

Pilot Lt. Donald McDermott arrived at Rattlesden in July, 1944, and flew 35 missions with the 710th

Diary courtesy of Mr. Mark McDermott

July 12 MUNICH - rode as co-pilot for Shute. Bombed P.F.F. FLAK INTENSE ACCURATE. HIT BY GERMAN FIGHTERS ON RETURN. NO MAJOR DAMAGE TO FORMATION - MINOR BATTLE DAMAGE TO SHIP.

July 14 Zobra - Southwestern FRANCE rode co-pilot for KAMASIAN. NO FLAK. FORMATION AHEAD HIT BY FIGHTERS. WILL Landed IN FRANCE ON BEACHES. BOMBING ALT 500 FT. RETURNED SAFELY.

- 20 MERSEBERG - LEIPZIG AREA - Rode WITH CREW (EXCEPT WALT) BOMBED VISUAL. FLAK INTENSE ACCURATE. RETURNED WITH MINOR DAMAGE.

- 21 REGENSBURG - Rode WITH SAME CREW AS BEFORE. VISUAL BOMBING. FLAK INTENSE ACCURATE. TURNED INSIDE OF FLAK. RETURNED OK.

- 24 FRANCE - TROOP SUPPORT FRAG

	Dombs, VISUAL BUT COULD NOT drop. LIGHT FLAK. RETURNED UNEVENTFUL AND SAFE.		IN ACCURATE. CAME OUT OF FRANCE AT 190 MPH WITH WINGMEN RETURNED OK.
2	PARIS - STORAGE DEPOT. VISUAL bombing. Murphy with us. FLAK heavy 105's and very accurate. Ship had numerous hits but NO MAJOR damage. RETURNED OK.		LEAD CREW TRAMP. GOT OUT OF IT IN A few days.
8	FRANCE - Troop support. Dropped bombs VISUAL - Frap's. ALT 12000 FT FLAK Moderate with ACCURATE TRACKING. Pulled away from group and FLAK AT 200 mph. RETURNED safely. WITH MINOR DAMAGE.	Aug 24	BRUX (CZECHOSLOVAKIA). Bombed VISUAL. HEAVY FLAK ACCURATE. DIVISION hit by fighters. RETURNED OK. LOT OF SWEDEN VISIBLE DITCHING WENT ON. BERLIN VERY CLEAR
11	BELFORS. NEAR SWISS border. Bombed MARSHALLING YARDS VISUAL AT 14000 FT. LONG bomb run. NO FLAK RETURNED OK.	Aug 25	AIR FIELD (NORTH OF BERLIN). Bombing ACCURATE VISUAL Moderate ACCURATE FLAK. HANNINGSON DITAUD. WAS PICKED UP OK. RETURNED WITH MINOR DAMAGE
13	FRANCE Troop support. LEAD Led ELEMENT OR LALO SQUADRON. Bombed by 3 SHIP ELEMENTS. FLAK	Aug 27	BERLIN - recall because of WEATHER NEAR DENMARK FLAK LIGHT. HEAVY DITCHING WENT ON. RETURNED WITH NO DAMAGE
		Aug 29	BREMEN - Bombed PFF FOLKE WOLF PLANTS. FLAK INTENSE ACCURATE. LEAD ELEMENT. RETURNED WITH MINOR DAMAGE. GOT IN HAMBURG FLAK.

Sept 1<sup>st</sup> MANCHESTER - MOTOR TANK ASSEMBLY.

ENCOUNTERED BAD WEATHER. NO BOMBS

DROPPED INTENDED 10th MISSION. RETURNED OK

Sept 6 BERLIN + BREMEN. NO MISSIONS

Sept 8 MAINZ (FRANKFURT) ENCOUNTERED bad

weather. GOT THROUGH. Bombed Secondary

VISUAL. FLAK MODERATE + ACCURATE RETURNED OK

Sept 9 ZEBRA (Belfort Area) NO FLAK

Bombed SOFT 2 wings. INTERESTING

MISSION. VISIBILITY GOOD RETURNED OK

Sept 10 Airfield (S.E. of Mannheim) NO FLAK AT

TARGET. GOT PAPPED AT IN AND OUT. Bombed

VISUAL. GOOD RESULTS RETURNED OK.

