Thomas Henry Schoder



Logbook of Service as a B-24 Nose Gunner

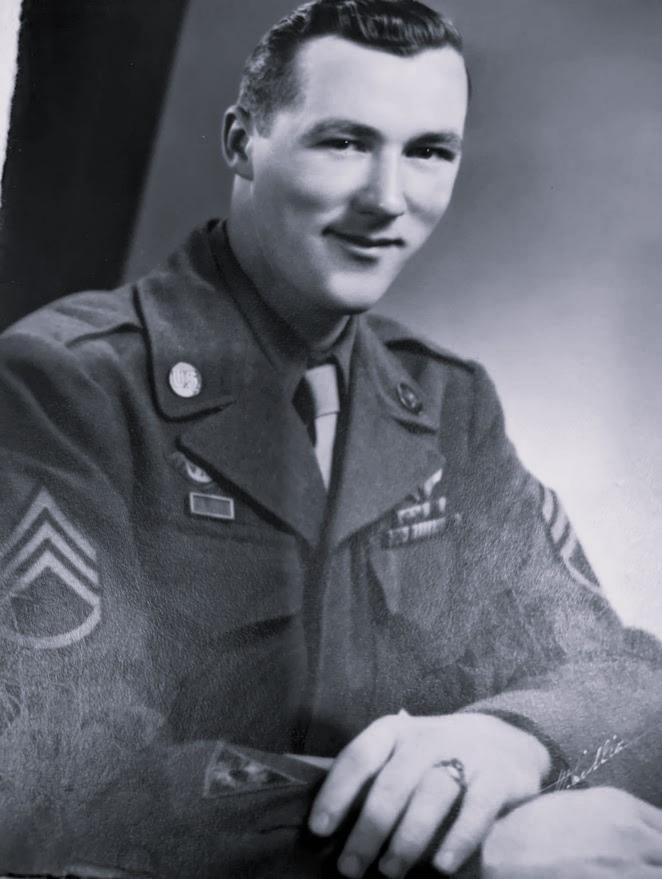
In the 720th Squadron of the 450th Bomber Group USAC



https://www.450thbg.com/real/index.shtml

https://www.450thbg.com/real/biographies/schoder/schoder.shtml

Thomas was one of six brothers who left their home in Battle Creek Michigan to go into the fight of WWII. They all went into different branches of the Service. Thomas the youngest enlisted in December 1943 as soon as he was of age as his older brothers were all fighting and staying alive. They all came home from the war. Tom kept a logbook of his missions. The life expectancy of the 450th bomber group servicemen was 7 missions. Tom started mission one taking off in southern Italy to Vienna Austria on October 7, 1944, and completed mission forty-eight on March 14, 1945, flying missions right to the end of Nazi surrender. Our freedom today was ensured by such unselfish and determined service to our country and Freedom for free democracies around the world. We sleep comfortably in the peace they provided us.





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COMBAT FLYING Oct. 7, 1944. my frist mission was a raid over Viennia, austria whose and target was the ail refinery in the Southwesten part of town. The 720th sent 13 planes and didn't love any. We but they were in the orla. We had 55 P38 & for rescart. One plane had to Come hack 15 mints befor we wached

the target become of engine trouble, maj. murphy went down the 72 set last four place, and very accurate. 4 lying time 8 hr 3 min. Bomb load 8 finehundred sounders. altitude 23,000 ft. Temp. -27° €

Oct. 10, 1944 MISSION NO.3 PARGET: MARSHALLING YARDS AT PADUA NEAR VENICE TTALY ESCORT: NONE, 40P385 AT TARGET FIGHTERS: NONE FIAK: NONE IME: 5 HR. 5 MIN. MISSION UNACOMPLISHED DUE TOTHE CLOUD COVER No. PLANES: 13 FROM 720th ALTITUDE : 20,000 FT.

TEMP. - 28° C

BOMB LOAD: 8-5001B

Oct. 12, 1944 MISSION NO. 4 TARBET - OIL REFINERY IN VIENNIA AUSTRIA ESCORT - 35 P385 26 P515 FIGHTERS: NonE FIAK : NONE TIME: 6 BR MISSION UNACOMPLISHED PUE TO BAD WEATHER. RETURNED WHEN 45 MIN. FROM TARGET NO. PLANES: 13 FROM 720 ALTITUDE: 23-25,000 1%. TEMP: -35°C

BOMB LOAD: 8- 500LB.

