

MISSION TO AFRICA.

I was informed by my pilot, Rip Riordan to see that our plane, Old Wahoo 11, was ready for flight.

I got with my crew chief, Goodwill, and we pre-flighted the ship; checked that all the guns were ready and that there was extra ammunition at every gun position., also an extra fuel tank in the bomb compartment. The extra fuel tank gave us approximately 410 more gallons of fuel. We had a total of 3200 gallons of fuel.

I was told to go to the gunnery shack. I was given a Thompson machine gun, two clips of ammo and a side arm, a 45 automatic and extra shells. The rest of the enlisted man wrer given a rifle and a 45 automatic.

On my way back to the nissen hut I got to wondering what the flight was all about. I know that we werer going on a long flight. What I did not know , at that time was that we were going alone.

We boarded Wahooll and took off for an air base somewhere in England. After we had landed, to my surprize, we saw our first American fighter group, beautiful P 47's Thunderbolts. I was fascinated by the size of a plane as a fighter.

We had been at the base for some time, viewing the fighters and talking to our American pilots. When my pilot, Rip, told us that it was time to get back to our ship for take off. On arriving back to he plane I noticed the plane was completely surrounded by guards. I boarded the plane and to my amazement the plane was completel filled with what looked like barracks bags, and all of the bags wrer sealed. There were bags stacked in the radio room. The whole one side of the bomb bay, and even on each side of my top turret. I believe that there were even bags in the navigator and bombardier compartment.

In charge of these bags was a major, I don't know which branch of the service he was in, but it was not Air Corps.

I asked the major what we were hauling, but he would not tell me. We landed that evening at the R.A.F. base at the tip of England, Again here came the guards.

We were told to hit the sack early, because our flight was before day break.

We were awakened the following morning around 2a.m., had breakfast and the enlisted men and I went out to the plane. I pre flighted the plane, checked all the gun positions and made sure that we had a full load of fuel.

We took off while it was still dark. After leaving the English coast we were told to check all our guns for firing and to report in. My pilot informed us that all gunners were to stay at their gun positions until further notice.

At this point I was beginning to get pretty concerned as to what

we were getting into. As we were flying I noticed, to my left blinking lights I was informed that we were flying away from the French coast. It was still dark and I got to thinking that this had to be a very important mission to jeopardize a veteran bombing crew and a good plane,

It finally became daylight and you could see the beautiful blue water. As we approached land I got my first view of Gibraltar. As we prepared to land I made my routine check of all of the plane and informed my pilot that we were ready to land. At that point I noticed that my pilot's safety belt was not secured. I reached over and hooked it in for him. I had no sooner returned to my position between the pilot and co-pilot seats when suddenly the plane seemed to fall out of the sky, like a ton of bricks. I hit my head against the ceiling of the cockpit. I felt that the only thing that kept us from crashing was the great ability of "Rip" Riordan, our pilot.

After the plane became airborne again I checked on all the crew to see that they were all right and also that the plane was O.K. While I was aft of the plane one of the crew men informed me that our radio operator Schultz, had saved the major from going out the radio operator top gun position opening. I returned to the cockpit and informed my pilot that the crew and the plane were ready for landing. Our landing was perfect. Upon landing the plane was again surrounded by guards. I made a visual check of the plane.

I don't remember how many days we stayed in Gibraltar.

One day while the rest of the enlisted men were in town we met some American sailors. They noticed our Air Force patches and wanted to know what ship we flew. They had never seen a B 17 bomber and would like to see the ship. We took them to the base to see our plane. They were impressed with the picture of Old Chief Wahoo holding Hitler by the scalp and were amazed at how many guns the ship had. After we left the base the sailors invited us to go aboard their ship. We had a wonderful meal, fresh white bread and butter and to top it off home made ice-cream.

The following morning I and the rest of the enlisted men went into our plane. I did pre flight inspection on the engines and had the plane ready for flight.

We took off across the Mediterranean sea for Africa. We finally hit land over Spanish Morocco. We received a few bursts of anti-aircraft fire, we finally reached French Morocco and landed at Marakesch air base.

