

T/SGT. JOHN

HENDERSON

LAING

A.S.N. 35600471

GOOD CONDUCT.

AIR MEDAL - 3 CLUSTERS

EUROPEAN THEATER - 6 BATTLE

STARS

VICTORY

SEPT 3, 1944 Topoka Kans.  
to Grenier Field Man-  
chester N.H. TIME 0230-0935

SEPT. 8, Grenier to Dow  
Field Bangor Maine  
TIME 1655 - 1857

SEPT 9 Dow Field  
Bander, Newfoundland  
TIME 1457 - 1858

SEPT 18, Bander to  
Lajes, Azores  
TIME 0630 - 1353

SEPT 20, Legona to  
Marrakech, North  
Africa TIME 0800 - 1405

SEPT 22, Marrakech  
to Tunis N. Africa  
TIME 0730 - 1333

SEPT 24, Tunis to  
Genoa, Italy  
TIME 1413 - 1323

SEPT 29, Genoa to  
Manduria (train  
by truck)  
TIME 1130 - 1900

COMBAT

MISSIONS



OCT 7, 1944 Vienna,  
austria. My first  
mission. Flew  
with another crew.  
Target was the oil  
refineries in SW  
part of town. 720<sup>TH</sup>  
sent 13 planes.  
Fighters reported in  
area. We had 55  
P-38's for escort.  
One plane returned  
15 min before target.  
Maj Murphy went  
down. 721 lost four  
planes. There was

intense heavy and  
accurate flak.

BOMB LOAD Eight  
five hundred pound-  
ers.

ALT 23,000 ft

TEMP -27°C

TIME 0930-1620

OCT. 11, 1944 Vienna,  
Austria oil refinery.

Escort 35 P-38's

20 P-51's Returned

200 miles from target.

7:20 had 13 planes  
on raid

ALT. 25,000

TEMP -35°C

BOMB LOAD Eight  
five hundreds

TIME 0730 - 1255

OCT 13, 1944 Marshall-  
ing yards at north  
end of Lake Balatonic

40 miles S.E. of  
Vienna. Hosiage,  
Hungary. Escort

70 - P 51<sup>2</sup> 40 P-38<sup>2</sup>

at target 70 FW-

190<sup>2</sup> ME 109<sup>2</sup> reported

in area. Moderate

flak. One B 24  
blew up

ALT 22,500

TEMP -11°C

BOMB LOAD 8-500<sup>2</sup>

TIME 0750 - 1445



OCT 14, 1944 RR Bridge  
in Szarvasko, Hungary.  
Our ship returned 10  
min from target.  
Feathered one engine  
on ship 211. Dropped  
bombs in enemy  
territory. (no credit.  
other ships did not  
drop bombs but  
received credit)

BOMB LOAD three  
two thousand lbs.  
TIME 0710 to 1240

OCT. 16, 1944 Industrial  
section of Styria, Austria  
Fighters hit 490 gr  
Saw flak five different  
times. The first  
being from a ship in  
the bay. Flak over  
target very heavy  
and accurate. (Flak  
also at Wiener market etc)

5 planes went down

ALT 25,500 ft

TEMP  $-42^{\circ}\text{C}$

TIME 0710 - 1240

BOMB LOAD 8-500

OCT 17, 1944 Salberry  
Tank factories in South-  
ern Vienna, Escort  
40-F 38<sup>2</sup> 15 P 51<sup>2</sup>

392 flak guns.

