

James B. Walden
306th Bomb Group, 369th Squadron
Bombardier, reported 17 July 1944 with crew of Robert Brown

My dad's combat diary covers most of his 29 missions (missing last couple, including his last on Dec. 9 1944, Stuttgart, when his plane was shot down). It shows some detail not always evident in the MR's themselves, particularly since some of the Mission Report documents are partially or even completely missing for dates he flew missions. To show provenance, I put an image of his Strong Card at the beginning, but the rest is his personal combat diary.

WALDEN, James B.

**0-761342
369th (B)**

**Rpt. 17 Jul 44
Robert Brown crew**

**AM 8-15-44
olc 9-16-44, 11-12-44**

p.294

**MIA 9 Dec 44 Stuttgart (w.Brown)
POW Rtd**

S.O.#

Col

LtCol

Maj

Capt

**1Lt
Z**

**2Lt
X**

James D. Calder

August 17, 1944

Today was bad
news all thru-

A.J. Trelford - NAV. WAS
Killed Aug. 15 on
take off for a raid.
Attended funeral

RUMPP

with the crew.
John "Celestial" was
killed at MacDill in
a storm on June 25th.
Letter from Colleen,
his sister today.
Both were our Boys
and the best.

Aug. 29

FRANK Sulkey
MIA - Italy

E.T.O.
Combat
Missions

1
July 24, 1944

to
St. Lo, France

38-100# G.P. ^{set:} 100'

Troops
Installations
Gun Positions

VISUAL
Support for
infantry-

Flak - no fighters

Undercast - break
own target.

15000'

2100p.

5 HOURS

12000'

2

July 25, 1944
to
St. Lo, France
38-100# GP ^{set}/₁₀₀
Troops
Installations
Gun Positions
12000' VISUAL
Support for
infantry -

Heavy German
Casualties - almost
completely.
U.S. Troops followed
up in break three.
Flak - 1 Puff ^{2100p.}/_{51000s}
no fighters

3

July 31st, 1944
to

Munich, Ger.

10 500# Demo
Air field - Jet

25000

Plenty Flak

Broken Undercast

over Target - Fires

& Smoke

A.F. north of City.

9 Hours

28000 gal.

4

August 5th, 1944
to

Braunschweig, Ger.

20 MI. SW of Berlin

Navigator (TS)

20 250# Bombs

Oil Refinery

23,000 Alt.

VISUAL

NO FLAK

GROUP Knocked
out Complete Target
Fires & High Smoke

9 Hours 2800 @ 9 A.M.

30-35 ME109's
290 Down NW
Berlin - MAJOR (6)
1 BIT Down ~~xxx~~
Flames over target
No chutes - Exploded
on Ground -
2800-191 9 hrs

Ship went up just
before T.O. - FIRE
& Bombs went off -

1 ship with 3 props
feathered turned
BACK to coast of
GERMANY - going
down fast

5

August 6th, 1944
to
Brandenburg, Ger.
20 MI. SW Berlin
NAVIGATOR
24250'
5 1000' Bombs
T.O. 1400 yd. 06 R.W.
Sweating Blood on
T.O. - Flaps down
AT 110-115 AT 1300 yd.
- Just cleared off fence.
TARGET - Factory
Trucks - Jet F.
Visual - Fires & High
Smoke.
Med. TANK - Jet B
AROUND Berlin & T.

1 hole in Roof
of nose 2". Bounced
off FLAK helmet &
was found in
catwalk.

FLAK on Eng. Coast.
2 ships - Flat tire
2 Ran together
on runway. 1 G. Loop.

Several Props
feathered -
Several injuries

1 Ball G. Killed
1 ME 109 High
2100 gal GAS
4:40 Time

Over Enemy Territory.
Approx. 15-Min.

August 8th 1944
to

CAEN, France
Support for
British Break Thru.
38 100# G.P. Frags
NAVIGATOR

14000 ALT (mistake?)
FLAK-TRACKING &
Very Accurate

Lead Group -
1-17 down KATA

Last Mission
9 chutes out.

2-17's down in
FLAMES over T.

2 FLAK holes

over
page
10 min
crew-

No FLAK over
target- Fighters
hit Gp. Behind-
At. 23600'-Chaff
Frontal Weather
Con-trails All over
Route.