As soon as the ship engine stopped we were approached by two 6X6 trucks and guards. The bundles were loaded on to the trucks and the Major left. We were taken to Algeria, that night German bombers came over and bombed the city and the harbor. I had to come to Africa to be in an air raid!

On our return flight to Gibraltar we picked up two American officers. One of the officers was a pilot, Capt ^{Adams} ~~Adams~~ of the 369th. squad. His ship flew off our right wing and was shot down over Lille, France. The same mission that our first plane Wahoo 1 was peppered pretty good. The two officers were in bad condition from the weather, crossing the mountains from France to Spain.

On our return flight to England we were fortunate as we flew off the French coast. We had plenty of cloud cover to protect us from the fighters.

On landing s at our base in Thurleigh we received the sad news of the great losses of the 367th. at Rotterdam. I believe they lost sixteen planes.

I do not know if you have all the crew names of the mission

Bob (Rip) Riordan	Pilot
Little john	Co-pilot
Spellman	Navigator
Jerry Rottor	Bomber
Anthony Santoro	Flight engineer and top turret guns
Schultz	Radio operator
Charles Davis	Ball turret guns
McMahn	Tail guns
Mays	Waist gun
Dwiggins	Waist gun.

Anthony D. Santoro
(Tony)

LEFT NEW YORK HARBOR FOR EUROPE ON THE

QUEEN ELIZABETH

The Elizabethan News

DONT BLOCK THE ALLEYS

No. 5

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1942

THREE CENTS

ALWAYS CARRY YOUR LIFE JACKET

HEROIC RUSSIAN FIGHT TO HOLD STALINGRAD

GERMANS RETREATING AT VORONEZH

The battle for Stalingrad continues with ever-increasing intensity as huge Nazi forces advance towards the city.

On both fronts strong tank formations lead the attacks.

Throughout yesterday the Russian forces fought heroically to stem the advancing torrent of men and metal, and to straighten the wedge driven into the south-west defences.

German losses are reported to be "terrific."

On the south-west sector, the German supply problem is much easier than on the north-west, which makes the threat to the city from the south-west far more serious.

Enemy Held
The Red Army continues to hold up the enemy thrust to the north of Stalingrad, where German losses are high.

The German drive towards Novorossisk, in the west Caucasus, has made some progress, where, despite fierce resistance, Soviet troops have been forced to withdraw to new defence positions.

The other prong of the enemy drive on Novorossisk is still being held south of Krasnodar.

Co-Operation
To the south of Voronezh, Soviet ground troops, co-operating with planes and artillery, are advancing.

TRIBUTE TO BRITISH WORKERS

A warm tribute to the workers of Britain was paid in a speech by Mr. E. R. Stettinus, in Washington.

He said that huge facilities for increased war production existed in Britain today, and that hundreds of thousands of extra workers were needed to get them going.

Right and Justice

After three years of war, he declared, British workers have not wearied of the task and are leaving their homes in great numbers to work their hardest, because they fully believe in the right and justice of the cause for which the Allied Nations are fighting.

ESCAPE FROM GERMAN PRISON

A Dutchman has reached London after escaping from a German prison camp, *Oflag C*, a 12th-century fortress at Geldrich, situated between Liepzig and Dresden.

Twelve-Foot Walls

This is one of the most difficult of German prisons to escape from, the walls being twelve feet thick, and every window fitted with iron bars.

He stated that about sixty British officers imprisoned there have made a hobby of tunnelling.

FRESH CHINESE GAIN IN CANTON AREA

Chinese troops fighting in the Canton region have recaptured the town of Lupei, 35 miles south-west of Canton.

Japanese counter-attacks at Kinwa, the capital of Chekiang province, have been repulsed, and the Chinese are slowly closing in on the city.

AMERICAN BOMBERS IN ACTION
American bombers raided Nanchang yesterday, where seven enemy cargo vessels were sunk and 29 troop-carrying junks destroyed.

Bombs were dropped on the Japanese headquarters at Hanyang.

Only one American plane was lost in these raids.

NEW U.S. ARMoured DIVISIONS

Mr. Stimson, the United States Secretary for War, announced yesterday the formation of four new armoured divisions of the Army.