Heavy and accurate  
flak. Rec about  
20 holes in ship  
634. Was flying num-  
ber five and moved  
over to four position.  
Two holes in nose  
turret. 2 near pilot  
just missing his feet.  
one in elect wiring  
under wing cutting

off control of number one  
engine. Motor run  
away. One in right  
tire. (Came down  
thru wing) five in  
waist. All four  
engines received one  
hole. Number three  
engine run away  
landed at Vie Island  
almost had to bail  
out. One plane  
went down just off  
the target. Three  
shutes opened. One

plane went down  
near Vis saw 3  
shutes open. Another  
ship dove straight  
into Vis exploding.  
Saw seven shutes  
open. (Lost vis  
plane that day)

ALT 24,500 ft

TEMP -35°C

BOMBLOAD 8-500

Brought another plane  
back from Vis

TIMES { 0834 1739  
          { 1435 1825

PILOT put in for DFC

OCT 23, 1944 RR Tunnel  
in Brenner Pass

ALT 21,000

BOMB LOAD 3-two-thous-  
and six

TEMP -28°c

TIME 0834-1535

OCT 31, 1944 Podgotopia

ALT 19,000

BOMB LOAD F-500

TEMP -20°

TIME 1415-1555

NOV. 4, 1944 Marshalling  
yards in Munich,  
Germany, Escort

120 P 38<sup>th</sup> Heavy  
intense but not too  
accurate flak

ALT. 23,500

TEMP -28°

BOMB LOAD 8-500  
with delayed action  
fuses.

TIME 0645-1515



NOV 5, 1944 Podgatornia  
light but accurate  
flak. (17 GUNS)

ALT 22,500 ft

TEMP -32°C

BOMB LOAD 10-500 lbs

TIME 1400 - 1300

NOV. , 1944 Target

Sanyano

BOMB LOAD

ALT.

TIME 1000-1415

Heavy accurate flak

NOV. 12-44 RR. Bridge  
in Ora, Italy. Heavy  
and accurate flak.

Rec 12 holes or more  
in ship 634. feathered  
#4 engine just off the  
target. Very rough  
target.

ALT. 22,500

TEMP  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$

BOMB LOAD 6-1000 lb - m

TIME 0700-1415

NOV. 16, 1944 Troop  
concentration near  
Sarejavo. Cloud  
overcast on target

ALT. 22,500 ft.

TEMP  $-23^{\circ}\text{C}$

BOMB LOAD 40-100 lb  
bombs 2 to a cluster  
with booby trap fuses,  
one with leaflets

TIME 0845-1248

NOV. 17, 1944 Synthetic oil  
Plant in north Vienna,  
Austria. Escort 50-P 38<sup>a</sup>

Heavy intense flak.  
ALT. 24,000 ft.  
TEMP -38°C.

BOMB LOAD 8-500<sup>a</sup>

TIME 0645-1930

NOV. 18, 1944 Arcano  
airfield, northern Italy  
40-100 lb clusters  
TIME 0725-1335

NOV 20, 1944 Budge at  
Dobaj, yugo.

ALT. 20,000 ft.

TEMP  $-23^{\circ}\text{C}$

BOMB LOAD 6-1000 lbs

TIME  $0910-1350$

97.95 combat hrs.

NOV. 22, 1944 R.R. Bridge  
at Ferrara, Italy. Rec.  
5 holes in ship. Very  
accurate and intense  
flak.

German jet propelled  
plane reported there.  
Group lost 2 ships.

ALT 25,000 ft.

BOMB LOAD 5-1000 lbs

TEMP  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$

TIME 0830 - 1450

2 of five pieces of flak  
came through bottom  
of ship glanced off  
the ball turret



went through the  
floor near me  
and one hit the left  
ammunition can  
exploding one round.  
The other hit the belt  
from ammo can  
exploding a round  
and throwing it  
to the tail turret.

DEC. 2, 1944 Main  
target was to be  
Railroad center 14  
miles from Vienna  
(to be no flak). There  
was an overcast so  
we bombed the Shwidorf  
Oil Refinery in Vienna.  
This being the secondary  
target. Received heavy  
flak. Fighters reported  
seen. Had about  
50 P-51 fighter escort.  
ALT 25,500 ft.  
TEMP -35°C  
BOMB LOAD 8-500 lb-m

incisive wrapped  
clusters.

TIME  $\phi\delta\phi\phi-1535$

KLAGENFURT

DEC. 6, 1944 Target 40  
miles south of Vienna

ALT. 23,000 ft

TEMP

BOMB LOAD 8-500<sup>2</sup>

TIME 0730-1415

50-P 38 fighters  
escort. Enemy fighters  
hit 55<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gr.

just behind us.

