

15c

SERVICE MAN'S
stream-lined
DIARY

Diary of an Airman

Melvin Lynn Jackson

15th AAF 465th Bomb Group - 783rd Bomb Squadron

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Plus
**BIG LAUGH
STORY**

By "Buck Private" McCollum



SERVICEMEN'S DIARY

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SERVICE MAN'S *stream-lined* DIARY



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SERVICEMEN'S DIARY



"READING
A SHIRT"



THE CAPTAIN
BAWLS ME OUT



A SCRATCHIN' GOOD TIME!



Cooties

When you are standing at attention,
And cooties bite and scratch below,
And your lousy captain bawls you out
Ain't it hell?—Well, I'll say so.

Have you ever had that itchy troop
Doing squads both East and West,
Across your tired shoulders
And underneath your vest?

Or in your helmet-sweated hair,
Or on your pain-racked shins,
The way those devils pinch and bite,
Is a climax to war's sins.

In the "lines" big generals had them,
Every captain raised his share,
But there was plenty hell a-popping,
When a "buck" had one to spare.

You can have my flock of grey ones,
For I sure have had my fill,
And if Napoleon started this,
He's the Bird I'd Like to Kill.

—"BUCK PRIVATE" MCCOLLUM

15th A.A.F.
Italy

SERVICE



465th Bomb. Gp., 783rd Bomb. Sqn.

Crew 266

BUDDIES

NAME	ADDRESS
Ronald H. Pates	1125 Hawthorne Ave.
Harold Radtke	Mrs. H.R. 208 Alice Ave.
Louis P. Guido	P.O. Box #80
Bernard J. Saltus	
Howard M. Taylor	Mrs. C. P. Taylor
Harold Hoag	
Robert P. Randolph	Mrs. Gladys Randolph, R.R. 3 Oblong, Ill.
Joe T. O'Leary	% Mr. Conlon - 115
Carl Oman	Miss Doris O. 14227
M.L. Jackson	
Jerry Mulac	5309 Grand Ave.

DIARY



TO REMEMBER

CITY	STATE	PHONE	OUTFIT
St. Paul	Minn.		Pilot
Oglesby	Ill.		Co-Pilot
Edmon	Pa.		Bomb.
			Navigator
Brady	Texas		Nose
			Martin
			Radio
			Engineer
Arlington	Detroit Mich.		Bell
			Tail
Downers Grove	Ill.	Tel. 2319-R	



SERVICE

THOUGHTS OF

Jan. 4, 1945 1st Sortie
Bombed Bolzon on the
Brenner Pass supply route.
Good bomb hits and intense,
accurate flak. Flew "Baker" 3
over the target in "Blue M".
No fighters encountered, but
flak raised hell with the
formation and hit us four
times - one in the nose, two
in the waist, and one in the
tail which missed Carl & I
by inches. I was very scared,
but partially overcame it by prayer.
Thank God for a safe return!!!

DIARY



SERVICE DAYS

Jan. 19, 1945 2nd Sortie
Target: Zagreb west
marshaling yards. Flew
"Dog 4" in ship yellow
"S". Low cloud cover
made bombs away
impossible by visual
contact - result: 1
incomplete sortie.
Tail guns both out
and unidentified fighter
tailed formation for
15-20 min. Engines
3 & 4 threw oil, but
"super-natural" got us
back. 33 to go!!!



SERVICE

THOUGHTS OF

Jan. 31, 1945

Target - Moosbierbaum oil and gas refinery on the outskirts of Vienna. Flaw "Able 7" in "Blue N". Low clouds, so bombs away were made by P.F.F. Flak was very inaccurate due to the "carpet" and no opposition encountered. Orman got his foot frostbitten and may have it cut off. Good mission and leaves only $3\frac{2}{-}$ to go.

DIARY



SERVICE DAYS

Feb. 22, 1945

Target - Wilhelm Germany. Every available aircraft in all of this theatre were to hit Germany at vital communication spots - our target was located about 25 mi. from Munich and contained valuable supplies for all fronts coming out of Munich. Hit very bad weather over the alps and the formation broke up, thus the target was not hit. Multi flak at various points, but quite a distance off. Result, incomplete sortie with the awarding of the air medal to 7 of our crew. 30 to go!!!



SERVICE

4th Sortie THOUGHTS OF

Feb 18, 1945

Target - marshaling yards in Vienna, Austria. Bombing was visual and we flew Blue F in Baker 4 position "right down" flak alley.

Heavy flak and damned accurate - caught a piece in no. 3 engine causing us to lose gas. As a result, we made an emergency

landing on the island of Viso where we viewed Partisan troops etc.

Close call. But God was with us all the way and we returned safe & sound.

34 to go!!

110

DIARY



SERVICE DAYS

6th Sortie

Feb 25, 1945

Target - Ling, Germany - early return due to loss of an engine plus bad weather.

7th Sortie

March 1, 1945

Target - Mariboro, Austria.

Flew Blue J in Baker-3.

Good hits - accurate & intense flak. Almost had a mid-air collision twice. Two turbos out over the target & we sweated plenty!



SERVICE

THOUGHTS OF

8th sortie 4/5/45

Target - Old marshaling yards
in Bolzona, Italy. Flew
Blue Y with Capt. Lutton in
Able 2 pos. - ineffective sortie

9th sortie 4/8/45

Fortisso Marshaling yards
on Brenner pass line.
Flew Blue O in Baker 2
pos. Moderate accurate
flak - first time I ever
heard it burst; sounded
like hail on a tin roof.
Blew out nose turret
Bomb. compartment &
riddled plane in general.

DIARY



SERVICE DAYS

10 sortie (885th) 4/24/45

Target - "Phillips" Italy -
Flew with Lt. Kaiison
in P-peter. carried
mortar shells, gas,
shoes, & propaganda.

11 sortie 4/30/45

Target - "Skating", Italy.

Flew Y-Yolk. Food &
medical supplies to
P.W. camp in Austria -

Troops (both Russian &
German) all over roads.
Men rushed for supplies
like crazed animals.