Fourteen Divisions
This brings the number of armoured divisions in the U.S. Army up to fourteen.

It also means the formation of a new and third Army corps.

MAIL FOR HONGKONG P.O.W.'s

The Japanese Government has announced that European prisoners in Hongkong will shortly be able to receive and send letters. Each letter must not exceed fifty words and must not contain political or financial information.

"Mercy Ship"

The Government statement added that the visit of a "mercy ship" to Hongkong was refused as it was considered that too much information could be obtained on such a voyage.

NEW TYPE U.S. NAVY PLANE

The United States Navy has a new type of aircraft, known as the Seagull.

It is a two-seater monoplane which can be operated from a land base or catapulted from ships.

Carries Bomb Load

It is faster than any previous type carried on ships, and can carry a light load of bombs.

CHURCH HIT IN LIGHT RAID

Two German planes swooped down from behind low clouds over a south-east coast town during the morning, and dropped bombs. A church and some houses were hit, and several people were injured.

Raid-Free Night

There were no enemy aircraft over Britain during the night.

RUBBER EXPANSION IN CEYLON

There is to be an expansion of rubber planting in Ceylon, under license, a Colombo message stated yesterday.

Mr. Wandell Willkie was received by King Farouk in Cairo, yesterday.

U.S. MARINES BATTLE JAPS IN SOLOMONS

United States Marines are attacking a new Japanese landing force in the Solomon Islands.

While the Japanese were making several attempts to land, Allied planes heavily attacked the landing craft, causing many casualties.

Small parties of the enemy who did manage to land are being mopped-up by Marines.

Raid Broken Up

Eighteen Japanese bombers, escorted by 15 Zero fighters, attacked Allied positions near Tulagi, in the Solomons. Three bombers and five fighters were destroyed, and the formation broken up.

AMERICAN SUBS. SUCCESSES

Striking successes by American submarines in the North Pacific area, were reported in Washington last night.

During the last few days one Japanese light cruiser, two freighters, one medium-sized tanker and one small steamer were sunk. In addition, a medium cargo ship was badly damaged.

TWO-DAY LULL IN EGYPT

ALLIED AIR ACTIVITY

The lull in ground action on the Egyptian battle front continued for the second day.

Heavy Plastering

Axis armoured units, which had been probing the eastern lines, have withdrawn to the south and west, after a heavy plastering by British artillery fire.

Air activity, however, has been growing in intensity since the new Axis offensive opened.

Twenty Sorties

During a series of twenty air sorties yesterday, nine enemy fighters and six dive bombers were shot down, and the same number badly damaged. Allied losses were 10 fighters, but five of the pilots are safe.

AXIS AIR LOSSES IN MIDDLE EAST

It was revealed in Cairo yesterday, that since Italy entered the war, over 4,500 Axis planes have been destroyed in the Middle East, compared with the Allied loss of 1,500 aircraft.

ODDS AND ENDS
EDITORIAL OFFICE:
MIDLAND BANK, "A" DECK SQUARE

MAKE-SHIFT

At a buffet supper at Harpo Marx's home in Hollywood, guests were inconvenienced to find no napkins, but Oscar Levant "covered up" for his friend.

"Due to the high cost of living," he announced, "there are no napkins—but from time to time a woolly dog will pass among you."

TOTAL DEFENCE IN NATURE

Many defence methods and devices used in modern war have amazing counterparts in the protective measures evolved ages ago by Nature for creatures of the woods, fields and sea.

ARTILLERY. The bombardier beetle carries a cannon—a peculiar gland in the abdomen—and when it fires a blast of evil-smelling gas accompanied by a bang like a tiny popgun's, its enemies retreat in panic.

GRAPPLES. A defence projectile has been evolved which, on exploding, releases metal filaments that enmesh a plane's propellers. The pond-living paramoecium protects itself by shooting forth a mass of grappling threads that entangle the foe while the paramoecium escapes.

SMOKE SCREEN. To mask itself from an enemy, the squid ejects a cloud of inky fluid, under cover of which it moves out of danger.

