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28

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362P	Leather Cloth, with pencil ...	2/3
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THE
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DIARY

for

1944



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Dec. 16
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CALENDAR, 1944.

(LEAP YEAR)

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Sunday -	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	5 12 19 26
Monday -	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	6 13 20 27
Tuesday -	4 1 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	7 14 21 28
Wednesday -	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	1 8 15 22 29
Thursday -	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	2 9 16 23 30
Friday -	7 14 21 28	4 1 18 25	3 10 17 24 31
Saturday -	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	4 11 18 25

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Sunday -	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Monday -	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Tuesday -	4 1 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Wednesday -	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Thursday -	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Friday -	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Saturday -	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Sunday -	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Monday -	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Tuesday -	4 1 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Wednesday -	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Thursday -	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Friday -	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Saturday -	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30

	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Sunday -	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Monday -	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Tuesday -	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Wednesday -	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Thursday -	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Friday -	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Saturday -	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30

Easter Sunday, April 9

Whit Sunday, May 28

CALENDAR, 1945.

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Sunday -	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25
Monday -	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26
Tuesday -	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27
Wednesday -	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28
Thursday -	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29
Friday -	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 15 23 30
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Saturday -	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29

Easter Sunday, April 1

Whit Sunday, May 20

CALENDAR NOTES FOR 1944-1946

* Leap Year.

	1944*	1945	1946
January 1	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
Sundays aft. Epiphany	4	3	5
February 1	Tues.	Thurs.	Fri.
Ash Wednesday ...	Feb. 23	Feb. 14	Mar. 6
March 1	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
April 1	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
Palm Sunday	Apl. 2	Mar. 25	Apl. 14
Good Friday	Apl. 7	Mar. 30	Apl. 19
Easter Day	Apl. 9	Apl. 1	Apl. 21
May 1	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
Ascension Day ...	May 18	May 10	May 30
Whit Sunday	May 28	May 20	June 9
Trinity Sunday ...	June 4	May 27	June 16
Sundays after Trinity	25	26	23
June 1	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
July 1	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
August 1	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
August Bank Holiday	Aug. 7	Aug. 6	Aug. 5
September 1	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
October 1	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.
November 1	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Advent Sunday ...	Dec. 3	Dec. 2	Dec. 1
December 1	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Christmas Day ...	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
December 31	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.

ECLIPSES 1944.

Jan. 25th. A total eclipse of the Sun, partly visible at Greenwich as a partial eclipse.

July 20th. An annular eclipse of the Sun, invisible at Greenwich.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Name	No.
Millie	28999

PERSONAL NOTES

This Diary is the property of :

Name DAVID O. MICHAEL

Address U.S. ARMY AAF

Nat. Reg. Iden. No. ASN 37409610

Tel. No. (Private) A.P.O. 634 84th
360 Bomb
303 Bomb
 Address c/o Postmaster
 " (Business) NY, N.Y.

In event of an accident please notify :

MR. ROBERT E. MICHAEL
CRYSTAL CITY
MISSOURI, U.S.A.

If lost would the finder kindly
 return to the above address.

Dec. 13 = Aborted, 3 engines
burned MEMORANDUM nearly
ditched, "Hell's Angels"

The Summer Time given is that prescribed by the Summer Time Act (1925), but is liable to alteration by Order in Council.
 The Astronomical Data has been altered for Summer Time by the addition of one hour.

The Astronomical Information in this diary is based on Crown Copyright data supplied by the Nautical Almanac Office, and is printed with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

Dec. 15 = Birthday in Northampton

Dec. 16 = 1st raid over
Bremen. Flak seemed
light, but intelligence
claims to believe otherwise.

17, 18, 19 = spent at field
where we landed short
of gas

Dec. 20, 21 = In London
saw Commanders

Dec. 22 = returned to base.

Dec. 23 = Loaded

Dec. 24 = 2nd Raid. Possi-
ble secret rocket in
stallions in France.

No flak or fighters.
Dance at Red Cross
I stayed in the barrack
next Christmas. 360 3

14,000 ft.

MEMORANDA

Dec. 25 = Christmas day, I rested. Saw "Conky Island" again. ("Who Wants A Paper Doll" (BETTY GRABLE))

Dec. 26 = Nothing

Dec. 27 = " (the mission was scrubbed)

Dec. 28 = Eddie built coal bin under stove. Crew was eager.