-1 B17 got fire torn
off in formation-
MADE AI Landing-
1 G. Loop- Hyd. shot
out.

2800gal 8:50 Time

Home
KATA Home from
Bail out over
FRANCE! ONE
DAY SERVICE.

7
August 9th, 1944
to

MUNICH, GERMANY
NAVIGATOR

10-500# DEM.

TARGET- A.F. 5MI. EAST.

RECALL-DIVISION

BOMBED SEC. VISUAL

U/M- TRUCK FAC.

BOMBED VISUALLY

GOOD HIT- CIRCLED
TARGET FOR 25 MIN.

IN SIGHT OF MUNICH

2 RUNS- FOLLOE 2ND

GE. TO DROP THEIR

BOMBS- SCREWED UP

AFFAIR-

One thru waist &
thru Ammo Belt.
No chaff
No fighters
Visual Run
2100 gal Petrol
5 Hours
One 19 down Behind
air group - in Flames

8

August 13th, 1944
to
ROUEN, FRANCE
Target - Highway
Junction South of
City - Support for
Trap - Cut off retreat
of Jerries - Hit OK.
NAVIGATOR (Still)
38 100# G.P.
21000' Alt. Hi Group
FLAK in & out -
Medium but very
Accurate - Tracking -
Several holes in-
cluding hit on #3 Eng.
MAIN SPAR CUT INTO
- IN HOR. STABILIZER -

2800 Petrol
9 HOURS

9

August 24, 1944
to

Meeseberg, Germany

Target - Syn. Oil

5-1000# Bombs

Navigator

24000' Alt.

Visual Target

Heavy Flak -

2 gas tanks Hit -

Sealed up - Several

Flak Holes - Hangar

for Repairs

Flak from Leipzig

& Meeseberg

Rough

Target - Largest
gas & oil Plant in
Germany - Heavily
camouflaged & smoke
screen -

Lead screwed up -
Missed Sec. - Could
not pick up L.R.
Target in Holland -
Very poor Lead job.
8 Hrs

11

August 26, 1944
to
"Happy Valley"

Navigator
28000' Alt. Visual
8 500 # Bombs
Heavy Flak 10 min.

TRACKING
1 ship down in
spin over T.
Hole in Plexi glass
nose - Hit Top. Helmet
Hole in Top T.
Rip thru & Hit
Plating Around T.
Did not drop Bombs
Brought Back

Several other
holes scattered
over ship.

Target Factory -
Jet. & Component
Parts. Good hits.
2500 gal. Petrol
7 Hours - Time

Sept. 11 -
Machosky Down -
#3 Hit - Fell
Behind

12

Sept. 10, 1944

To

~~Stuttgart~~

STUTTGART

NAVIGATOR

24000 VISUAL

INCENDIARY Bombs

12 5.00#

FLAK OVER TARGET
& AFTER

Toggeler Rosever

HIT IN KNEE - LAME

THRU NOSE & HIT

HIS KNEE BOUNCING

OFF HITTING AGAINST

FLAK SUIT OF MINE &

FALLING ON TABLE.

Martin - 4 engs.
cut out & dropped
About 10000 feet
Jerry fighters passed
them up. CAME BACK
ON 3 Eng. VIA Sweden.
FLAK over target
Med. inaccurate
9 1/2 Hrs.
2800 Petrol
Target - Oil
Refinery & Mine.

13/2 13
Sept. 12, 1944
to
Rohland, Ger.
VIA BERLIN
NAVIGATOR
27000' VISUAL (Lead Sp.)
5 1000# Bombs
Route in. VIA Berlin -
Out over Aachen via
Frankfort & Koblenz
FLAK ON West side
of Berlin - Lead Ship
of High Sq. Down - 9
chutes - 1 not open?
Fighters Hit High
& Low Groups -
Lost 9 ships - 1 CRASH
LAND ON COAST

