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USAAF
AUG. 9th, 1919 - May 25, 1944

Excerpts from letters written from England
during his time of service with the 392nd B.G.
World War II - Sept. 43 - May 44.

578th Sq. Ops Off. - Jan 43 - Nov. 43
577th Co - Nov. 43 - May 44

Wendling

40 Letters

Letter No / Dated / Mission Dated / Veg & sack.

#48

10/10/43 10/18/43

We hit Veg & sack. Our first raid on Germany. Boy, it sure was exciting — I can sure ~~hard~~ say that I'll have some stories to tell our grandchildren. The flak is something to talk about. Let alone the fighters. We had our first loss in the 518th — lost Lt. Buschman & his crew right over the heart of Germany — they saw everybody bail out so I suppose they're OK.

(Also mentioned a diversion raid over North Sea — loss of Major Appert.)

#63

10/31/43 10/30/43

Got up at 4:45 AM. Had the briefing and off we went, for 7 hrs of circling and climbing through a solid overcast in formation — started across the channel & was then called back — took us 4 hrs. to get all the ships down thru the overcast & landed.

#66

11/11/43 11/3/43 — Wilhelmshaven

A rough one, right enough! No loss as from Groi

11/11/43 11/5/43 Munster

A really rough one — the good old 518th lost another crew, Lt. Steinmetz — a good boy, seen going down under control, with several parachutes coming out. The 518th led the Munster deal and I took Lt. Kirk Smith's crew (& flew as Pilot instead of the usual co-pilot as per regulation. Lt. Simmons, my Navigator, on the Munster deal (who works right under me in the airplane) was wounded by a piece of flak. He will get a Purple Heart — he deserves it — kept right on Navigating.

(The "Hi Joe" is for our mailman of 20 years (my) on back of envelopes)

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Sometime in early Nov. Clint was made CO of 577

Letter No. | Dated | Mission Date |

68 11/13/43/ 11/13/43 - Bremen
Today, was sort of rough - we ran the Bremen raid - and 4 of our boys from the Group are missing - most of them ditched in the channel, you know, a water landing - then sail around in the little rubber boats - One from each Sq - mine in the 577th was a damn good man - a flight leader, we haven't heard from the Air Sea Rescue yet but I'm almost positive they O.K. That's the first crew of the 77th to go down.

70 11/18/43 11/16/43 - Norway
I went on the Norway raid on the 16th - good deal - our Sq 577th lead the 392nd and really did an excellent job - everyone had trouble getting together in formation that morning on account of the weather - so (we) proceeded alone - got all the way to the Norwegian Coast without contacting the B-24's - joined right in with the B-17's and in we went, and came home with them. O.K. Everybody came home in good shape - and today just the 24's went back to Norway - I couldn't go today - Two of the 578th are missing & believed to have forced landed in Sweden, in fact they did! All of my boys that went out all bombed - as good as the time before (on the 16th) - and they all came back -
Rodger!

Letter No. Dated Date of mission Mission
76 11/27/43 11/26/43 Northwest Germany

Work at hand is kinda rugged - Ye olde bomb droppers association - at work again - over Northwest Germany this time. - It was a nice trip tho - just like a country trip in the U.S. - only except for the flak, very disconcerting - and of course the enemy fighters - they get mad at us boys! Can you imagine?

79 12/2/43 12/1? 11/30 Solingen, Ger.

Hit 'em another lick - As a Sq. Co. it was my turn to lead the group with my boys of the good ole' 577th - we doo'd it - all the way in and out - scored a lick for our team.

91 12/21/43 12/20/43 Bremen, Ger.

Made out o.k. - we went for a little ride over Bremen, Germany just for a laugh! Had a nice trip, it was my turn to lead the group and so I deed! Turned out o.k.

94 12/26/43 - No mission

We didn't have such a bad Christmas - Christmas is a home + family affair, you just can't get away from (it) and most of the boys felt it too! The best thing of all has been the weather these past few days - a regular pea soup - not win the birds are flying much less the USAAF - thank God! That's what real made our Christmas what it was!

97 1/1/44 12/31/44 Southern France (3)

The good old 577th lead the whole show

Letter No.	Dated	Date of Mission	Mission
#97	1/1/44	12/31/44	Southern France

(continued) of B-24's - and did they ever drop em
in the pickle barrel - it was a grand
show - a long haul down to Southern
France. Only misfortune was the 578th
losing McKee & his crew - tough luck.

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Letter No.	Date	Date of Mission	Mission
#99	1/4/44	1/4/44	Kiel, Germany

Today was sort of a rough day - no end - the boys went out over Kiel, Germany for a little trip and few of them didn't come back - three of them missing - including my Ops. officer, Lt. Heinemann, very sincere officer and a hard worker - I regret their loss tremendously. It sure is a tough lick to take - but we'll come back with twice the effort of that I'm positive - in fact, we must! - Tonight is a pretty sober & hard hit 392nd.