Oct 14 NO MISSION TARGET: 18 R. R. BRIDGE IN HUNGARY. ESCORT: NONE FIGHTERS: NONE THANK GOD + /AK: VERY LITTLE, INACCURATE MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED DUE TO ENGINE TROUBLE 10 MIN FROM THE TARGET. WE DROPED OUR BOMBS IN HUNGARY. NO. 3 ENGINE WAS FATHERED AND WE CAME HOME ON 3 ALTITUPE: 23,500 FX TEMP. 32° BELOWO BOMB LOAD: 3- 2,000 LB. TIME: 7 HR.

Oct. 15 Mission: 647 SECTION OF STITUR, GER-MANY. ESCORT: 415 P. 388 FIGHTERS: THEY HIT THE 4900 BUT LEFT US ALONE FIAK: VERY HEAUY AND ACCURATE. WE WENT OVER WINER-NUSTAT AND 4 OTHER FIAK AREAS. FIVE PLANES WENT DONN MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED ALTITUDE: 25,500 Et TEMP: -420C IME: 8HR

OCT. 16 849 MISSION SALBURY
TARGET: TANK FACTORIES IN SOUTHERN DIENNA FSCORT: 40 P385 15-P-518 FIGHTERS: NONE FLAK: WE WERE INRANGE OF 342 FLAK GUNS. IN E WERE HIT ABOUT 25 TIMES TWO PICES CAME THROUGH MY TURRET. TWO ENGINES BAN HWAY BUT BY MERICALE WE MADE THE ISLAND OF DIZ OF YUGO COAST. 3 PLANES WENT DOWN IN TARGET AREA THREE MORE NEAR VIZ MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED

ALTITODE: 24,500 FL TEMR-350C BONB LOAD: 8-566LB. INE WERE VIERY FORTUNG! 18 GET BACK. WE WERE GOING TO BAIL OUT BUT THE PITOT BOUGHT HER IN ON TWO ENGINES. WE DISCOUERE BALARGE PIECE ST FIAK IN THE TIRE WHY IT SIDNY BLOW IND ONE KNOWS WE TOOK OFF VIZ WITH 4 NEW

Oct. 23 MISSION NO. 10 TARGET: R.R. TUNNEL IN BRENNER PASS ON GERMAN ITILIAN BORDER ESCORT: NONE FIGHTERS: 30 ME1095 FIAK: NONE AT OUR SQD. MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED BUT WE MISSED THE TARGET ALTITUDE: 21,000 FT. TIME: HOW 7HR BOMB LOAD: 3-2,000 LB. 1EMP. -280C

Oct. 31, 1944 MISSION NO.11 TARGET: TROOP CONCENTRATIONS IN A TOWN IN JUGOSLOVIA ESCORT: NONE (BUSSIAN PLANES) FIEHTERS: NONE HAK: NONE MISSION: UNACCOMPLISHED AltITUDE: 19,000 FX TIME: 4HR 15 MIN BOMB LOAD: 8-5000 TEMP: - 20°C WE HAD A GOOD TARGET THE NAZIS WERE TRYING TO FECAPE THE ENGLISH FROM GREECE XTHE BUSSIANS FROM THE NORTH

Nov. 4, 1944 MISSION NO. 12913 TARGET: MARSHALLING YARDS IN MUNICH, GERMANY 1=3cort: 120-P385 MONE NONE FLAK: HEAVY, INTENSES INACCURATE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED AltITUDE: 23,500 FT TEMP. - 28°C BOMBLOAD: 8-5001B WITH DELAYED ACTION FUSES TIME: 8 HR 30 MIN. THIS MISSION WAS VERY EASY FOR MUNICH DUETO THE FACT THAT THE FIAK

DION'T DOWN ANY PLANES ANDTHE FIGHTERS WERE DRAWN BY ANOTHER WING GOING TO RIEGINGBURG SANDAL BURNESS NAME OF THE PROPERTY OF CANDY TANKS IN THE PARTY OF THE P THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE STORES BEEN STATE

Nov. 5, 1944 MISSION NO. 14 PARGET: MARSHALLING YARDS AT SARAJAYO, JUGOSLADIA ESCORT: NONE FIGHTERS! NONE Flak: LIGHT BUT VERY ACCURATE. 19 GUNS MISSION: UNACCOMPLISHED DUE TO OVERCAST AltitoDE: 22,500 FT. TEMP - 32-8. BOMBLOAD: 10-500 TIME: 3 HR 15 MIN WE LOST ONE PLANE OVER THE TARGET

