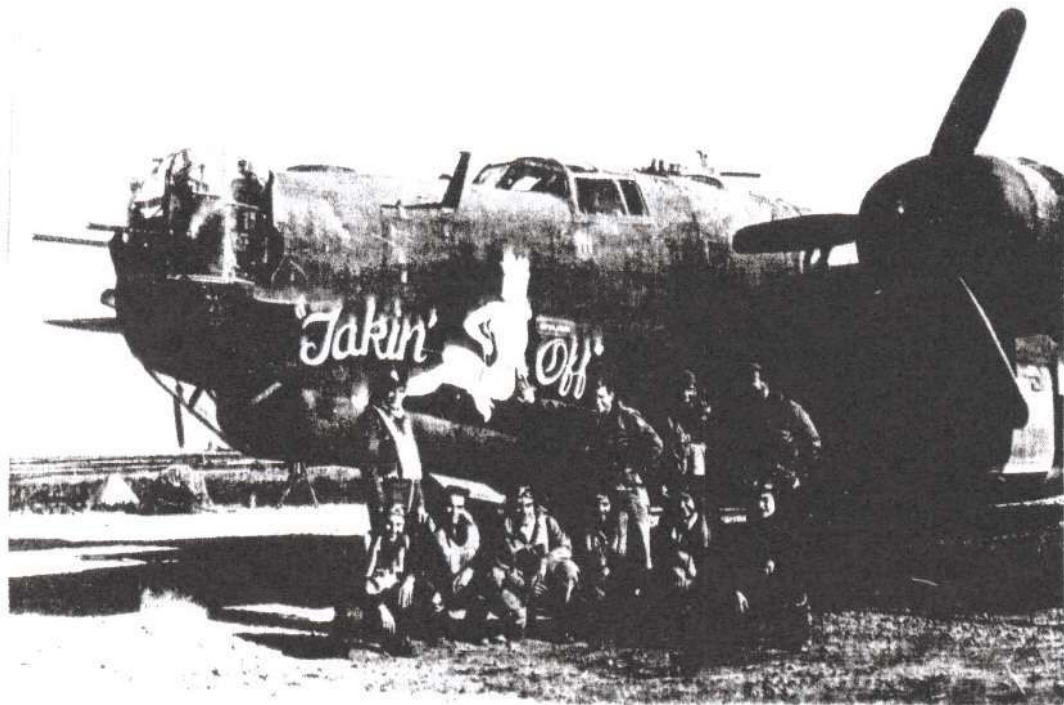




The crew of crews

STANDING

Lt Pearce NAVIGATOR
 Lt Gregory P
 Lt Hornish CP
 Lt Hagerty BOMBARDIER

CROUCHING

S/Sgt McDermott NTURRET
 S/Sgt Trasper BT (BALL)
 S/Sgt Alvarez TT (TAIL) TOP TURRET
 S/Sgt Wegner RW
 S/Sgt Henson LW
 S/Sgt Lee TAIL TURRET

5/16/44

The crew

2nd Lt. Paul Gregory TEXAS PILOT
 2nd Lt. Ellsworth Hornish WISCONSIN CO-PILOT
 2nd Lt. Joseph Hagerty OHIO BOMBARDIER
 2nd Lt. Harold Pearce MASSACHUSETTS NAVIGATOR
 S/Sgt. Dave Alvarez CALIFORNIA TOP TURRET
 S/Sgt. Gerald Wegner CALIFORNIA RIGHT WAIST
 S/Sgt. Nicholas Mc Dermott NY NOSE TURRET
 S/Sgt. Wilbur Henson OKLAHOMA LEFT WAIST
 S/Sgt. Buddy Trasper CALIFORNIA BALL TURRET
 S/Sgt. Philip Lee MICHIGAN TAIL TURRET

First mission - March 2, 1944 ©

SHIP Queen Anne BOMB LOAD 6000 lbs

TARGET - Velletri in Italy BOMB. ALT. 23,000 ft

TOTAL HOURS - 4 hours.

Not much comment on this trip. At target area the flak was slight, heavy, and inaccurate. This was our first combat mission so we were nervous and excited. Results of bombing, not so

good.