Dec. 29 = Nothing

Dec. 30 = Physical inspection.

Dec. 31 = 3rd mission to Bordeaux France. Blockade runner loaded

MEMORANDA

with crude rubber 15,000 feet, -13°, 8 hr. 40 min. in air, 4 hrs. oxygen. Little flake, 3 Gu 88's, 7 Me 109's. Good support, no sighting, Good deal!

Mission # 6

Perhaps toughest. Gu 88's, FW 190's, Me 109's, Me 110's, Me 210's, and everything else attacked - mostly 6 o'clock. From 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1, 2, low, high, rolling, and all imaginable attacks they gave us the works. Attacked 109 from attack at 6 o'clock low

Janer went down,
MEMORANDA

JANUARY

19

all the way under us, giving him long bursts. He headed for home and exploded.

The target was completely demolished. Escort wasn't there.

Of the 7 planes in our squadron formation (we were flying with 358th) we were only survivor 7841.

★ Dec. 13 we started for Bremer in "Hell's Angels", started to ditch, threw out waist guns, gunner, command set, prop fell off when we landed, 4 engines burned out. Aaa whole, very poor ship.

Day of rest

s.r. 8.6, s.s. 4.1

Sat.

Memo.

1944

JANUARY

JANUARY

1944

2 2nd after Christmas
 1st First Quarter
 Sun. Just as hard as 1st.
 Almost played football;
 mission scrubbed
 Navigator dislocated
 left shoulder

4 4th Mission - to
 Mon. Kiel; flak heavy
 and accurate; 25000;
 -55°. Attack hours
 me: 110's. Tail guns
 frozen.

5 4 planes collided
 Tues. and exploded, 6 lived.
 1 of new crews (Burlett
 included)

7 2
 Wed.

REST

Shot skeet Epiphany 6
 Thur.

5th Mission to 7th
 Ludwigshafen Fri.
 meager flak.
 leveled target
 (Chemical Plant, poison gas)

Best s.r. 8.5, s.s. 4.9 8
 Sat.

Memo. Poison gas from
 Ludwigshafen did
 cause many German
 lives. Rough!

1944

JANUARY

9 1st after Epiphany
Sun. Best

In London 13
Thur.

10 ○ Full Moon

6th Mission to
Mossesleben
(Worse than Schweinfurt)
Credit for 109
(20,000; -38) Escort failed
to show up. Eddie got 190.

Return to camp 14
Fri.

11 Hilary Law Sittings begin

Tues. Payday

Mission scrubbed ^{s.r. 8.1, s.s. 4.18} 15
Sat.

12 2 day pass
Wed.

Memo. The pass just finished
has truly been
earned

1944

JANUARY

JANUARY

1944

16^{2nd after Epiphany}

Unimportant

Sun.

Mission scrubbed
"Hell's Angels" returned
to States. (Last mission
try my first)

17 Unimportant
(made staff)

Mon.

7th mission near
Abbeville, France.
little flak, no fighters.
Perfect milk run

18 (Last Quarter)

Unimportant

Tues.

s.r. 7.54, s.s. 4.29

Unimportant

22
Sat.

19 Mission scrubbed

Wed.

Mission to Frankfurt
scrubbed
Memo. Hell is just
around the corner.
I can feel it.

1944

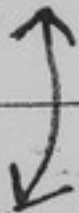
JANUARY

JANUARY

1944

23 3rd after Epiphany

Sun.

Mission to
Frankfort, Ger.
called off over channel,
mass abortion.

24

Mon.

Unimportant
mission scrubbed

25

Tues.

New Moon

Unimportant
(work drill)

Mission scrubbed

26

Wed.

Mission to Frankfort
scrubbed

Pass to London 27

Thur.

In London 28

Fri.

Return s.r. 7.45, s.s. 4.42 29

Mission to Frankfort
(initially materialized)
(Sp. behind ours hit)

Sat.

Memo. Our gp. has
been lucky too long.
Keep fingers crossed!

1944

JAN.—FEB.