PARACHUTES. The spider clammers up a tree and spins out a long floating filament of silk; when this catches the breeze the spider less go of its perch, and after it has soared the desired distance it partly reefs in its parachute and thus floats gently to the ground.

AIR COMBAT. As the fighter plane's speed and manoeuvrability enable it to rout the bomber, the hummingbird drives large hawks and marauders away from its nest by darting at them and aiming its lance-like little beak at their eyes.

REMINDER
The subject of birds reminds us of the bloke who said: "Of course, I wouldn't say anything about her unless I could say something good. And, oh boy, is this good . . ."

LAMENT

THE ARMY QUEUE

When you get up in the morning,
When the decks are all a-dew,
And you're looking for your breakfast,
You must line up in a queue.

If you want to post a letter,
If you want to bid adieu,
If you want to buy tobacco,
You must line up in a queue.

If you feel a bit religious,
Or you want a "Coke" or two,
Or a haircut or a tooth pulled,
You must line up in a queue.

And if we go to Heaven
Or Down Under when we're through,
You can bet that while we're waiting
We'll line up in a queue.

RELIEF

A drunk was walking along the curb with one foot on the pavement and the other in the gutter. A policeman followed him for a while and then said, "Come along, pal, and I'll help you home. You're drunk."

"Thank God!" said the drunk. "I thought I was a cripple."

SERVICE

Notice in the window of a Los Angeles shop making a special sale display of brassieres:

"WHAT GOD HAS FORGOTTEN WE STUFF WITH COTTON."

FINALLY—

We thought you might like to know—although, frankly, we don't care a damn either way—that the grave diggers of Memphis, Tenn., have organised and are now members of the C.I.O. Cannery and Packers' Union.

JULY 4, 1943

JULY 10, 1943

QUEEN MARY NEWS

MOVE SMARTLY TO
- BOAT STATIONS -



ATTEND MEALS
- PUNCTUALLY -

OCEAN DAILY NEWS

EDITORIAL OFFICE: SHIP'S ORDERLY ROOM - MAIN DECK - AFT

No. 3

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1943

ONE PENNY

Heavy Nazi Losses in New Offensive RUSSIANS REPULSE ALL MAJOR ATTACKS

Axis Troops Make Slight Progress In Isolated Sectors Of 300-Mile Front

LONDON, Wednesday,

At dawn on Monday the German army opened its annual offensive on the Russian front. This year the attack was on a 300-mile line from a point north of Orel, about 200 miles south-west of Moscow, through Kursk to Bielgorod.

The Soviet communique states that all major attacks have been repulsed, although some ground has been given in the Viyelgorod sector.

The offensive has taken the line below Orel towards the south and from above Kursk towards the north. It is in this latter drive that the Germans have made slight progress in isolated sectors.

During the first day's fighting 738 German tanks were destroyed and a further 423 destroyed yesterday brought the total for the two days to over 1100. To assist their troops the Germans threw large numbers of aircraft into the battle, 111 of which were shot down yesterday, making a total of more than 300 destroyed in the two days. Over 4,000 officers and men were killed.

There is no news of the fighting north of Orel where the Germans have been making secondary attacks.

An Agency report states that the new German offensive came as no surprise to the Soviet High Command. In fact, they had not only anticipated the date of the attack but also the area where it would be launched.

Coming after a lull of 101 days, it appears to be following similar lines as the offensive on the southern front last year which led to the annihilation of the German armies at Stalingrad.

There is much speculation as to why the action has been so long delayed, and it is surmised that either the Germans have been waiting to see what the British and Americans would do in Europe or they have found difficulty in making the necessary preparations.

Berlin has had nothing so far to say about the offensive, one radio commentator even denying that it has started.

General Deitmar, the German military commentator, in a broadcast yesterday made no reference whatever to the offensive, but referred to Russian guerrilla bands whose activities against supply lines that full-scale operations had to be launched against them.

AXIS LOSE 91 PLANES IN TWO DAYS OVER SICILY

The Mediterranean Air Forces continued their heavy attacks on Sicily throughout Monday night and daylight yesterday. The main objective was the aerodrome at Girgenti and its satellite airfields along the south coast of the island.