Direct Hit in nose.
cut Oxygen line -
Bombs Dropped OK.
Bombardier on
Oxy. Bottle - Co-pilot
out of Oxy. Pilot has
less than 100# ^(same) (Hose)
Tail Gunner Mike Had
Hit in Back Thru F.
suit - killed immediately -
Waist G. Hokey - Hit
Above Knee - Bad Out.
C.P. Giglio came to nose
for Oxy. - Top Turret
passed out -
Bail T. out of Bail &
Helped W.G. - Radio
came up to Eng. - Passed
out - Bail got him OK -
C.P. BACK up & Took care
of Engineers -
Dropped to 18000' Alt.
Then to 12000' ^(no fighter protection)
Came Home Alone
via Koblenz (North) &
Aachen - no FIAR -
(BACK PAGE OF "14")

14 ☆☆☆

Sept. 13, 1944 to
Merseburg, Germany
NAVIGATOR -
29000 Feet Alt.
5 1000# Bombs - Visual
Route - Belgium - Aachen
Target - Oil Refinery
HAD TAXI Accident -
Wing Tip chewed
By Natter's prop -
Change Ships
Lead Test fired
guns over Ger.
Case knocked off
half Astero dome.
FIAR AT TARGET
TRACKING & VERY Accurate

14 (Cont'd)

Ship Had over 100
FLAK Holes including
Direct Hit in nose -
Sup. Charge - gas Tanks -
Green Tab Control wires
out - Several Holes
into Eng. Housings -
Bomb Bays - Radio Room
W/ast windows & Floor -
Tail - Severe & Bad Hits.
Landed with Right
Tire Flat & Tail
wheel flat. (Perfect
Landing) Pilots Had to
Hold Ship in nose up
Attitude all the way Home.
8 Hrs. 2500 gal. GAS.
NATHAN M.I.A. - Severe
FLAK damage to "24"
Co.P. - Frost Bite on
Hands & Anoxia - Pilot -
Engineer - NAV. - Anoxia
FLAK Home - Sept. 16 -
Anen

15

Sept. 27. 1944 to
Kolon (Cologne) Ger.
NAV. P.F.F. Exp. Short!
28000 Alt. 12 500# Bombs
Railway Center -
Route - Holland - Fingers -
Aachen - out - Koblenz & A.
FLAK - Moderate (3) BVT
No Hits on ship
7 Hours -
2300 Gal Petrol
Excellent Fighter
Support

Sept. 28 - High
Priority target Hit !!!

26.

1625

September 28

MAGDEBURG, GERMANY

NAV. PFF. Good Hits

26000 Alt. 10500#

Railway Yards

Route - Koblenz-Kassel

Flak - Moderate (2) BVT

Large Hole - Stab.

8 Hrs. 2800 Gal. Pet.

Excellent Fighter

Support -

#1 #2 #3 Engines

Gave trouble - Fell

Behind Formation -

Finally Caught Up - OK.

117 Down in Flames

217 Mid Air Out

Zombie Crew -

Jiggs - Gunner - Observer

ON PFF SHIP.

STEARNS →

27

#2 Engine Knocked
out - Oil Pressure fell
fast - unable to feather
smoking & oil & gas fumes
Eng. finally Broke
& Prop wind milled
free OK -

Big drops of sweat
Parachute hits good!
8 Hours - 2800 gals -

172

October 3, 1944
NURNBERG, GER.
NAV. PFF Good Hits
26000ft. Alt. 5-1000#
Tank Factory
Route - Aachen - Fort
Stuttgart - Metz.
Flak - Moderate at
Target - 1 Hole in nose.
Flak - TRACKING. JMW.
Metz & Nancy.
Good Fighter Support
#1 Eng. 15" only -
1 17 Down by Fort.
Flak over Dunkirk
13000' First Burst Hit
Lead group - V. Accurate
Several holes

28

185

October 6, 1944
STRAALSUND, GER.
NAV. VISUAL - GOOD HITS
20000 ALT. 10-500# INC.
POWER HOUSE (PFF TARGET)
PRIMARY WAS STARGARD
AIRFIELD - 910 CLOUDS
FLAK - NONE EXCEPT ON
ROUTE - NORTH OF KIEL
GOOD FIGHTER SUPPORT IN.
SUPER CHARGER OUT
OVER ENGLAND - FELL
BEHIND FORMATION OVER
DANISH PENINSULA - FELL IN
WITH LOW GROUP FINALLY
NORTH OF KIEL - 15' ON #1
2800 GAL. 9:40 TIME

27

19

October 7, 1944
Ruhland, Germany
VIA ONNESBUCK

Liepzig.