Second mission - March 7 1944 ②

SHIP Queen Anne BOMB LOAD (10) 500 lb

TARGET Main airbase at Viterbo in Italy

BOMB ALT 21,500 ft. TOTAL HOURS 5½ hours

Going to target was peaceful. Just before we dropped our bombs, ack-ack guns opened up on us. The flak was accurate and one piece went through my nose turret. Seeing the target, two fighters came near our formation. One was an ME-109 the other an FW-190. Our gunners chased them away with hot lead. After landing we discovered that Queen Anne had quite a few flak holes. Result of bombing - Not so good.

Third mission - March 15 ③

SHIP Nightingale - BOMB LOAD (6) 1000 lb.

TARGET - Cassino in Italy BOMB ALT. 15000 ft

TOTAL HOURS - 3½ hours

Lee and I volunteered to go on this

mission with another crew. No flak or fighters so no comments. Bombing result, very poor.

Fourth & Fifth mission - March 17 ⑤

SHIP - Queen Anne BOMB LOAD (120) Traps.

TARGET - Vienna, Austria BOMB ALT. 23,500 ft.

TOTAL HOURS - 6½ hours

On this mission we got our first escorts. They were those beautiful P-51's. At target area, flak was intense heavy and inaccurate due to an overcast. We dropped our bombs by dead reckoning. Two of our planes collided in mid-air and both went plummeting earthward. No parachutes could be seen. Watching that scene, I guess, some of the boys got sick. We had trouble with #1 engine on the way back. We feathered the propeller and left the formation. We landed at the home field on three engines. Result of bombing - Unknown due to overcast at target.

Sixth mission - March 22 ⑥⁴

SHIP Queen Anne BOMB LOAD (10) 500 lb

TARGET - Marshalling yards Bologna, Italy

BOMB. ALT. 21,500 ft TOTAL HOURS 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

Escort by P-47's to coast. From there on in we got flak. At target we dropped bombs in the midst of moderate, heavy, & inaccurate flak. A piece of flak hit my nose turret again on this raid. No trouble on the way back. Result of bombing - Pretty fair.

Seventh mission - March 24 ⑦

SHIP - Bad Penny BOMB LOAD (10) 500 lbs

TARGET - Marshalling yards Rimini, Italy

BOMB. ALT. 17,000 ft TOTAL HOURS 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

Our original target was abandoned due to bad weather. We approached the city from the sea. The jerries tried to conceal the yards by smoke screen. This didn't work because the wind was to

our advantage. We dropped our bombs⁵ on the target with very slight, light, and inaccurate ack-ack opposition. Lee, Alway, Henson & I volunteered for this mission. Result of bombing - Pretty fair

Eighth mission - March 26 ⑧

SHIP Queen Anne BOMB LOAD (10) 500 lbs

TARGET - none BOMB. ALT. none

TOTAL HOURS - 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

Poor weather obscured all of our targets. We had to return to the home field with our bombs. We received credit for a mission because we were subjected to some flak in enemy territory.

Ninth mission - March 28 ⑨

SHIP - Queen Anne BOMB. LOAD. (10) 500 lbs

TARGET - Marshalling yards Milan, Italy

BOMB. ALT. 20,000 ft TOTAL HOURS 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours

or flak were encountered. Result of bombing - Excellent.

(17)
Sixteenth & Seventeenth mission April 15

SHIP Pekin Off BOMB LOAD (10) 500 LBS.

TARGET Marshalling yards Nis, Yugoslavia

BOMB. ALT. 22,500 ft TOTAL TIME 7¼ hours

Our original target was at Bucharest, Rumania but it was abandoned because of an undercast over the marshalling yards. As we approached Bucharest some

ME 210's & JU 88's were seen below us.

Our P-38 escort engaged them but we made a sharp turn and missed the action. We overshot the marshalling yards at Nis and hit the town. The ack ack guns opened fire but the flak was light, slight & inaccurate. We had four groups of fighter escort. Three P-38's & one P-47's. Result of bombing.

Due to poor miscalculation the group missed the target.

Eighteenth mission

April 17 (18)

SHIP Miss Patchee BOMB LOAD (40) 100 LBS.

