 1 red
box per man. Many men took only canned meat,
D Bars, sugar & left the rest of the food,
A combine picked up a lot of this extra
food, we are now eating it & saving our
own parcels. 2nd Day we walked 19 kilo-
meters to Hieppa where stayed in a barn,
left Halbau at 7 A.M. church was built in
1725. Slept sitting up. People gave us
onions (1st in 7 months), milk (1st in 10 months), coffee,
Hot water, & apples (1st in 8 months) for cigarettes, &
soap. Slept in barn at ^{Friedwald} Hieppa. Quite cold.
Snowing. Stayed in barn all day Jan. 30.
Left Hieppa Jan. 31, 6 A.M. Snowing & cold.
At a town called Friedwald a sign said
35 Kilometres to Sagan. when we passed thru
there Jan 29th, and we passed thru ^{Paichau}
5 Kilom. from Hieppa and a sign said 36 Kilom.

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2
to SOGAN. Arrived Muskau to-night 5:30 p.m.
a sign said 36 Kilom to SOGAN. We are supposed
to board a train here. Have been told there
is NO train. We have marched 28 Kilom. to-
day. We are staying in a pottery factory

Feb. 1st 1945 ~~awoke~~ ^{Feelings} awoke this morning after sleeping
on a wood floor very much better. A bit sore but sleeping in
the first warm place in 5 days feels good. The fellows who
didn't take much food are now short on food. We have
sufficient food for a week. Went to Mass at 2 p.m.
To-day, Received General Absolution. Went to Communion.

Feb. 2nd - We are still in the pottery factory. They mold the clay in
to desired shape then place the pottery in a huge oven. Heat it to
1200° F. for 2 days then allow to cool for 7 days. At the end of 6
days water can be still boiled against the walls of the oven.
Members of the North, South & West camp who where marched 30
hours straight are here with frozen feet. We have been
very fortunate. A barley issue to-day. Brought in 6 loaves of
bread & 33 small blocks of margarine (12 men in our combine).

Feb. 3 - 1945 - awoke 4:30 AM - left factory 7:30 AM. Walked
18 Kilometers - passed thru
arrived Graustein 3 p.m. Quatered in a barn again
weather warmed up - snow gone, sleds deserted.
farmer let us use his stove for cooking.
also supplied Hot water. Walk was quite hard. Too
many rest stops. Snow was very warm.

Feb. 4 - walked 8 kilometers to Spremberg where we
had Barley soup & stayed in a garage at a German Army
post. Boarded box cars. 40 + 8 33 + 5. 50 MEN
to a car.

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Feb. 23 - Ate cold meals To-day, but had hot brews. Germans refuse to allow
To have fires of any kind for cooking, while in this part of camp. They
Threaten To Take The boiler away, if we start any cooking fires.

Feb. 24 - we were deloused & had an excellent shower this morning. They
moved back To barracks. Smelled of cyanide. Hope Bed Bugs are
dead. Took a chance on a watch for a pack of cigarettes and
won the watch. IT IS A "RODE". Number, "13" Won. 50 chances

Feb. 25 - Hungry, Nothing else. News good

Feb. 26 - " " " " " "

Feb. 27 - " " " " " "

Feb. 28 - " " " " " "

Mar. 1 - " " " " " "

Mar. 2 - Received a half Red Cross parcel To-day for 4 men. IT IS THE LAST OF THE parcels.

Mar. 3 - Sunday. Church.

Mar. 4 - Won a Can of Mixed Nuts, a plum pudding, 2 Fruit bars for a pack of
cigarettes, 30 chances. Split it with Hoffman, Hairston & Kendrick.

Mar. 5 - Breaking The monotony of this life is very difficult. The best way
is To be very slow & meticulous at whatever you are doing.
IT Keeps me busy. Hope The present Allied offensive continues. This
life is bearable when the news is good. No parcels in yet. Church.

Mar. 6 - Mass this morning. News good. Our meals are very slim without Red Cross
parcels. One slice of bread with marger + sugar or very slim covering of JAM
for breakfast. Two slices of bread with German cheese or a pate made
of a half can of cheese + milk and half a can of soup for dinner.
one or two slices of bread with 1/2 can salmon, 6 potatoes for sup
one slice of bread + marger for brew.

Mar. 7 - News good

Mar. 8 - 70 cartloads of Red Cross parcels, arrived at Moosburg To-day. we will recieve
5 of the cans. IT will mean Half rations for about 2 weeks. Our combine
(6 men) won 2 Eggs To-day. Made an omelette of Milk, Eggs, Mashed Sp.M. IT
was excellent. First fresh eggs in 11 months. Paid 16 cigarettes for them

Mar. 9 - No parcels yet.

Mar. 10 - Red Cross parcels came into camp. Rec'd 1/2 parcel per person.
Rumor started by enlisted men in another part of camp that
"the War is over". Hope + pray it is True. Allies Crossed Rhine.

Mar. 11 - Ate English parcels. Very good

Mar. 12 - Nothing

Mar. 13 - " "

Mar. 14 - " "

Mar. 15 - Won a can of meat + Beans in a raffle. No. 16 won. Cost 10 English
cigarettes or 5 American per chance. we Took 2 chances Nos. 15-17.
20 chances altogether.

Mar. 16 - News good

Mar. 17 - " " " " " "

Mar. 18 - " " " " " "

Mar. 19 - " " " " " "

Mar. 20 - " " " " " "

Mar. 21 - " " " " " " Sold my watch for 4 "D" Bars and 3 English Bars.
went on full parcel To-day. Germans cut rations. We
get Potatoes Mon, Thur + Sun.