Over 100 enemy fighters were encountered and the Flying Fortresses created a record when, out of a total of 45 destroyed, they shot down 30 in 50 minutes. One Fortress alone claimed 13.

At the same time Cairo based aircraft were attacking Messina on the northern tip of the island. Supply depots, docks, warehouses and an infantry barracks were bombed with good effect.

During the two day's operations over Sicily the Axis lost 91 aircraft. No mention is made of Allied losses.

HITLER'S GIFT TO MUSSOLINI

The German Ambassador in Rome called on Mussolini and presented to him, on behalf of Hitler, a leather-bound dictionary of Italian words, the roots of which can be traced to German origin.

Mr. Bevin, Minister of Labour, has been handed a cheque for \$100,000, the gift of American workers, for the benefit of British women war workers suffering from war strain.

U.S. SUCCESS IN PACIFIC CLASH WITH JAPS

LONDON, Wednesday.

Whilst there are no further details of the naval battle in the Kula Gulf, Colonel Knox, the U.S. Navy Secretary has stated in Washington that the Japs have taken a big licking, and that unconfirmed reports indicate that six Japanese battleships of the heavy cruiser type have been sunk and that one U.S. ship has been lost.



Colonel Frank Knox

that all the operations in the S.W. Pacific area are proceeding according to schedule.

An Australian report states that the Japanese force was intercepted at the southern end of the Kula Gulf, and it is believed that after suffering some losses, broke off the action and scattered into small groups. American aircraft took up the chase and one Japanese destroyer which was beached was repeatedly hit with bombs. Japanese Zeros attempted to head off the attacking aircraft, but suffered heavily in the attempt.

It is announced in Washington that during the shelling of land positions on Kula by naval forces prior to the naval engagement, U.S. destroyer "Strong" was torpedoed and sunk.

A report has been received that Vangani Island, south of Georgia, is now under American control.

In the N.W. Solomons, U.S. Liberators made heavy air attacks on Balali Island, whilst at the same time another force was carrying out raids on Lae, in New Guinea.

GERMAN ARMY DESERTERS

The German Commander-in-Chief in Norway, General Von Falkenhorst, has become alarmed at the large number of German deserters from the German Army who are crossing the frontier into Sweden. He has persuaded Berlin to appeal to the Swedish Government for extradition measures against deserters. No reply to the appeal has been received but it is expected shortly.

FOOD RATIONING IN BRITAIN CONTINUED AFTER WAR

LONDON, Wednesday.

Mr. Anthony Eden stated in the House of Commons that it was intended to put certain sections of the U.S. report of the Hot Springs Food Conference into effect in England, and that the Government would play its full part in assisting the plans laid at the conference.

The report was also discussed in the House of Lords. Lord Strabolgi appealed to the Minister of Food not to be stampeded into ceasing the rationing of food after the war, otherwise it would not be possible to put the report of the Hot Springs Conference into effect.

Lord Woolton, in reply, said it was very desirable that everyone should understand that rationing would have to be carried on for some time after the war. It should be realised that even after Germany and Italy had been beaten, it was probable that a number of countries would be occupied by Japan, and would have to be supplied with food after liberation.

ITALY'S SUBS. TO DISARM

The blockade of Germany and Italy has been so effective that it has been practically impossible to convey supplies to and from Germany and Japan. Therefore, on orders from Berlin, five of the largest Italian submarines and many smaller ones, are being stripped of their armament to be converted into freight carriers.

This new example of German domination, says a report from neutral sources, has upset the Italian people and there have been many riots in all parts of the country.

Daylight Raiders Over Britain

During daylight yesterday, enemy planes appeared over East Anglia. A number of people were injured by machine-gun fire.

During a sweep over Northern France early yesterday, R.A.F. Spitfires destroyed seven enemy fighters.

The respite which is being given to the German people by our Air Force continues, and last night was spent in mine-laying operations in enemy waters.