#105	1/12/44	1/11/44	Germany
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Pretty tired after hitting them another hard lick the good dependable 597th lead the 392nd into battle again, Nice trip over Germany - Hits, runs, and no losses, what a ball game!

#109	1/21/44	1/21/44	Down in France
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Had a rough one today - down in France - they come close but no cigar! All the boys got back O.

#116	2/6/44	2/5/44	Tours, France -
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I flew the mission to an airfield in France - Tours - yesterday I was the Wing Leader - that is, in addition to the responsibility of the 392nd I also had the responsibility of another Group - which together made the Wing. We did pretty well as a whole, hit the target, that's what counts!

Letter No. Date Date of Mission Mission

#119

2/15/44

Re: ~~May Gen~~ May Gen Doolittle

By the way May Gen. Doolittle was here on the field today - inspected one of my ships too - I was flying (practice) getting my new boys in shape for operations - I have 18 again now - sure hope the Sq. stays that way for a long time to come,

Letter No. Date Date of Mission Mission
#121 2/17/44 Inspectum - Gen Hodges.

Not much happened today - thank God, very nasty weather - it's been trying to snow all day - drizzle then a little snow, then drizzle - anyhow we had our big inspection by Brig. Gen. Hodges, Commanding General 2nd Bomb Division and Brig Gen Johnson C of 14th Wing; and Col Rendle Co. of 392nd - Anyhow I think we came out OK - They all came into my Sq. Operations and my lead crew officers and myself had to explain all the training & procedures & etc. - he spent all day here anyhow (this letter has been previously published in the news letter.)

#124 2/22/44 2/21/44 Germany

my 13th mission completed yesterday - good deal? We went over Germany again - today was the 3rd long raid straight. Rinda tough on the boys - but we're doing a good job - that's what counts!

#126 2/25/44 2/24/44 Gotha, Germany

The 577th took a beating on yesterday's mission to Gotha, Germany. I lost 4 crews and airplane that's kinda hard to take - the Grp lost 1 in all - it was a very tough mission, Lt. Col. Johnson lead the wing with the 392nd. They really hit them hard - plastered the target - that's one place we won't have to go back to.

Today they ran another mission deep into Germany and hit them a lick with no losses in the Grp plastered their ears back yesterday

Letter No. Date Date of mission Mission

#134 3/17/44 3/16/44 Germany

Quite a long ride that one - took a little trip over France, down into Germany - even crossed over the border and I could have spit on Switzerland (if I hadn't my oxygen mask on and we weren't dropping bombs right at that moment) nice trip, the Alps were covered with snow and very beautiful and also very rugged looking - a long ride - 9 hrs. - that's just hay - The 577th led the division yesterday - that means all the B-24s over here - Gilbert in the lead ship and your old pappy in the deputy lead - you can always depend on - 392nd - to do a good job!

#135 3/20/44 3/18/44 Friedrichshofen, (

We had a pretty rough time of it on Saturday - we went back to Friedrichshofen, Germany, near Switzerland and the Luftwaffe singled out the 392nd and went to work on them! Unfortunately they got 14 of our boys - 4 of which were mine - a pretty hard lick to take - a fifth of mine crash landed on one wheel in Southern England with 2 wounded + 2 killed - another of mine had 3 wounded - all in all we took a beating but are right back in there pitching - and will let them know who they hit immediately if not soon!

Letter #	Dated	Mission Dated	Mission
#141	3/27/44	3/27/44	Southern France

Got the mission off pretty good - under instrument conditions, too - you've often heard of zero-zero - well - I've seen quite a lot of that over here - they fly anyhow - if it were like that in the states they wouldn't fly for weeks - and I'm not kidding - no sooner did they get (all of them) off and I was just getting ready to go back to my quarters to the side - when the gunners of one of my lead crews started calling in from a variety of places around the English countryside seems like the ship was on fire and five of them bailed out - then they got the fire out and had to let down and land in the soup - we finally collected them all back at the base and every-thing is O.K. - a few more members of the caterpillar club, however - the boys went to Southern France today - and all landed safely at Southern England - it's still socked in here - so it seems everything is O.K. - Polking led that one.

#144 3/31/44

Had a ^{big} dry run today - so that's life get up early work like hell - then bingo - scrubbed! Anyhow we got another good chance to get the new crews in the air and that helps tremendously! Other than that I should say everything is quiet on the Western Front -

Letter No. Dated Mission Date Mission
#150 4/9/44 4/8/44 Brunswick, Ger.

Saturday we ran the actual mission - went to Brunswick, Germany which turned out to be kinda rough - we lost 2 ships - and another of mine crash landed and killed five. The 44th - the other group on our wing lost 11 - seems like the fighters gang up on us and the flak was kinda accurate.

Then today we ran another - and I lost another excellent crew - but I believe they're OK.

#151 4/10/44 ? France

Not much doing in ^{over} these parts - sort of a lull before the storm I guess - the boys ran a short one to France - kept us pretty busy as usual.