Nov. - 1944 MISSION NO. 15 TARGET: SAREJAVO BOMB LOAD: FLAK: HEAVY & ACCURATE TIME: SHRIOMINI. The state of the s 111 120 1 60 8 00 Will a state of the

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Nov. 12, 1944 MISSION NO.16 TARGET: BRIDGE AT A SMALL TOWN NEAR BOLOWENIA, LETALY Escort: 50-P385 FIGHTERS: ESCORT TANGLED WITH THIEM FIAK: HEAVY AND VERY ACCORATE: 19 CUNS MISSION ACCOMPLIBHED WEDESTROYED THE BAIDGE AltitudE: 22,5 au TIEMP: -450 C BOMBLO40: 6-1,000 28 TIME: 7 HR 15 MIN. THIS RAID WAR ONE OF

THE TOUGHEST ING BEEN

ON SOFAR, THE GUNNERS UPTHERE MUST ALL HAUE SHARP SHOOTERS MEDALS COZ THEY GOOLD BEALLY THROW THAT 8TUFE UP THERE. WE GOT HIT OVER 20 TIMES AND ONE PIECE CAME THROOGH MY JURRET NEARLY GETTING ME. WE LOST NO. 4 ENGINE BUT MADE IT BACK OK. TAKE COLDEST IVE BEEN INMY LIKE!

NOV.16 MISSION17 TARGET: A TROOP CONCENTRATIONS NEAR SERIJAVO, JUGOSLOVIA ESCORT: NONE FIGHTERS: NONE HAX: NONE MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED DUE to CLOUDS Altitude: 22,500 1 TEp: -2300 BOMB LOAD: 40-100-24AD BOOBIE TRAP FUSES TIME: 4HR 3 MINI

NOV. 17
MISSION NO. 19 FLOSISDORF
TARGET: SYNTHITIC OIL PLANT IN NORTH VIENNIA, AUSTRIA ESCORTI SO-P385/ FIGHTERS: NONE FLAK: HEAVY, INTENSE INNACCURATEILOW MISSION ACCOMPLISHED OVERCAST HID BESULTS ALTITUDE: 24,000 TEMP - 380C BOMB LOAD: 8-500 TIME: 7 HR 45 MIN THE GUNNERS AT VIENNICA WEBE WAY ORF DUE TO 845 CLOUP COVER

Nov. 20, 1944 Mission 28 TARGET: BRIDGE HT DOBAJ, JOB GECORT: NONE FIAK: NONE FIGHTIERS: NONE AMTOB: 20,000 TEMP. -23° BOMB 2000: 6- 6000 TIME: 4 HR

NOV. 22, 1944 MISSION 21 TARGET: RIALROAD BRIDGE AT FERRIA, ITALY ESCORT: NONE FIGHTERS: SAW GERMAN & JET PROPELLED PLANE FIAK: HIEAVY, INTENCE AND ACCURATE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED AltitudE: 25,000 FY TEMP: -35°C BOMBLUAD: 5-1,000 18. TIME: GHR 20MIN THIS WAS A TYPICAL FERRARA RAID, THE FIAK WAS ACCORDIE AND COST US TWO 13-248

UNE CAME THROUGH MY TURE

BUT MISSED 13Y INCHES

Marie Waller Wales

TO NOT THE PARTY OF THE PARTY O

The second secon

NOV. 23, 1944 MISSION NO. 22 TARGET : MIGHWAY IBRIDGE AT SUDICE, JUGOSLOVIA ESCORT: NONE FIENTERS: SAW SOME RUSSIA FICHTIERS FIAK: NO INTE MISSION ACCUMPLIS 750 BUT WE MISSISD THE 13171 DEE AltITODE: 15, ave 1EMB-80C BOMB LU40- 3-2,000 LB IME: SHR TIME MISSION WAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STOPING

THE GERMAN RETREAT

FROM THE BALKANS

THE PARTY OF THE P

DEC. 2, 1944 Mission 23+24 PARGET: DUZELDURF OIL REFINIRIES IN NORTHEASTERN VIENNIA ESCURT: 50- P513 FIGHTERS: THEY WERE AROUND BUT THE ESCORT KEPT THEM BUSY FLAK - HEAVY, INTENSE BUT INACCURATE DUE TO OVERCAST MISSION ACCOMPLISHED BUT WE BOMBED BY MICKEY SO WE COULD NOT SEE RESULTS 16MP-380C ALTITUDE 25,500 FT. 11ME: 7:30 MIN

