

Pvt. Dwayne Burns of the 508th PIR recalled, "Here we sat, each man alone in the dark. These men around me were the best friends I will ever know. I wondered how many would die before the sun came up. 'Lord, I pray, please let me do everything right. Don't let me get anybody killed and don't let me get killed either. I really think I'm too young for this.'"⁵

Pvt. Ken Russell of the 505th had just made it onto his C-47. Two weeks earlier he had been running a high fever, a result of his vaccinations, and was sent to a hospital. On June 4 he still had a high fever, but "like everyone else, I had been looking forward to D-Day since 1940—when I was still in grammar school. Now I was so afraid I would miss it." He begged his way out of the hospital and managed to rejoin his company on June 5. Flying over the Channel, he was struck by the thought that his high-school class back in Tennessee was graduating that night.⁶

Like many of the Catholic troopers, "Dutch" Schultz was "totally engrossed in my rosaries." Clayton Storeby was sitting next to George Dickson, who "was going around that rosary, giving a lot of Hail Marys. After about ten minutes, it seemed like it was helping him, so I said, 'George, when you're through with that, would you loan it to a buddy?'"⁷

"It was a time of prayer," Pvt. Harry Reisenleiter of the 508th PIR recalled, "and I guess we all made some rash promises to God." He said that so far as he could tell everyone was afraid—"fear of being injured yourself, fear of having to inflict injury on other people to survive, and the most powerful feeling of all, fear of being afraid."⁸

The pilots were afraid. For most of the pilots of Troop Carrier Command this was their first combat mission. They had not been trained for night flying, or for flak or bad weather. Their C-47s were designed to carry cargo or passengers. They were neither armed nor armored. Their gas tanks were neither protected nor self-sealing.

The possibility of a midair collision was on every pilot's mind. The pilots were part of a gigantic air armada: it took 432 C-47s to carry the 101st Airborne to Normandy, about the same number for the 82nd. They were flying in a V-of-Vs formation, stretched out across the sky, 300 miles long, nine planes wide, without radio communication. Only the lead pilot in each serial of forty-five had a Eureka set, with a show of lights from the Plexiglas astrodome for guidance for the following planes. The planes were

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

STEPHEN E. AMBROSE

AUTHOR OF CITIZEN SOLDIERS AND UNDAUNTED COURAGE

"Packed with drama and information, never losing sight of the horrors of combat, Ambrose's *D-Day* is the best book yet on what many historians consider to be the most important day of the 20th century."

—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE



D-DAY

JUNE 6, 1944: THE CLIMACTIC BATTLE
OF WORLD WAR II

COMPANY MORNING REPORT

ENDING
2400

14

apr

4

(DAY)

(MONTH)

(YEAR)

STATION Quorndon Leicestershire England

ORGANIZATION Co HF 505th Prcht Inf Inf

(CO. DET. ETC.)

(PARENT UNIT)

(ARM OR SERVICE)

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
34505714	Russell, Kenneth E	Pvt	
fr dy to abs sk ID 30th wcn Hsop 12 Apr			
44			

15090537	Swift, Raymond L	Pvt	
fr dy to abs sk ID 30th wcn Hsop 10			
APR 44			

RECORD OF EVENTS

No Change

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT		1ST LT		2D LT		WO		FLT O	
	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T
ASGR			2	1	7					
ATCND										
UNASGD										
ATCND FR										
OTHER ORGN										
TOTAL			2	1	7					

AVN CADET & ENL STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DUTY	ABSENT	PRESENT AND ABSENT
ASGR			122	16	24	162
ATCND						
UNASGD						
ATCND FR			5			5
OTHER ORGN						
TOTAL			127	16	24	167

R A T I O N S	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RATIONS REQUIRED FOR		DAY OF WEEK	Mon	NUMBER				
			DATE	17 Apr 44	152				
II	MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT								
	BREAKFAST	152	DINNER	152	SUPPER	152	TOTAL	456	AVERAGE
M E N	MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY		MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS		O & OTHERS				
	MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS		NET		MESS				
	MEN PRESENT : 143		LESS		143		PLUS 9		
							TOTAL 152		