Saw 2 ME-110 off  
our right wing.

(moosierbaum)

DEC, 11, 1944 Venona  
oil refineries. Received  
accurate and intense  
flak. Received 20 holes  
in right wing cutting  
main spar and  
leaving large hole in  
top of wing. (Ship 261)  
Lucky wing didn't  
give from weight of  
NO. 4 engine. Rec 5  
holes in rudder. 3 in  
stabilized. 4 in tail.  
one in NO. two engine  
TOTAL 33 holes found.  
(A-5 controls shot out)

Rec flak on way  
back near Lake  
Balatins. Heavy  
and accurate.

Had P-38 & P 51 escort.

BOMB LOAD 8-500<sup>2</sup>

TEMP - 36°C

TIME 0755 - 1555

GP lost 5 ships

DEC 18, 1944 Floridsdorf  
oil Refinery in  
Vienna. Had over-  
cast over target.

Received little flak,  
40 P-38 escort.

BOMB LOAD 8-500

16 TNT.

TEMP -35°

TIME 0800 - 1500

ALT. 25,500 ft

No CREDIT

DEC 19, 1944 Rosenheim  
marshalling yards.  
Feathered No 4 engine  
(throwing oil then  
caught fire. Put plane  
in dive to put out  
fire)

BOMB LOAD 8-500<sup>2</sup>

TEMP.

ALT. 22,000 (17,000)

TIME 0745-1410



DEC. 21, 1944 Rosenheim  
marshalling yards.

Heavy overcast.

Bombed by PFF. NO FLAK

Had P-38 & P-51 fighter  
escort.

ALT 22,000 (bombed)  
(at 20500)

BOMBLOAD 10-500<sup>2</sup>

TEMP

TIME 0810 - 1550

(Dec 25 Wolfe crew lost  
over Ansbek).

DEC. 26, 1944 R.R. Bridge  
at Ora, northern Italy  
Ran into flak four  
times. Heavy and  
accurate flak over  
target. Fighters  
reported in area.

BOMB LOAD 5-1000 lbs

TEMP.  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$

ALT 0745-1500

(Flew with Herish in 261  
Flew as RO + T.T.G.)

DEC. 27, 1944 RR Bridge  
in Brenner Pass Loop.  
Moderate + accurate  
flak. Had P38 - P51  
fighter escort. (Rec  
flak twice) Group  
lost another ship

TEMP

BOMB LOAD 3-2000

TIME 0730-1445

DEC 28 SADLY LOST 7 out  
of mine ships. Big loss  
in each order over Bremen  
pass.

JAN 15, 1945 Target  
Schoonboorf repair  
yards in heart of  
Vienna, Austria  
Very heavy flak, but  
it was to our right  
and behind us.

Had P 38 and P 51  
fighter escort

lost ship 790 due  
to engine failure

TEMP  $-42^{\circ}\text{C}$

ALT 25,500

BOMB LOAD T-500

TIME 0845-1615

JAN 15

St. Louis crew went  
down in 790 over Russian  
line. Crew came back  
a month later.

FEB. 5, 1945 Salzburg  
marshalling yards  
in Austria South-  
East of Munich.  
Had 36 P 51 fighter  
escort and target cover  
penetration and with-  
drawal. Received  
moderate flak.

TEMP  $-38^{\circ}\text{C}$  (FLEW I.T.)

ALT. 27,000

BOMB LOAD 8-500<sup>2</sup>

TIME 0815-1611



Feb 7. 723 lost 2 ships  
one crew bailed out  
about 10 miles from  
field. Two chutes  
opened too late.  
other ship lost over target.

Feb 8, 1945 Target was  
marshalling yards  
in Vienna. Missed  
target by 700 yds and  
hit Ordnance Depot  
which we have  
been trying to  
knock out for 7  
months. Received  
heavy and accurate  
and intense flak.  
Had plenty of fighter  
escort, both P-38  
and P-51<sup>s</sup>. Saw  
2 chutes from fighters

jets reported cornered  
in area by fighters.