#152 4/11/44 4/11/44 ?

Things are not so good just now besides working most of the 24 hrs. of the day, when the boys that (are) missing sort of get a fallow down. You work like hell and get the boys trained and operational and before you get to know them why they turn up missing - the Group lost 3 today - one of which was mine - a good, steady, old, reliable crew whom I have flown with on several occasions. That makes 4 of mine in the last 4 days - so I don't suppose you wonder why I don't feel so hot tonight.

#153 4/12/44 4/12/44 ?

The boys had another rough day - no losses tho' - hit by fighters and shot up a little along with bad weather makes a rough mission.

Letter #	Date	Date of Mission	Mission
#154	4/16/44	4/13/44	Munich

13th April '44 - Thursday - Ran the Munich mission to Germany - 8 hrs. of sweat & fighting - definitely no milk run - brought all the boys back O.K. - excellent bombing results ~~and~~ mission #18 for your old pappy!

#158 4/21/44 (after leave)

The boys (my Squadron) have had some tough luck these past few days - lost two crews total - one over Germany and the other today in a mid-air collision - bad weather as usual - and in addition to that they've taken some of the best and most capable men in the group (from the 57th) and transferred them - (Maj) Whittaker went to division - (Capt) Weiland (my Sq. Bomb) to Group and another of my boys to Wing - I have a total of five crews to get operational - so if I miss a letter or two can't be helped.

(Maj. Whittaker trained under Clint when Clint was Op. Officer of the 578th)

#159 4/23/44 4/22/44 ?

Last eve the ships didn't get back until 11 PM - even with British daylight it was an hour after dark which made it rather difficult. Poking went yesterday - the Jerries shot down some ships over Eng here after dark - while they were landing - dirty trick - eh? The Grp. only lost one yesterday so we came out well considering. Then early this morn with no sleep last night, we were ready to go again but thank God they scrubbed it. So we were ready again.

Letter #	Date	Date of Mission	Mission
#160	4/25/44	4/24/44	Airfield near Munich

I led the mission of yesterday - to an airfield near Munich - 9 hrs flying time plus all the hours of preparation & aftermath. It went off well, tho' - did some excellent bombing (naturally for the 577th) and gave the boys a good ride, sort of rough in places - lost two - one over Germany and the other over France. Makes #19

#162	4/30/44	4/29/44	Berlin
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The boys ran a mission yesterday, went to the Big B - Berlin, natchery - turned out to be kinda rough as some do - they just happened to hit us this time - we lost 1 crew and quite a few wounded and killed - I lost one ship + crew - another (not counted above) flew home by himself on auto pilot, bailed out the crew and the ship (Alfred I) crashed before he got out - he was an up and coming pilot too - tough. Another of my boys made it home with a couple of the boys shot up. Really, it turned out to be sorta rough as I said.

#161	4/28/44		
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We've run 10 missions in the last 9 days - yesterday we pulled off two, and that's really going some.

Major Whittaker went to Division and my Sq Bombr. Capt. Weiland is Grp Bombr. One of my other boys is now Wing Bombr so I'm right back where I started - training - training - .

How very nice it would be to be home for the blossoming of the spring, it would be such a (12) change from the tempo of war. The coastal guns were ~~all day~~ all day yesterday, as they do sometimes.

Letter No.	Date	Date of Mission	Mission
#167	5/19/44	5/19/44	Belgium

Had another little trip today. Col. Rendle and I took the boys over a tour of Belgium and did an excellent job of bombing - the mission went off OK with no losses - at least today wasn't like the last three I've been on - they were all over 8 hrs.

#174	5/19 th /44	5/18/44	Brunswick
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Yesterday the boys went on a mission to Brunswick - my Sq led, but to break in my deputy Co - Francis's went instead of me - as I only have 21 missions - great eh? Anyhow the fighter opposition was kinda heavy. The group lost 3 but none from my outfit - Thank God!

You ask whether my — will mean staying over any longer - yes, I probably will - but in any case I would have been kept over anyhow - they need experience very badly - but the opportunity of working in the 95th Wing is a break I believe.

#175	5/21/44	Last letter	France
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- Start addressing my letters to my new post - as I am moving down tomorrow - Good news? - Yea - it's sort of difficult to make the move - Not so much doing today - ran a short one over in France with no losses - so everything is ship shape.

It's very chilly, damp and - so I built a fire in my stove again - sort of a house warming departure. I sho' will be glad when I pack 'em up to start the trek for home.

Wish me luck, gal - I'm going to need it!

War Dept. May 26, 1945

The record concerning your husband shows that he was the pilot and sole occupant of a P-47 airplane which was unreported after the Take-off from Halesworth Airfield, Suffolk County, England at 9:07 a.m. 25 May, 1944. The only available information indicates that Major Schoolmaster was monitoring aircraft that day, and that after helping the aircraft form for an operational mission he was then to return to his home station.

Status change - MIA to KIA