Mar. 22 - News Good. A fellow tried To eat a Scottish Red Cross parcel in
3 hrs. He didn't do it. Ate my last choc. Bar To-day.

Mar. 23 - News Good

Mar. 24 - " " " " " "

Mar. 25 - Palm Sunday - News good. Another fellow Tried To Eat a British Red
Cross parcel in this. He didn't do it.

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Mar 26 - News Excellent,
Mar 27-28-29-30-31
April 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20 - Moved
to Tents, slept on straw. Went alone for cooking like
it much better. Preparing meals makes day pass very
quickly. Allies getting closer.
April 21-22 - mass communion. Air Raids on Munich, Nurnberg
Regensburg about every day. Saw one plane blow up &
another one go down in flames during Raid on Munich.
Not sure about date.
April 23-24-25 - Received Canadian parcel, split with Fried.
Rumblings of Allies continually going on.
April 26-27 - have case of hives. Sick stomach. Allied
M.P's. composed of damp personnel went on duty
at 1500 To-day. Allies (Americans) about 30 miles
away. Rumor has it that we will not move.
April 28th - Uprising in Munich for peace. IT
was stopped by the Nazis. Rumblings
Getting closer. Colonel Good, our S.A.D. went
out under the Flag of Truce and tried to
get the S.S. Troops to leave this area with
fighting for it. S.S. Commanded agreed if Allies
wouldn't bring offensive weapons into this Area.
Colonel Good couldn't agree to it. Allies were contacted
at 5 A.M. April 29 and Battle for this area
started at 9 A.M. lasted until 12 Noon.
American 7th Armoured Division Tank came into
camp preceded by a peep with 4th Colonel Lamb
aiding in peep. Battle was between Americans
& Rearguard Troops. Received Communion this
morning. All men in camp are safe. 3 were
wounded.

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APPENDIX B SECOND LIEUTENANT ROBERT H. MONAGHAN

US ARMY AIR CORPS	8TH AIR FORCE
COMMISSIONED:	23 OCTOBER 1943.
SERVICE NO.	O 757904
SPECIALTY:	BOMBARDIER 1035.
DEPARTED FOR EUROPE:	5 APRIL 1944
ARRIVED ENGLAND:	8 APRIL 1944
SHOT DOWN:	13TH MISSION OVER BELGIUM
PRISONER OF WAR:	CAPTURED 12 JUNE 1944, BELGIUM
PRISON CAMP:	STALAG LUFT 3, SAGAN, GERMANY
LIBERATED:	6 JUNE 1945
DEPARTED EUROPE:	21 MAY 1945
ARRIVED UNITED STATES:	9 JUN 1945.
DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY	7 NOV 1945

AWARDS, DECORATIONS AND BADGES

BOMBARDIER WINGS
PURPLE HEART
AIR MEDAL W/ 1 OAK LEAF CLUSTER
PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
ASIATIC-PACIFIC-THEATER MEDAL W/2 BATTLE STARS
EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL
WORLD WAR II VICTORY MILITARY RIBBON
AIR OFFENSIVE OF EUROPE
HONORABLE SERVICE LAPEL PIN
PEARL HARBOR COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL (NOT WORN ON CLOTHING)

ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE

ENLISTED:	7 APRIL 1937 – 22 OCTOBER 1943
COMMISSIONED:	23 OCTOBER 1943 – 8 NOVEMBER 1945
LENGTH OF SERVICE:	
CONTINENTAL	10 MONTHS, 12 DAYS
FOREIGN	1 YEAR, 2 MONTHS, 4 DAYS.

RESERVE (AUS) SERVICE

PROMOTED	14 February 1947, First Lieutenant (AUS)
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2nd Lieutenant Robert H. Monaghan World War II Military Service

APPENDIX C B-17G TAIL NUMBER 019-V SPECIFICATIONS

The B-17 Heavy Bomber was developed and manufactured by the Boeing Company. Suffix numbers were added as improvements to the aircraft were made. The 8th Air Force flew both B-17F and B-17G models. A newspaper reporter when seeing the B-17 for the first time called them Flying Fortresses and the name stuck.

Tail number #019-V (SN# 44-6019) was built by Douglas in 1944. Produced with a silver finish, #019-V is flown to Cheyenne, Wyoming where the tail gun turret outfitting is completed. Then on to Kearney, Nebraska and turned over to the U.S. Army Air Corps. A crew picks up 019-V and ferries her across the Atlantic. She is delivered to the 367th Bomb Squadron, 306th Bomb Group on 21 May 1944. She receives the colors and markings of this group; a triangle "H" on the tail and an identification letter "V" in the middle of the tail.

Wing Span 103 feet 9 inches
Length 74 feet 8 inches
Height 19 feet 1 inch
Speed 160 mph Cruise
302 mph Maximum
Service ceiling 35,600 feet
Range 2000 miles @ 182 mph, 10,000 feet
Weight Empty 36,135 pounds
Normal 55,000 pounds
Maximum 72,000 pounds
Runway Length 3400 feet Takeoff, 2900 feet Landing
Fuel Capacity 3630 U.S. Gallons
Bomb Load Up to 9600 pounds short range
4000 pounds long range
Armament 12- 50 Caliber Machine Guns
Engines Four Wright Cyclone R1820-97, nine cylinder, air cooled radials with exhaust
driven turbo super chargers.
Engine S/N SW 015112
SW 015192
SW 013381
SW 014189

When #019-V meets her crew she is named "Myassam Dragon" (*My Ass Am Drag'n*). On 25 May 1944 she flies her first mission to Thionville, France. #019-V will fly nine missions before being shot down over Antwerp, Belgium on 12 June 1944. Myassam Dragon's war time career lasts 22 days.