TEMP -33°C

BOMBLOAD 8-500<sup>~</sup>

TIME 0815-1545

FEB. 17, 1945 Target we  
were briefed for was  
St. Valentins. It was  
to be a visual bomb-  
ing. There was an  
overcast so we bombed  
blindly by P.F.F. Had heavy  
accurate and intense  
flak. Received three  
holes in ship.

ALT 27,000 (bombed at  
25,500)

TEMP -42°C (FLEW II.T.)

TIME 0915 - 1700

BOMB LOAD 3-500<sup>2</sup>

FEB 19 Hainer ~~cross~~

bailed out over field

Everyone safe. Lost ship  
(mighty mouse).

FEB. 20, 1945 Target was  
to be Patoch Marshall-  
ing yards. There was  
an overcast so we  
ended up in flying  
all over southern  
Europe and bombing  
harbor docks at  
Genoa. Ran into  
accurate flak three  
different places.  
TG reported us hitting boat.  
Had P51 fighter escort.  
TEMP  $-38^{\circ}$   
BOMB LOAD T-570

ALT 24,300

TIME 0900-1625

FEB 24, 1945 Target

Terona marshalling  
yards. Received ~~flak~~  
at the target and just  
after target. Heavy  
intense and accurate  
Received three holes  
and two dents in  
side of plane.

Had P51 fighter escort

Unidentified plane

~~passed directly under~~

us and tailed by P51s

(lost one navigator  
died from lack of oxygen)



TEMP - 38°C

BOMB LOAD 8-500<sup>2</sup>

ALT 24000

TIME 0945-1635

FEB 28, 1945 Marco Alfa  
Railroad bridge near  
Brenner Pass. We  
made a sharp right  
rally off target to get  
out of flak. Received  
moderate and  
accurate flak. (24 guns)

TEMP -33°C

ALT 29,000

BOMB LOAD 5-1000

TIME 0930-1620

MARCH 4, 1945 Target to

be Zagreb a visual.

target. We went to

alternate at Brod.

but did not drop bombs

Bad flying weather.

ALT. 24000

TEMP -45°C

~~BOMB LOAD 10-500<sup>2</sup>~~

TIME 1010-1540

MAR 9 Sauer crew  
went down (Eveniamen).  
flew into Thunderhead  
and crashed into the  
adriatic sea. One crew  
member had over  
seventy six missions  
part of them being  
on an A-20.  
(medium bombardment)

MARCH 12, 1945 Florisdorf

~~Antipater~~ Marsh -

alling yard in  
Vienna. Received  
Heavy accurate and  
intense flak.

Received one hole in  
nose turret.

Group lost one ship.

Bombed by PFF

Had P38 and P51

fighter escort.

ALT. 23,500

TEMP. -36°

BOMBLOAD 8-500<sup>lb</sup>

Dem Comp D

TIME

0835-1555

MARCH 14, 1945 Primary  
target was Varazdin  
and it was to be a  
usual bombing. We  
went to Zagreb but  
never ~~dropped bombs~~  
at either place.

Had P51 escort.

TEMP -30°

ALT 20,000 ~~and 15,000~~

BOMB LOAD 5-1000<sup>2</sup>

TIME 0845-1505

MARCH 15, 1945 Moosbier  
baum near Vienna,  
Austria. Received  
Heavy accurate and  
intense flak.

Had P 38 and P 51  
fighter escort.

TEMP -35

ALT 23,500

BOMBLOAD 8-500<sup>2</sup>

TIME 0915 - 1645

LAST MISSION  
(FINITO)



MARCH. 16. One  
plane caught on fire  
taking off on run-  
way. Engine  
blew up, then  
the bombs exploded.  
Made a crater in  
the runway. Blew  
burning flesh all  
over field. Shatters  
windows a mile  
away. Debris fell  
that far away.