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT AND THAT RATION FIGURES IN PART II REPRESENT AN ACTUAL COUNT OF RATIONS

Arthur W. Miller,

SIGNATURE

U.S. A.G.O. FORM NO. 1
JULY 1, 1943

(NAME)

WD COPY THRU MRU OR SCU

1st. Lt. 505th Prcht Inf

Personnel Officer,

COMPANY MORNING REPORT

ENDING 2400 25 April 1944
(DAY) (MONTH) (YEAR)

STATION Quorndon, Leicestershire, England
ORGANIZATION Co F 505th Pchnt Inf Inf
(CO, DET, ETC.) (PRESENT UNIT) (ARM OR SERVICE)

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
0-1288804	Smith, James J	1st Lt	J
fr DS with Hq 82nd A/B Div to trfd to 0000			
Hq Co 2nd Bn this regt			
0-2055092	Bales, Robert B	2d Lt	J
fr dy to trfd to Hq Co 2nd Bn this regt 0000			
33508587	Peterman, Harold E	Pvt	
fr dy to abs sk (ID) 30th Gen Hosp			
34505714	Russell, Kenneth E	Pvt	
fr abs sk (ID) 30th Gen Hosp to dy 24			
APR 44			

0-1822699	Holcomb, Joseph W	1st Lt	3
fr abs sk (ID) 30th Gen Hosp to dy			
34479656	Warner, James L	Pvt	
fr ar in qrs to conf regt stockade await-			
ing trial under 96th AW 23 Apr 44			

RECORD OF EVENTS ALERTED FOR DEPARTURE

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT		1ST LT		2D LT		WO		FLY O	
	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST
ASGR			3		5					
ATCHD										
UNASGR										
ATCHD FR										
OTHER ORGN										
TOTAL			3		5					

AVN CADET & ENL STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DUTY	ABSENT	PRESENT AND ABSENT
ASGR			132	9	19	160
ATCHD						
UNASGR						
ATCHD FR			5	1		6
OTHER ORGN						
TOTAL			137	10	19	166

R	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF	DAY OF WEEK	NUMBER
A	RATIONS REQUIRED FOR	DATE 28 APR 44	155
T	MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT	TOTAL	AVERAGE
I	BREAKFAST 155 DINNER 155 SUPPER 155	465	155
O	MEN AUTHORIZED TO	MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS	
M	MESS SEPARATELY	O & OTHERS	
N	MEN ATCHD TO OTHER	MESS	8
S	ORGN FOR RATIONS	NET	TOTAL
	MEN PRESENT 147 LESS	147	155
		PLUS 8	

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT AND THAT RATION FIGURES WERE IN PRESENT ACTUAL STATUS AS REPORTED TO ME:

Arthur W. Miller,

SIGNATURE

U.S. A.G. FORM NO. 1
JULY 1, 1943

1st Lt. 505th Pchnt Inf,

Personnel Officer.

(ARM OR SERVICE)

Service Number	34505714
Rank	
Arm of Service	
Age	
Race	
Length of Service	
Month of Admission	April
Year of Admission	1944
Last Treatment Facility	
Circumstances Surrounding Injury	
Type of Case	
Type of Admission	New
Type of Diagnosis	
Line of Duty	
1st Diagnosis	Reaction to drugs, vaccines, serums (other than acute poisonings): Smallpox vaccine
1st Anatomical Location	
1st Operation	
2nd Diagnosis	Tonsillitis, acute or Tonsillitis, acute (not due to streptococcus)^
2nd Anatomical Location	
2nd Operation	
3rd Diagnosis	
Causative Agent	
Final Result	
Disposition	Duty
Cause of Disposition	
Month of Disposition	
Year of Disposition	1944
Total Days (non-effective)	
Hospital Days	
Current Days /Gen Hosp Overseas Day	
Place of Final Cure	
Sample Size	80%

Source: This information was obtained from the Hospital Admission Card data file (1944-1945) created by the Office of the Surgeon General Department of the Army. In 1970 the National Research Council first compiled this for statistical purposes using the EMTs (Emergency Medical Tags) and other Office of the Surgeon General Office Records during WWII.