BOMB LOAD: 8-500LB INC.
THIS RAID WAS DESIGNED
TO DESTROY HITLERS
DWINGLING OIL SUPPLY

THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T

DEC. 6., 1944 : MISSION 25 TARGETS MARSHALLING YARDS AT REGINA, HUNGARY, 40 MILES SOUTHEAST OF VIENNA ESCORT: 15 P3851 FOR TARGET COVER FIGHTERS: 3 ME 11031. FollowEDUS BUT THE 385, CHUSED THEM AWAY. THE 5th WING WHICH WERE BEHIND US GOT HIT WITH 15 ME1095 THEY LOST 12 BOMBERS AND DOWNED 11 FIGHTERS FIAK: NONE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED A 6000 703 700 Altitubes: 23,000 FT.

TEMP - 350 C BOMB LOAD: 10- 500 LB. TIME: THRISMIN THIS MISSION INAS OF GREAT HELP TO THE RUSSIANS WHO WERE ONLY 20 MILES AWAY BECOUSE WE BOTTLED OP PLENTY OF RAIL TRAFFIC IN THIS AREA. THE RUSSIANS HAVE TAKEN THIS JOWN NOW.

DEC. 18, 1944 MISSION 26+27 PARGET: FLORIS DORF OIL BEFINRIES HT VIENNA, AUSTRIA ESCORT: 50 P385 FIGHTERS: A COUPLE WERE SEEN BUT DID NOT COMEIN- 50 MES HIT ANOTHER GROUP FIAK: MODERATE, HEAVY AND INACCURATE : VERY UNIOSUAL MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED BOT WE BOMBED BY PFF BOMB LOAD: 8-500 DEM. 1/ME: 7:00 Alt. - 25,000 FT. 18MP. 239°C THIS WAS A SOFT RAID FOR RAG VIENNA AREA, BUT TOE

THE GROUP THAT BOT HIT BY FIGHTERS LOST PLENTY VESTERDAY THE 4513 T 8.6. WAS HIT BY 100 FICHTERS NORTH OF VIENNA AND LOST 31. The second secon AL PROPERTY OF A STATE All All Comments A Secretary and the second The state of the s A with the said - A Shirt - Sh

DEC. 21, 1944 MISSION 28-29 YARDS AT POSENHEIM, CER. FSCORT: 37-1515 FIGHTERS: NONE FIAK: NOVE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED BUT BOMBED BY P.F.F. AlTITODIE: 22,000 TEMP-370C BOMB LOND 10-500 TIME 7:45 MIN TIS RAID WAS DESIGNED Ta cut DEF TRAFFIC BETWEEN MUNICUSON

DEC. 27, 1944 MISSION TARGET: RAIL LINE AT BRENNER PASS ITALY, THE LOOP ESCORT: 35-P388) FIGHTERS: NONE FIAK: INTENSE, HEAVY ACCORAGE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED ALTITUDE 22,500 Ft TEMP. -40°C BOMB LOAD 3-2,000 LB. TIME: THRIOMIN THIS MISSION BROUGHT PRAISE TO OUR GROUP FOR GOOD BOMBING SAW DAE BLOW UP AT THEEST

JAN. 15, 1945 TARGET: Schoondoorf RAIL YARDS AT VIENNIA, AUSTRIA ESCORT: 48- PS/5 FICHTERS: NONE FIAK: HEAVY, ZNTENSE + INHCCURATE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED PFF AltitodE: 26,500 FF TEMP. -50°C BOMBLOAD: 8-500 LB TIME: 7HR. THIS MISSION WAS to cut RAIL LINES TO HUNGARIAN FRONT TO AID BUSSIAN DRIVE ON BUDAPEST

FEB.5, 1945 Mission 34+35 TARGET: SALZBURG RAIL YARDS 20 MI; S.E. OF MUNICH ESCORT: 36-P-515 FICHTERS: NONE FIAK: MODERATE, HEAVY, INACC. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, 6000 JOB ALTITUDE: 27, and Ft. TEMP-380C BOMB LOAD: 8-500 LB. /IME: 8:15 Min.