TARGET Marshalling yards Sofia, Bulgaria

BOMB. ALT 19,000 ft TOTAL TIME 5½ hours

On this mission we got our first escort of P-51's. These babies were the best we ever got. Nothing occurred until we reached the target. We dropped our bombs amid moderate, heavy & accurate flak. One B-24 was straggling from a group up ahead. Two ME-109's saw him but the American pilot saw our formation & hooked on the rear end. Another ME-109 made a pass at us from 12 o'clock level. I got my sight on him but he turned away. Two silver P-51's were after him and one of them got the gerry. Going home I had some trouble with the doors of my nose turret. Our crew spotted a truck convoy and we started to strafe them. One of my doors came off and when I

turned around to see what was wrong, the other door came off and the turret was jammed up. My back was sticking out into the wind and boy I started to pray. I didn't have a parachute on so that made me all the more scared. The bombardier tried to pull the turret back but got his hand stuck so he was helpless. The bombardier called the navigator to come down into the nose to help us out. In about two minutes I was out of that turret. That was a close call for me. Results of bombing. Good.

Nineteenth mission

April 21⁽²⁰⁾

SHIP Takin' Off BOMB LOAD (20) 5:00 P.M.

TARGET Belgrade, Yugoslavia

BOMB ALT. 14,000 ft TOTAL TIME 8 1/2 hours

Our original target was again the marshalling yards at Bucharest, Rumania. There was a big mix up on this mission. Our P-38 escorts were called

back by radio. They also called us back but the radio operators in the lead ships didn't get the message. When we crossed the Rumanian border, a group of ME-109's spotted us and flew along side of us and looked around for our escort. When the jerries saw that we were alone, they began to make passes at all the B-24 formations. I guess our whole wing consisting of 4 groups didn't get the recall message. The B-24 group ahead of us were attacked and two of them went down. Some of the jerries made only one pass at our group. They came in high at 10:00 but I guess they were really surprised because every one of our planes (40 of them) started pouring hot lead at them. They never came back. We spotted another group of fighters but we relaxed because they were P-38's. We abandoned the Bucharest target and proceeded to Belgrade our

secondary target. We had descended to 14,000 ft. which is really low for heavy bombers. As we dropped the bombs we got heavy, intense & accurate flak. Four burst hit our ship but the plane was okay and no one was injured. Up ahead one B-24 was hit by flak. I imagine the pilot & co-pilot were killed because the plane went straight up and then stalled for a few seconds, then it went into a spin. No fire was seen and no parachutes came out. No other trouble on the way back. Result of bombing - Unknown due to slight overcast over target.

Twentieth mission April 25 ⁽²¹⁾
SHIP Naughty Angel BOMB LOAD (19) 500 LBS
TARGET Aeritalia aircraft factory at
Turin, Italy.

BOMB. ALT. 21,500 ft. TOTAL TIME 7 3/4 hours.

We had a course set out so that we could fool the enemy. We went up

9
the east coast and then crossed over to the west coast. Two of our B-24's collided in mid-air. Some parachutes came out but the number was indetermined. Half way across Italy we got some flak at Florence. My nose turret was hit but again I was lucky. Our escort of P-38's and P-47's numbered over a 100. At the target flak was slight, heavy, and inaccurate. One of our planes went down before we reached the home field. We lost another on take-off when the plane hit some high tension wire. No body got out. The B-24 we lost on the way back ran out of gas. Result of bombing. Pretty good.

Twenty-first mission April 28 ⁽²²⁾
SHIP Stark Club BOMB. LOAD (10) 500 LBS
TARGET - Harbor installations at Port
San Stefano, Italy.

BOMB. ALT. 19,000 ft. TOTAL TIME 5 3/4 hours

As we neared the target one of our

superchargers went out and we started to lag behind. Three generators cut out so we had very little juice. We dropped the bombs on the target and hooked on with another group. The pilot feathered #3 engine and headed for Naples. After awhile we decided that we would try to make the home field. We had a little trouble with the flaps but we made it. Lee, Prosper, Pearson, Hagerly & I went on this mission. The following day the plane went down. Result of bombing Good.

Twenty-second mission (22) April 22

SHIP Black Magic BOMB LOAD (6) 1000 lbs

TARGET Naval base Paulon, France

BOMB. ALT. 22,000 ft TOTAL TIME 7 1/2 hours

At the target we got slight, heavy & accurate flak. One big piece of flak hit just behind Lee and covered his oxygen system. We had to lose altitude so that Lee could breathe. Hanson was not

10
didn't go with us. Bombing results - Excellent.

Twenty-third mission (23) May 5

SHIP - Red Penny BOMB LOAD (10) 500 lbs.