13 June 1944

(50, 967, ETC.)

PARENT UNIT

DATE OF SERVICE

SERIAL NUMBER

NAME _____

GRADE

CODE

34505714	Russell, Kenneth F.
----------	---------------------

Fvt

७

15030537 Swift, Raymond L

Fvt

9

8 above H fr dv to hosp LD Slightly

Injured in Action France 8 June 44 evac

261st Med Bn (battle casualties)

RECORD OF EVENTS

1 EN (atchd) LVA France 6 June 44 evoc

1 EN LEA	France 7 June 44	evac
----------	------------------	------

3 EM LSA France 8 June 44 evac

2 EM LWA	France 9' June 44 ev/c
----------	------------------------

1 DU LIA France 6 June 44 evac

8 FM LIA France 8 June 44 evac

I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT AND THAT RATION FIGURES IN PART IS REPRESENT AN ACTUAL COUNT AS REPORTED TO ME.

SEATTLE

U.S. A.C. FCW NO. 1
MAY 6, 1944

CLAND

1st Lt.

WD COPY THEN NEW OR SCOT Assistant

FRANCO LACERDA RIVERA

COMPANY MORNING REPORT

ENDING
2400

10

June

1944

(PAGE)

STATION Quartermaster, 1st Lt., England

ORGANIZATION 504th Provost Bn

ICA, DET, ETC.

PRESENT ENTRY

NAME OR SERVICE

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
39255705	Reid, Robert E.	Pvt	2-3
(attd unused fr 504th Provost Bn) held			
of attd unused; used & id fr 504th Provost			
Inf 108-IV 745			
6552073	Paris, George W.	Col	
36152141	Ortlieb, Phil H.	S/Sgt	
34505714	Russell, Kenneth F.	Pvt	
13000713	Hobman, William C.	Pfc	
4 above fr slightly injured in action			
France 8 June 44 evac 261st Med Bn to			
evac to 52d Gen Hosp 10 June 44			

34179428	French, Mason W.	S/Sgt	
fr slightly wounded in action France			
8 June 44 evac 261st Med Bn to evc to			
52d Gen Hosp 10 June 44			

RECORD OF EVENTS NO CHANGE

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT		1ST LT		2D LT		WO		FLY O	
	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST
ASGD	1		2		6					
ATCHD										
ATCHD FB										
OTHER ORGS										
TOTAL	1		2		6					

AVN CADET & ENL STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DUTY	ABSENT	PRESENT AND ABSENT
ASGD			141		23	164
ATCHD						
ATCHD FB			7		7	14
OTHER ORGS						
TOTAL			148		30	178

R A T I O N S	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RATIONS REQUIRED FOR	DAY OF WEEK	Thurs	NUMBER	157
		DATE	22 June 44		
	MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT			AVERAGE	157
	BREAKFAST 157 DINNER 157 SUPPER 157			TOTAL	471
M E N	MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY	MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS			
	MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS	NET			
	MEN PRESENT 148	LESS	143		
				PLUS	9
				TOTAL	157

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT AND THAT RATION FIGURES IN PAGE 1 REPRESENT AN ACTUAL COUNT AS REPORTED TO ME.

SIGNATURE

U.S. A.G. FORM NO. 1
JULY 1, 1942

1st Lt.