TARGET: SOUTH DUZELDORF HAIZ YARDS AT VIENNIA, AUSTRIA 1-SCORT: 50- PS15 FIGHTERS: NONE HIT US BUT THE ESCORT REPORTED THAT THEY ENCOUNTERED SOME JETS. SAW TWO CHUTES OVER TARGET AREA FLAK: INTENSE, HEAVY, ACCUR. ALTITUDE: 25, and I=+ TEMP - 830C BOMB LOAD 8-500LB. DEM. TIME: 7:20 MIN. MISSION SUCESSEUL EYEN THOU WE MISSED THE BRICES TARGET COZ WE HIT THE SOUTH DROINANCE DEPOT

FEB. 18, 1945 MISSION 38+39 TARGET: MARSHALLING YARDS AT LINZ, AUSTRIA ESCORT: 50-P515 FICHTERS: NONE FIAK: KEAYY, INTENSETA CCURA MISSION ACCOMPLISHED - PEF AlTITODE: 27,000 FT. TEMP - 540C BOMBLOAD: 8-5015 28. TIME: 8 HR

FEB. 28 MISSION 40 TARGET: BRENNER RAIL LINE BUT BECOUSE OF ONE R CAST WE HIT A SHIPYARD IN NORTH ITAL NEAR POLA ESCORT: 50-151 FIGHTERS: IYONE FLAK: WE HIT FLAKTHREE TIMES BUT ALL WAS SCANT AND INNACCURATE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED 6000 VisiON ALTITODE: 24,000 1EMP - - 38°C BOMB LOHD: 8-500 CB. 111415 7 HR. 15 ARIA

JEB. 25, 1945 MISSION 41 TARGET: MARSHALLING YARD ONLY 5 MI. FRON THE RUSSIAN FRONT BOT DUE TO UNDERCAST WE HIT THE RAIL YARDS AT DERONA, FTALK ESCORT: 30-P515 FICHTERS: NONE FLAK: HEAVY, INTENSE & ACCURATE - C.U. OF 721 WENT DOWN AT TARGET. Alt 1100E: 24,000 FT TEMP- 380 TIME: 6 HR 45 MIN. BOMBLOAD: 8-5000 BOLOGNA AND WE SON

THE ITALIAN FRONT TODAY. WE MISSED A GOOD CHANCE SF SEFING THE RUSSIAN DRIVE WEST OF BUDAPFST ALS. O. YESTER -DAY THERE WERE QUITE A FEW WOUNDED AT THE PARGET WE HIT DAY

FEB. 28th Mission 42 TARGET: MY AT ISARCO-Alsos ON THE BRENNER LINE ESCORT: 51- P355 FICHTIERS: NONE FLAR : MODERATE, ACCURATE AltITUDE: 24,000 TEMP-38°C TIME: 6 HR 50 MIN 150 NVB 20AD: 5- 1000 68.

MARCH 4 MISSION 43 TARGET: M/Y AT ZAGREB BUT DUE TO UNDERCAST WE WENT to BROAD, YOGO WHICH WAS ALSO UNDERCAST SO WE RETURNED WITH BOMBS FIGHTERS : NONE FIAK: NONE ESCORT: 50- P-285 AltitudE 24, 500 FT TEMP. -4800 !/! BOMB LOAD: 10-50028. /IME: 5HR 30 MIN.

MARCH 8, 1945 MISSION444445 ARGET: MYY ATKOMARON IN CZERCHOSLOVAKIA ONLY 7MI. FROM INE EASTERN FRONT. WE WENT OVER THE TARCET BUT A CLOUD HETHE TARGET. SOWE THEN POCE EDED TO MARIBAR IN JUGO. WE GOT FLAK FROM BRATISLAVA DY TOE WHY FSCORT: 30-P515 20 P385 FIGHTERS: 4-FWIFE: 3 NE262 Juts FLAK! MODERATE, MENE AND VERY ACCURACE Altitude 22,500 Eg. TENP-4000

BOND LOAD - 8-500 28

TIME 768 45 MIN.