TARGET - Marshalling yards and pumping station at Ploesti, Rumania.

BOMB. ALT. 21,000 ft TOTAL TIME 7 1/2 hours

Everything was running smoothly until we were 10 minutes before the I.P. Our escort of P-47's engaged some ME-109's. I saw two Thunderbolts box a German plane in and shoot it down. As we hit the I.P. some more of our escorts arrived. P-36's & P-51's gave us cover and also engaged some enemy planes as FW-190's, ME-110's, ME-310's, & ME-109's. From my nose turret I saw two B-24's over the target burst into flames. One of them had the wings off and the other one split in half. I could only see a couple of parachutes come out of both ships. When we dropped our bombs, one of ships caught on fire and swerved out of the formation.

The boys in that ship didn't take any chances because they all bailed out. The German planes came in and finished the bomber. The plane blew into a million pieces. As we left the target the tail gunner said that the smoke was coming up to 20,000 ft. On the way back we noticed another B-24 with one engine on fire. We counted 4 chutes, but then the fire went out and the pilot headed for Yugoslavia. Just before reaching the Danube some more parachutes came out and then the plane blew up. A horrible sight occurred before my eyes. One of the parachutes caught on fire and the American went down in flames. Our ship was hit by flak but we didn't have any trouble on the way back. Result of bombing - Excellent

Twenty-fifth mission

May 13

SHIP ^③ 'Pekin' Off BOMB. LOAD (6) 1,000 LBS.

TARGET - Marshalling yards at Castel Maggiore in Italy.

BOMB. ALT 20,000 ft TOTAL TIME 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours

On take-off one of our planes blew up with just the bombardier getting out. We had our escort of P-38's but we didn't need them as we got no fighters. At the target we got some slight, light & inaccurate flak. Bombing results - Good.

Twenty-sixth mission May 14 (27)

SHIP Nighty Angel BOMB LOAD (240) Traps.

TARGET Airbase at Reggio Emilia in Italy

BOMB. ALT. 19,500 ft. TOTAL TIME 7 hours

Nothing to relate on this mission. No enemy fighters or flak. Result of bombing Excellent.

Twenty seventh & eight mission May 18 (29)

SHIP Black Magic BOMB LOAD (10) 500 LBS

TARGET Redenta oil refinery at Ploesti, Rumania

BOMB. ALT. 22,500 ft. TOTAL TIME 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

We had our escort of P-38's & P-51's all the way in & out of Rumania. There was bad weather at the target but we dropped our bombs on the lead bombardier. The

flak was moderate, heavy & accurate at the target. On the way back I saw one of our P-38's shoot down a ME-109. Two more German planes were making passes at a B-24 below me. Our gunners chased them away. After that nothing happened. Result of bombing - Unknown.

Twenty-ninth mission May 19 (30)

SHIP Pekin' Off BOMB LOAD (10) 500 LBS

TARGET Harbor installations at Leghorn, Italy

BOMB. ALT. 17,500 ft TOTAL TIME 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

Our original target at Genoa was abandoned due to bad weather. We dropped our bombs on Leghorn amidst moderate, heavy and accurate flak. Those German boys were tracking our ship until we were out of range.

We had P-38, P-47 & P-51 for escort. No enemy fighters were seen. Result of bombing - Good.

Thirtieth mission May 23 (31)

SHIP Pekin' Off BOMB LOAD (10) 500 LBS

TARGET Prop concentration at Marino, Italy

BOMB. ALT. 20,000 ft TOTAL TIME 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours

superchargers went out and we started to lag behind. Three generators cut out so we had very little juice. We dropped the bombs on the target and hooked on with another group. The pilot feathered #3 engine and headed for Naples. After awhile we decided that we would try to make the home field. We had a little trouble with the flaps but we made it. Lee, Prosper, Pearson, Hagerly & I went on this mission. The following day the plane went down. Result of bombing Good.

Twenty-second mission April 22 (22)

SHIP Black Magic BOMB LOAD (6) 1000 lbs

TARGET Naval base Paulon, France

BOMB. ALT. 22,000 ft TOTAL TIME 7 1/2 hours

At the target we got slight, heavy & accurate flak. One big piece of flak hit just behind Lee and covered his oxygen system. We had to lose altitude so that Lee could breathe. Hanson was not

10
didn't go with us. Bombing results - Excellent.