National Park Trust, Inc.
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036



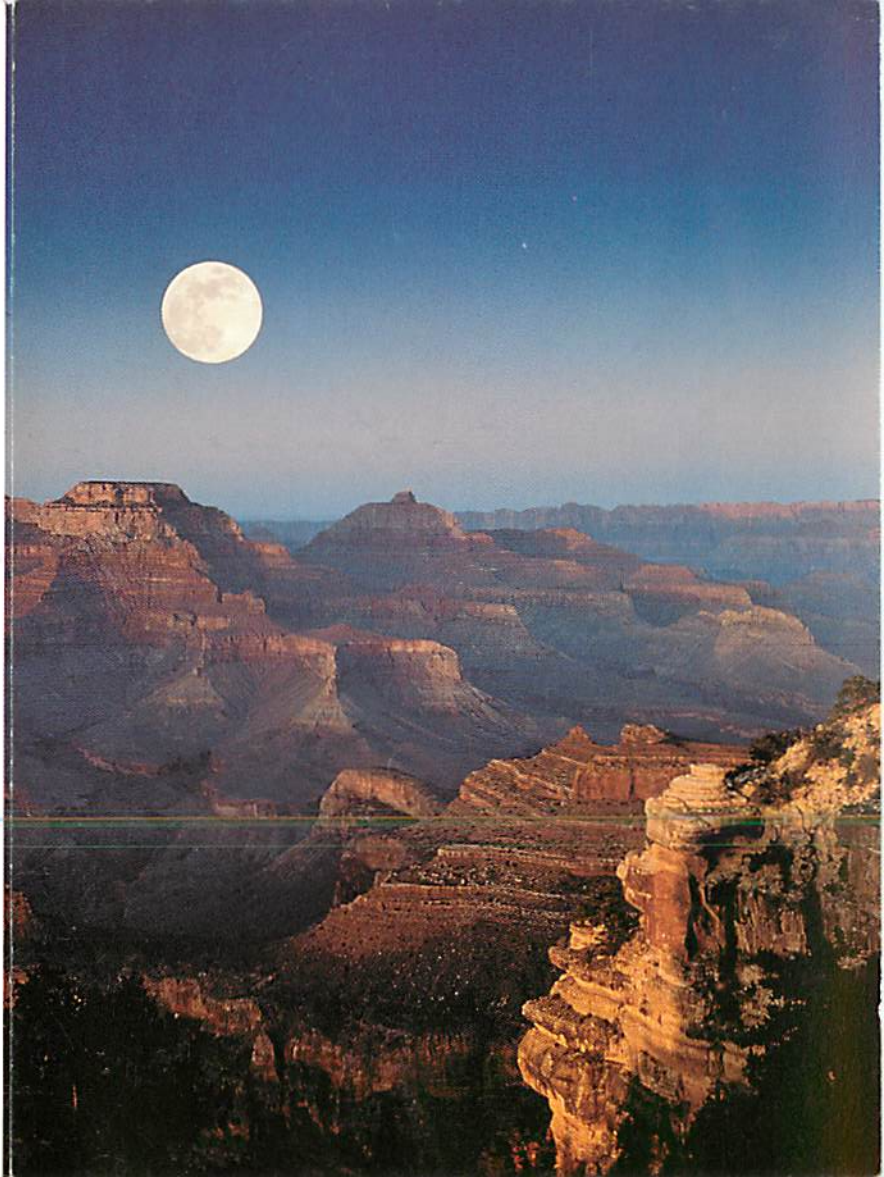
The National Park Trust, Inc. is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation whose mission is to secure privately held property in or adjacent to parks, and to acquire land to establish new parks.

Grand Canyon National Park
Arizona



Printed on recycled paper

Photograph © David Noble, 1988



5-26-06

Enclosed is check to help the budget a bit, will send same amt. each month. Hope it helps!

We misplaced previous issue ? so we want to say please, please keep us on mailing list.

Thank you —

Tony & Margaret Santoro



Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Santoro
4430 Brownstone Ln.
Houston, TX 77053

MY SHIP



~~CHIEF WAHOO I~~

WA-HOO! MARK I

SN- 41-24468

B-17 F (EARLY)

Tom Santora