Sept 11 Leipzig. FLAK MODERATE BUT VERY VERY

ACCURATE. HYLER + MARTENSON MISSING. BIG

AIR BATTLE. JAC (R.O.) ON CREW WOUNDED. SHIP

HEAVILY DAMAGED. RETURNED WITH BATTLE DAMAGE OK.

Sept 12 Leipzig FLAK MODERATE AND ACCURATE

GOOD EVASIVE ACTION AFTER BOMBS AWAY.

Bombed VISUAL. MINOR DAMAGE TO SHIP.

HAD ANOTHER AIR BATTLE. RETURNED OK.

Sept 13 STUTTGART. ENCOUNTERED WEATHER SMOKE

SCREEN. DID NOT DROP BOMBS. NO CLOSE FLAK.

RETURNED OK.

Sept 14-15 BERLIN - HOLLAND SCRUBBED

Sept 16 HOLLAND. Bombed FLAK INSTALLATIONS WITH

POOR FORMATION. FLAK NOT HEAVY. RETURNED OK.

Sept 20-21 KASSEL - LUDWIGSHAVEN SCRUBBED

Sept 22 KASSEL (EAST OF RUHR) FLAK MODERATE

INACCURATE. Bombed PFF LOW LOW SPD

DEPUTY WING LEAD. RETURNED OK.

Sept 25 LUDWIGSHAVEN - WEATHER BAD. GOT WAY OF

COURSE. Bombed PFF FLAK INTENSE ACCURATE

SHIP DAMAGED. DEPUTY WING LEAD. BROUGHT GROUP

HOME FROM CHANNEL. RETURNED OK.

Sept 26 BREMEN - SCAPLANE BASE. Bombed

VISUAL. FLAK MODERATE VERY ACCURATE

KNOCKED OUT HIGH SPD. RETURNED OK. WITH

BATTLE DAMAGE. LOW SPD DEPUTY GROUP LEAD

Sept 27 LUDWIGSHAVEN. Bombed PFF. FLAK HEAVY

BUT INACCURATE. LOST LEADER. FORMER #2

RETURNED OK. HIGH SPD LEAD

Sept 28	Merseburg (Leipzig). Aborted 8 miles from continent. #2 emp out. Returned OK. <small>conchment lead No credit</small>	Oct 22	Munster - Bombed P.F.F. FLAK <small>Lo Lo Lead</small> Light and inaccurate Returned OK
Oct 5	Munster. Night as co-pilot P.F.F. <small>Low altitude leader</small> Bombing. FLAK moderate NOT T.O. Accurate. Returned OK.	Oct 25	HAMBURG - Bombed P.F.F. FLAK <small>Deputy #2</small> Heavy and inaccurate Returned OK
Oct 6	Berlin. Aborted near Holzpolder. #2 <small>emp out</small> 3FE HIT AREA. Low alt. lead. <small>emp out. No credit</small> Returned OK.	Oct 26	HANOVER - Bombed P.F.F. FLAK <small>Lo Lo Lead</small> Heavy inaccurate Returned OK
Oct 7	Merseburg (Leipzig) bombed last night <small>low spin lead</small> visual. FLAK intense and accurate. Returned OK.	Oct 27	Merseburg (Leipzig) Scrubbed <small>Deputy Lead</small>
Oct 8	Merseburg (Leipzig) Scrubbed.	Oct 28	Merseburg (Leipzig) Combat Recall
Oct 9	MAINZ. bombed P.F.F. FLAK moderate and inaccurate. Light battle damage Returned OK. Hi spin lead	Nov 2	Merseburg (Leipzig) FLAK Heavy intense accurate. P.F.F. bombing. Bandits in vicinity. P.F.F. lead received direct hit Johnson MIA. Received battle damage Landed at Woodbridge safely. Deputy wing lead
Oct 10	Hamburg. Scrubbed.	Nov 4	HAMBURG. P.F.F. FLAK Heavy inaccurate Deputy hi group lead Returned OK
Oct 12	BREMEN. bombed worse with good results. Prop wash on gun. Made sharp turn and left emp. Returned OK. <small>Hi spin lead</small>		I'VE HAD IT
Oct 13	Cologne Scrubbed		
Oct 14	Seven Day REST LEAVE		