FEBRUARY

1944

30 4th after Epiphany Raid to
Brunswick. One engine
caused us not to take
off. (Sp. behind ours hit)

8th. Mission to ~~Stil-~~
~~helmshaven~~. No 3
fighters. Very Thur.
bad weather

31 Payday
Mission to Frank-
fort scrubbed. In-
tended carrying guns
to ship & back.

NO MILKRUN
9th. Mission to 4
Frankfurt Fri.
- 48° heavy flak,
no fighters. lucky
150 mi. p. h. gale.

1 FEBRUARY
First Quarter
Tues.

Raid, we stayed home.
Sp hit hard by
27.5° Me. 5.

2

Wed.

Ditto

Memo.

1944

FEBRUARY

6 ^{Septuagesima} 1st mission, hit
 Sup. ~~airbase~~ in S.E.
 France (Dijon ^{non} Viche)
 (Lt Doering, underwoods)
 co-pilot, shot by test fire)
 1 plane crashed & blew up.

7 no mission or scrub
 Mon.

8 ^{Half-Quarter Day} (mission to Frankfurt)
 Tues. We stayed home

9 ^{Full Moon}
 Wed. turned back
 from mission
 (mass abortion)

FEBRUARY

1944

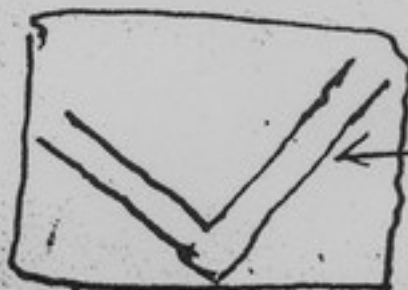
Classes

10
Thur.Unimportant 11
Fri.Sgdn party ^{s.r. 7.22, s.s. 5.7} 12
Sat.

ROUGH!

Memo. DIJON LON VICHE

City

AIR
STRIP

targets

INSTALLATIONS

1944

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY

1944

13 Sexagesima

Sun.

London

In London

Last Quarter

17

Thur.

14 S. Valentine's Day

Mon.

medal issued
(Ran out of ribbons)

Reached home

18

Fri.

15 Mission scrubbed

Tues.

Classes

s.r. 7.9, s.s. 5.20

19

Sat.

16 Pass to London

Wed.

Memo.

Aschersleben - One of the finest exhibitions
of American precision bombing target obli-
vated Intelligence (5-2)

of the finest exhibitions
of American precision bombing target obli-
vated Intelligence (5-2)

1944 FEBRUARY
20 ^{Quinquagesima} 11th. Raid to Leipzig.
Sun. 109's, 190's, Ju 88,
110 not as brave
as at Oschersleben
9 hrs. 15 min. (RAF lost 9%
there last night)

1944 FEBRUARY
mission to ^{New Moon} ~~Siegen~~ 24th
We stayed home ^{Thu.}
Played basketball

21 12th. Mission to
MOR. Diepholz (started
to West). Little
flak, no fighters.
(6 hrs)

14th. Mission to Augsburg 25th
We aborted 125 mi ^{Fri.}
inside Pagnac &
returned by ourselves
4 P47s escorted us.
"LUCKY"!!

(Rough) 22 ^{Shrove Tuesday} 13th. Mission to
Tues. Aschersleben.
Mostly 190's, some
109's, Ju 88. (-35°)
frozen sighting window
from relief table (35 lost)

Funeral for ^{6:50, 6:35} ~~Wassermann~~ 26
Wassermann Lt. ^{Sat.}
Underwood. (Very
impressive)

23 ^{Ash Wednesday} Skeet
Wed.

Memo. P-47 is the
most beautiful
thing in the world.
England can be
wonderful.

1944

FEB.—MARCH

MARCH

1944

27 ^{1st In Lent} Bad weather,
Sun. Lectures

28 mission to Cairns
(we missed it)
Mon. ships hit hard
by glaze.
Skeet; no
milk run

29 Payday
Tues.

MARCH S. David's Day
First Quarter
Wed.

Lectures

15th Mission to
Frankfort, Attack
by 190 a, good
support. Eddie
& A fired at them

16th Mission, abortive
sortie (to Berlin),
Frostbite, passed
out - went to hospital
millennia strictly on the ball
Lucky!

In hospital ^{sr. 6.39, s.s. 5.46} 4
(crew went for Berlin
again.) Sat.