NAV. Visual Good Hits
27000 Alt. 10-500 # Bombs
Synthetic Oil Refinery
Flak - Routes in - Light
Target - Moderate - T+B
Visual Hole in center of
Plexiglass Nose

Good fighter Sup. in.
Bandits in Area -
Undercast at Base
Let down R.C.
2800 gal Petrol
9:50 Time

38

20

October 9, 1944
Schweinfurt, Ger.
Via Frankfurt
NAV. - PFF

24600 Alt. 10-500#
Ball Bearing Factories
PFF Target - 10% from
England to Target
Flak - Moderate - T4B
H.t in waist -
Good fighter support
10% AT Base - Instro.
Let down

Brakes out attend
of Runway - finally
Stopped Heading for tower
8 Hours 2800 Petrol

31

BACK in FORMATION
LATER - Jiggs Flying
One ship down -
Nose Blown off
Y chute (4 chutes)
ONE SHIP - 2 ENG OUT.

(FRANCE?)
Left FORMATION over
F. Coast - Jiggs made
perfect landing -

2300 gal. PETROL
6:30 TIME

→ Oct. 19 -
DOMANS CREW
BACK - LANDED IN
FRANCE - HEAVY FLAK
DAMAGE. ENG. - BOTH
LEGS BROKEN

21



OCTOBER 15 - 1944
KOLN (Cologne) GER.
VIA AACHEN - KOBLENZ
NAV. - PFF GOOD HITS
27000' ALT. 3/4 clouds?
6500# 6500# INC.
RAILWAY YARDS
FLAK - MODERATE
VERY ACCURATE
BROWN HIT IN ARM.
Hit Jiggs' FLAK SUIT
USUAL HOLE IN NOSE
LARGE HOLE IN EAST.
LARGE HOLE IN #3
LEAD SHIP HIT #3 - OUT
PULLED UP HIGH & FORM.
BROKE UP - WE PULLED
PAST LEAD to 29000

32

At once it seems.

22

November 4-1944
HARBURG, GER.
(HAMBURG)
Oil Refineries
& STORAGE TANKS
12- 500# Bombs
NAVIGATOR -
PFF MISSION
FLAK- TRACKING
LOTS BUT INACCURATE
NO DAMAGE
8 HOURS 26500'
2600 GAL. PETROL
Excellent Fighter
Support
8th Air Force
All over HARBURG

33

Return - Rain & low
clouds -

Rough As A Cob!
180 & Let down 30MI.
out in Channel -
1/2 hrs to Base
from first time over
Coast.

800-1000 ft. Coast Home.

23

NOV-5-1944

FRANKFURT, GER.
MARSHALLING YARDS
6-1000 # Bombs
NAVIGATOR
PFF RUN-VISUAL
OVER TARGET
FLAK - T & B -
Alt. 25000 - Low
Wing in Air Force
8 Hours - 2300 GAL.
Good strikes on
target AREA - Photo
Good Support -
Weather - Rough -
T.O. 40 MPH wind -
Severe Turb. & Wind
over England on

34

Missed lead & Hi-
Entered Z-2 in
12 ship Sq. Finally
tacked on to A
Lead & low Gp. with
PFF. First Gp. over
target - 105 MPH
Wind - INTO Cloud
over channel -
Sq. split up - Landed
at Hales worth out
of GPs.
Lead & low Ret'd
on Recall - clouds
& Bad weather
8 1/2 Hrs - 2800 & 4000 ft
350 B - 150 sop.

24

Nov. 8 - 1944
Merseburg, Ger.
Synthetic Oil
10-500# Bombs
Navigator
PFF RUN
26500' Alt.
Briefed 23000'
Flak - Accurate
Tracking - Several
Holes - Chin T. -
Bomb Bays - Stabal.
3 Bombs Hung -
Salvo - thru Pilots
Release - Doors
Cranked up -
Late on Assembly

35

25

Nov. 9th 1944
Metz - France
Concrete Fort
NAY. PFF RUN-
24300 AH.

8-1000 # SAP Bombs
FLAK - Puffs - very
scattered -

Support Patton's
BREAK THRU -
Good Support
Line of FLAK AT
15000 AS MARKER
8 HOURS -
2300 GAL GAS

Lights are on
the road —