Twenty-third mission May 5 (25)

SHIP - Red Penny BOMB LOAD (10) 500 lbs.

TARGET - Marshalling yards and pumping station at Ploesti, Rumania.

BOMB. ALT. 21,000 ft TOTAL TIME 7 1/2 hours

Everything was running smoothly until we were 10 minutes before the I.P. Our escort of P-47's engaged some ME-109's. I saw two Thunderbolts box a German plane in and shoot it down. As we hit the I.P. some more of our escorts arrived. P-36's & P-51's gave us cover and also engaged some enemy planes as FW-190's, ME-110's, ME-210's, & ME-109's. From my nose turret I saw two B-24's over the target burst into flames. One of them had the wings off and the other one split in half. I could only see a couple of parachutes come out of both ships. When we dropped our bombs, one of ships caught on fire and swerved out of the formation.

The boys in that ship didn't take any chances because they all bailed out. The German planes came in and finished the bomber. The plane blew into a million pieces. As we left the target the tail gunner said that the smoke was coming up to 20,000 ft. On the way back we noticed another B-24 with one engine on fire. We counted 4 chutes, but then the fire went out and the pilot headed for Yugoslavia. Just before reaching the Danube some more parachutes came out and then the plane blew up. A horrible sight occurred before my eyes. One of the parachutes caught on fire and the American went down in flames. Our ship was hit by flak but we didn't have any trouble on the way back. Result of bombing - Excellent

Twenty-fifth mission

May 13

SHIP Pekin Off BOMB. LOAD (6) 1,000 LBS.

TARGET - Marshalling yards at Castel Maggiore
in Italy.

BOMB. ALT 20,000 ft TOTAL TIME 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours

On take-off one of our planes blew up with just the bombardier getting out. We had our escort of P-38's but we didn't need them as we got no fighters. At the target we got some slight, light & inaccurate flak. Bombing results - Good.

Twenty-sixth mission May 14 (27)

SHIP Nighty Angel BOMB LOAD (240) Traps.

TARGET Airbase at Reggio Emilia in Italy

BOMB. ALT. 19,500 ft. TOTAL TIME 7 hours

Nothing to relate on this mission. No enemy fighters or flak. Result of bombing Excellent.

Twenty seventh & eight mission May 18 (29)

SHIP Black Magic BOMB LOAD (10) 500 LBS

TARGET Redenta oil refinery at Ploesti, Rumania

BOMB. ALT. 22,500 ft. TOTAL TIME 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

We had our escort of P-38's & P-51's all the way in & out of Rumania. There was bad weather at the target but we dropped our bombs on the lead bombardier. The

flak was moderate, heavy & accurate at the target. On the way back I saw one of our P-38's shoot down a ME-109. Two more German planes were making passes at a B-24 below me. Our gunners chased them away. After that nothing happened. Result of bombing - Unknown.

Twenty-ninth mission May 19 (30)

SHIP Pekin' Off BOMB LOAD (10) 500 LBS

TARGET Harbor installations at Leghorn, Italy

BOMB. ALT. 17,500 ft TOTAL TIME 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

Our original target at Genoa was abandoned due to bad weather. We dropped our bombs on Leghorn amidst moderate, heavy and accurate flak. Those German boys were tracking our ship until we were out of range.

We had P-38, P-47 & P-51 for escort. No enemy fighters were seen. Result of bombing - Good.

Thirtieth mission May 23 (31)

SHIP Pekin' Off BOMB LOAD (10) 500 LBS

TARGET Prop concentration at Marino, Italy

BOMB. ALT. 20,000 ft TOTAL TIME 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours

We bombed through an overcast. No enemy fighters or flak were seen. We had a P-38 escort. No trouble either way. Result of bombing unknown.

Thirty-first mission May 25 (32)

SHIP Black Magic BOMB LOAD (240) Thugs

TARGET Airdrome & dispersal area at Piacenza, Italy

BOMB. ALT. 17,500 ft TOTAL TIME 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

We had an escort of P-38's all the way to the target & back. Just before we reached the airfield some German fighters came sneaking through the clouds. One FW-190 picked off a P-38 and sent it down. Lee, our tail gunner, got a FW-190 in his sights and shot him down. That was the first German plane our crew got. At the target we dropped our bombs and got only two bursts of flak. Result of bombing Excellent coverage of both the airfield & dispersal area.