TOPAY I HAD A GOOD

LOOK AT THE RUSSIAN FROM

10E & Sod SAW BUDAPEST

MARCH 12, 1945 MISSION 46+47 JARGET: FJOISDORF OIL REFINERY AT LIEMMA, AUSTRIA ESCORT: 50-P515 FIGHTERS: THEY HIT SOME OF THE STRAGLERS FIAK: INTENSE, HEAVY BUT NOT ACCURATE AT OUR BOX AlTITUDE 23, 500 FT. TEMP. -380C BOMB LOAD 8-5005 TIME: THR. 20 MIN OUR BOX WAS LUCKY TODAY BECOUSE OF THE UNDERCAST AT THE VAGES. SAW A FLANG DICH /00 BX

MARCH 14, 1945 11/55/01/47/18 TARGET: MY AT VARAZDIN IN NORTH YOUGO. BUT DUE TO UNDERCAST WE WEINT TO IHE TOWN OF ZAGRES WHICH WAS HUSD UNDERCE ESCORT: 20-PS/5 FIGHTERS: MINONE FLAK: NONE Allitupe: 20,000 Ft. TEMP -300 C - WARM DOMO LOAD! 5-1,000 LB 11ME 7 HR. 20 MIN. TODAY WE CIRCLED A DINIGHY IN THE WATER

OB.C. to Ft. SHERIDAN III N.Y.C. R.R. DEC. 3, 1943 @ Ft. SHERIDAN TO KEESLER tLO., Miss. I.C.; 2+N. BR. DEC. 6 to DEC. 8, 1943 3 KEESLER FLO. MISS. TO LAS VEGAS, NEV. (L+N.; COFT; ATOSF R.R.) MAR. 15 & MAR 19 DLAS VEGAS to LINCLON, NEB. S.P., U.P., CAN.W. RR MAY 22-24, 1944 (5) LINCLON NEB. to B.C. YRET. CUNW., N.Y.C. MAY27, JUNE 15

6 LINCLON NEB. TO MT. HOME SPRR. Jary 3-5, 1944 DMI-HOME IDAHO TO B.C. MICH 014 SP., 4.P. C+N.W., N.Y.C. Au69-11, 1944 & B.C. MICH. TO TOPEKA, KAN. VIA N.Y.C., A1 + SF R.R. AUG. 194 D TOPEKA, KAN. TO MANCHESTER N.H. VIA AIR THR. IOMIN. CO GREENIER FLD. to BANGOR, ME. DIA AIR - 55 MIN. TO BANGOR, ME. TO GANDER LAKE NEWFOUNDLAND VIA AIR 5 HR. 20 MINI.

6 LINCLON NEB. TO MT. HOME SPRR. Jary 3-5, 1944 DMI-HOME IDAHO TO B.C. MICH 014 SP., 4.P. C+N.W., N.Y.C. Au69-11, 1944 & B.C. MICH. TO TOPEKA, KAN. VIA N.Y.C., A1 + SF R.R. AUG. 194 D TOPEKA, KAN. TO MANCHESTER N.H. VIA AIR THR. IOMIN. CO GREENIER FLD. to BANGOR, ME. DIA AIR - 55 MIN. TO BANGOR, ME. TO GANDER LAKE NEWFOUNDLAND VIA AIR 5 HR. 20 MINI.

@ GANDER LAKE TO AZORES Vin Air 748 17 MIN. (3) AZOSES to MERRICECH, F.W. 5 HR. 38 MIN. (4) MERRICECH to tervis UIA AIR 6 HR. 40 MIN FS) TUNIS to GIOIA, ITALY UIA AIR 3HR 58 MIN. (6) NAPLES, ITALY to NORFORK, VA. BY BOAT APRIL 17-29, 1945 (7) NORFORK, VA. to Ft. SHERIDIAN VIA, BYO, PENNA, I.C. R.R. ARRIL 30-31 1945 ER FT. SHERIOIAN - B.C. NYC MAY3, 1245

@ B. C. MICH to SANTAANA, GUE. Oix. N.Y.C., ATVSF R.R. ED SANTA ANA TO FT. MYERS, FLA. DIA ATUSE, HEE, LUN, COFF, ACL B.R. JUNE 12-16, 1945 EL FI. MYERS FLA. TO TACOMA WASH. VIA, ACZ; COFG, LYN RI., N.P. R.R. July 15-20,1945 N.P., S.P. R.R. JUG. 6-8,795 (3) RIVERSIDE TO SAN FRANCISCO UIA S.P. B.R. Oct. 6,1945 29 SHN FRANCISCO TO B. C. MICH. Oct. 9-13, ViA S.R., 4P. CXXW N.y.C. R.R.

FURLOW GHS & LEAVES

MAY 27 to JUNE 15, 1944

AUG. 9 to 19, 1944

MAY 3 to 27, 1945

DISGARGED Oct. 5, 1945