On 16th - passed out
Memo.
from anoxia, forehead
was frostbitten.
(Life can be beautiful)
Feel like a fellow
dead & revived.

1944

MARCH

5 ^{2nd^o Lent} Returned from
Sun hospital

6 Pass to London
Mon. (eye hit Berlin)

7 In London
Tues.

8 Returned to
Wed. Camp

MARCH

1944

17th Mission to
Berlin. Much
glak, good support.
Primary covered, center
of city hit. Few attacks
(5 lost)

Mission screw ^{Full Moon} got
Got clusters. Fri.

Classes s.r. 6.24, s.s. 5.58
(Poker all night) Sat.

Memo. I'm afraid of them
all night. I'd
like to forget. Darkness
severed me.

1944

MARCH

12 3rd in Lent

Sun.
Gunnery
critique13 Mission scrubbed
(aircraft rec.)
Mon.14 Classes
Tues.15 Classes
Wed.

MARCH

1944

18th Mission to Augsburg.
Attacks by F. 24, 190's & 2me, 109's (tail-end Charlie" as usual), One gun out. (32 lost) R O U G H!S. Patrick's Day. (Last Quarter)
Mission scrubbed
Lectures
Fri.19th Mission to Augsburg
air field near Augsburg. P 38's, 47's, 51's filled the skies. (43 lost) Our gp. untouched by fighters.Memo. "Where's the Luftwaffe?"
"We're getting the answer now. It's still rough in the E. U. O. To hell with Doolittle."

1944

MARCH

19^{4th in Lent} 20th Mission
 on coast
 of France. Flak
 very accurate &
 intense. Boy those
 Nazis should be duck hunters.

20^{Mon.} 21th Mission to
 Frankfurt. Bad
 weather, good
 support.

21^{Tues.} 22th Mission to
 Center of Berlin.
 49,26,000, flak
 not so accurate,
 (27 lost)
 not so rough.

22^{Wed.} Classes

MARCH

1944

23^{Thurs.} Mission to
 Hamm, German
 (Gutersloh airport primary)
 Rockets & flak
 accurate & heavy.
 Emergency call to P-38's
 and P-47's just in time.

24^{Fri.} Mission to Moon
~~Hamm~~ Frankfurt
 Good escort, flak
 very intense, rough.
 Flak worse than
 Bremen or Berlin.

25^{Sat.} Pass to London
 Lady Day s.r. 5.52, s.s. 6.22

Memo.

Left Germany
 20.1.44
 D. D. D.

1944

MARCH

MARCH—APRIL

1944

26

5th in Lent

Sun.

In London

Calisthenics, 30
Classes (clean
clothes) Thur.

27 Return to base

Mon.

Mission to Ludwigshafen
abandoned, mass
abortion (fighters
couldn't take off.) Fri.

28

Squad. stayed
home. Training
flights scrubbed

Payday.

s.s. 5.37, s.s. 6.32

APRIL

Sat.

Op. stood down

29

25th mission to
Stedorf. (Brunswick
was primary.) Flak
tire on tail wheel.
S.M.A. of the
flak terrific, veryMemo. Am of "sweating"
these last ones out!
Mem of A may or may
not reach S. Amer.
yet.

1944

APRIL

2 Palm Sunday

2 Grounded, rain.
Sun.3 Gp. grounded
Mon. medal presenta-
tion4 Gp. stood down
Tues. (weather clearing)

5 Hilary Law Sittings end

5 Wed. Stood
down.

APRIL

1944

Mission scribbled
Maundy Thursday
(to airport near Bremen)
Thur. WilhelmshavenLectures
(skipped them)
Good Friday 7
Fri.
2 straight flushes○ Full Moon. s.r. 5.20, s.s. 6.43 8
Mass abortion
Sat. same target as
day before

Memo.

I'll never
finish?!!

1944

APRIL

APRIL

1944

Easter Day
 9th Mission to ~~Prussia~~
 Marionburg, ~~Poland~~

Sun.
 12 hrs & 20 min. Longest
 yet. Airfield obliterated.
 Attacks by me 109 & FW-190's.