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Thirty-second mission May 27 (33)

SHIP Robin Off BOMB LOAD (40) 100 lbs.

TARGET Airdrome at Montpellier, France

BOMB. ALT. 17,500 ft TOTAL TIME 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

We flew over water all the way until we hit the French coast. Flak gun opened up on the group ahead of us and knocked down one B-24. Five chutes came out and drifted towards the sea. A moment later the plane crashed into the water and sank. We went around that area. Our P-51 escort showed up at this time and carried us into the target. At the target we got intense, heavy & accurate flak. One of our planes had one engine shot out and started to lag behind. About seven ME-109's saw him and made a few passes at the bomber until the P-51's chased them away. The pilot saw he couldn't stick to the formation so he landed at Corsica. Result of bombing - Excellent.

Thirty-third mission

May 28 (34)

SHIP Black Magic BOMB LOAD (19) 500 LBS

TARGET Marshalling yards Vercelli, Italy

BOMB. ALT. 20,000 ft TOTAL TIME 7 1/2 hours

Original target at Turin was abandoned due to bad weather. We dropped our bombs on secondary target. Our escort of P-51's were with us all the way. We saw no enemy fighters or flak. Result of bombing - Unknown due to poor visibility.

Thirty-fourth mission

May 29 (35)

SHIP Naughty Angel BOMB. LOAD (40) 100 LBS.

TARGET Troop concentration at Rijeka, Yugoslavia

BOMB. ALT. 15,000 ft TOTAL TIME 5 1/2 hours

Nothing to relate except that we covered the target with our bombs. No fighters or flak were seen.

Thirty-fifth mission

May 28 (36)

SHIP Naughty Angel BOMB. LOAD (40) 100 LBS

TARGET Troop concentration at Lirno, Yugoslavia

BOMB. ALT. 15,000 ft TOTAL TIME 4 hours

P-38 for escort. No flak or fighters seen. Bombing result - Excellent.

Thirty-sixth & seventh mission

May 30 (38)

SHIP Miss Patches BOMB. LOAD (240) Huge

TARGET Airbase at Wels, Austria

BOMB. ALT. 20,000 ft. TOTAL TIME 7 hours

Nothing to relate about our trip to or from the target. Over the target one B-24 blew up when some bombs hit the plane. We received no flak at the target. We had P-38's & P-51's escort. Bombing result - Excellent.

Thirty-eighth mission

June 3 (39)

SHIP The Widow BOMB. LOAD (40) 100 LBS.

TARGET Split, Yugoslavia

BOMB. ALT. 16,500 ft. TOTAL TIME 3 3/4 hours.

As we approached the target our second section made a 360° turn for some unknown reason. We dropped our bombs and got some moderate, heavy & accurate flak. I was looking ahead when one of the engines on a B-24 in

front of us caught on fire. The pilot feathered the engine's propeller. The Jerry's started to get our range and burst after burst hit our ship. Our #1 engine caught on fire so Lt. Gregory feathered the propeller. #4 engine was shot out so we had only two engines left and the Germans were still shooting at us. Another burst of flak went through the bomb bay door and a small piece hit Dave Alvarez in the finger. The pilot called the ball gunner and told him to get out of the turret and pull it up so that it would lessen the drag on the plane. Lucky for Propper because some flak hit the ball turret. Our tail gunner said he had a few holes in his turret but that he was okay. Our navigator was looking out the glass window underneath the nose turret when a piece of flak went through the glass and scared the hell out of him. The flak came up through the

turret between my knees and bounced around the turret. We thought the worst was over but one more burst of flak hit our right tire and let the air out. Our crew prepared to ditch in the Adriatic if anything happened. We limped all the way home by ourselves and got set for an emergency landing. Our pilot made a beautiful landing and brought ~~me~~ in without ruining the plane. The doctor took care of Dave and said he would be okay. We counted over 150 holes in the plane. No need for me to say that we were all glad to be back.

Result of bombing - Good.

Thirty-ninth Mission

June 4 (40)

SHIP 828 BOMB LOAD (10) 500 LBS.

TARGET Genoa, Italy - West marshalling yard

BOMB. ALT. 18,000 ft TOTAL TIME 6 1/2 hours

Our original target was abandoned due to poor weather. We dropped our bombs on Genoa and got some moderate