Bank Holiday
 10th Stayed home from
 school one
 Calisthenics & Gymnastics

11th 27th Mission to
 Gorau, Ger. Attack
 by FW-190's. Long
 but not so bad.
 Gr. 88 assem. plant hit
 very well. (64 lost)

12th Stayed home from
 Schweinfurt, ~~rough~~
 scrubbed

mission to Schweinfurt
 rough, missed 13th
 (16 lost.)
 Thu.

Classes. Went
 to Northampton
 on 6 hr. pass.
 Fri.

[P57]

s.r. 5.5, s.s. 6.56

Lectures

15
Sat.

Memo. What a life!
 I'm waiting around
 for that last two.
 All the other Co. M. &
 skipper, co-pilot, bomb.
 leaving now. & I left.

1944

APRIL

16 Low Sunday. Summer Time begins
(Last Quarter)

5 of E.M. V bomb.
left for 12 R.C.D. V
Skipper to new duty,
A.T.C.

17 Pass to London
Mon.18 Easter Law Sittings begin
Tues.

Holdcroft's
crew missing on
raid to Berlin
(In London)

19 Returned to
W.A.S. Base
Hem, the best buddy
possible, is gone.

APRIL

1944

Stayed home 20
from shock mission
(Co-pilot finished.)

Mass abortio 21
from Watersburg Fri.

28th mission to Germany ^{New Moon. s.r. 5.50 s.s. 8.7}
Ger. Got back at 22:20. (Some B24's shot
down at fields in
England. Flak very accurate.)
Memo. One more!

1944

APRIL

23

2nd after Easter. S. George's Day

Sun.

mission to Maresburg
scrubbed again.

"PREPARE TO BAIL OUT"

24 29th. Mission. (38 lost)

Mon.

on abortive sortie.
Control cables shot
out. Likely to ditch or
bail out, but made
it back. Started for
Landfield near Munich.

25 transacted my
final departure
proceedings.

Tues.

26 more business &
a bit of rest.

Wed.

APRIL

1944

Relaxation: 27
I made 2 missions.
Stevens's screw
finished.

28

Thurs.

The Skipper visited
us. Was flying P-47's,
P-38's, P-51's, A-20's, B-25's,
B-26's, Spitfires from
base to other in Eng.

Received Purple Heart
and D. of C. from
S/Sgt, not general.

29

Sat.

Memo. Life doesn't seem
real. I seem to be
walking around in a
daze, afraid of the dark
and my own shadow.
Hope I'm better when I get home.

1944

APRIL—MAY

MAY

1944

30

3rd after Easter.

First Quarter

Sun

Packed. I'm
eager. Wound
up business.

Processing

4

Thur.

1 MAY

Mon

Started for 12th A.D.
Stayed all night in
Manchester, wonderful
time, people hospitable,
friendly. What a town!

Dodging details 5
Nice town (Chorley) ^{Fri.}
People are friendlier
than in London.

Continued to Chorley.

Tues

~~Continued to Chorley.~~
Reached 12th A.D.
Met Mac again.
Crew has left.

F.O.

s.r. 5.24, s.s. 8.30

6

Sat.

3

Wed.

Processing

Memo.

Food is excellent;
weather is terrible;
morale is high.

1944

MAY

MAY

1944

7 ^{4th after Easter} Pass from 1400-2400
Sun.

Awaiting orders |
Thur.

8 ^{○ Full Moon} mail room detail,
Mon. a good place
to rest.

Still waiting 12
Fri.

9 ^{Half-Quarter Day} 1 wk. here.
Tues. soon leave, hope

Parade in Vitter ^{s.r. 5.12, s.s. 8.42} 13
British march
half step.

10 Guard duty,
read book in frame
^{Wed.} of rain, soft
HOPE & RUMORS of
LEAVING

Memo. Worse than
"sweating out" a mission
but not as dangerous.

1944

MAY

14

Sun.

Rogation Sunday

2nd Pass

15

Mon.

Last Quarter

Sweating it out,
Navigator reached
here. Our entire crew
has finished.

16

Tue.

Co-Pilot shipping,
Am on orders, time
unknown.

17

Wed.

Left for home.
On train all night

MAY

1944

Reached Port of ^{Ascension Day} 18th

Thur.

On boat

19

Fri.

Ditto s.c. 5.1, s.s. 8.52

20

Sat.

Memo.

Easy life so
far.