FOR THE REPORTING OFFICER

1st

1st Lt. (GRADE) NAME OR SERVICE

Service Number	34505714
Rank	Enlisted Man
Arm of Service	Infantry, Parachute Troops
Age	21
Race	White
Length of Service	2 Year(s), 5 Month(s)
Month of Admission	November
Year of Admission	1944
Last Treatment Facility	General hospital
Circumstances Surrounding Injury	Other or unspecified non-battle injuries.
Type of Case	Injury, battle
Type of Admission	Readmission
Type of Diagnosis	Primary diagnosis, history of prior disease or injury
Line of Duty	In line of duty
1st Diagnosis	Sprain of joint
1st Anatomical Location	Lumbosacral joint
1st Operation	
2nd Diagnosis	[Withheld by USGOV]
2nd Anatomical Location	
2nd Operation	
3rd Diagnosis	
Causative Agent	Parachute Jump, Rough Landing (any mishap)
Final Result	
Disposition	Duty
Cause of Disposition	Not death nor discharge (incl cases remaining in hosp at end of 1944)
Month of Disposition	
Year of Disposition	1944
Total Days (non-effective)	156
Hospital Days	155
Current Days /Gen Hosp Overseas Day	055
Place of Final Cure	
Sample Size	Remaining 1944 case

Source: This information was obtained from the Hospital Admission Card data file (1944-1945) created by the Office of the Surgeon General Department of the Army. In 1970 the National Research Council first compiled this for statistical purposes using the EMTs (Emergency Medical Tags) and other Office of the Surgeon General Office Records during WWII.

Information from the Hospital Admission Cards created 8/20/2016
by the office of the Surgeon General, Department
of the Army (1944-1945).
Information for the year 1945

Service Number	34505714
Sample Size	
Rank	Enlisted Man (includes Aviation Cæ
Age	21 21
Race	White (includes Mexican)
Length of Service	2-3 yr.
Arm of Service	Infantry, Parachute Units
AAF Status	Neither assigned nor attached to AAF (includes all unassigned, ;
Admission Station	
Month of Admission	November
Year of Admission	1944
Last Treatment Facility	General Hospital
Special Class of Case	Invalided Home (except repatriated) in other year
Type of Case	
Type of Admission	
1st Diagnosis	Sprain of joint
1st Anatomical Location	Lumbosacral joint
1st Operation	
2nd Diagnosis	[withheld by NARA]
2nd Anatomical Location	
2nd Operation	
3rd Diagnosis	
Causative Agent	Parachute Jump, Rough Landing (any mishap)
Circumstances Surroundi	All battle casualties, and all battle injuries not intentionally inflicted by self or another person
Final Result	
Total Days (non-effective)	105
Hospital Days	155
Overseas Days	026
Type of Discharge	Duty (includes AWOL)
Field of Cause of Disposit	
Month of Disposition	April
Year of Disposition	1945

Source: This information was obtained from the Hospital Admission Card data file (1944-1945) created by the Office of the Surgeon General Department of the Army. In 1970 the National Research Council first compiled this for statistical purposes using the EMTs (Emergency Medical Tags) and other Office of the Surgeon General Office Records during WWII.

Information from the Hospital Admission Cards created 8/20/2016
by the office of the Surgeon General, Department
of the Army (1944-1945).
Information for the year 1945

Service Number	34505714
Sample Size	
Rank	Enlisted Man (includes Aviation Cæ
Age	21 21
Race	White (includes Mexican)
Length of Service	3-5 yr.
Arm of Service	Infantry, General or Unspecified
AAF Status	Neither assigned nor attached to AAF (includes all unassigned, ;
Admission Station	Ft. Benning, Georgia
Month of Admission	August
Year of Admission	1945
Last Treatment Facility	Regional Hospital
Special Class of Case	None
Type of Case	Disease
Type of Admission	New, not EPTS
1st Diagnosis	[withheld by NARA]
1st Anatomical Location	
1st Operation	
2nd Diagnosis	
2nd Anatomical Location	
2nd Operation	
3rd Diagnosis	
Causative Agent	
Circumstances Surroundi	Not a traumatism
Final Result	Discharge/retirement: med reasons--but not for any residual condition w/ a code
Total Days (non-effective)	028
Hospital Days	028
Overseas Days	
Type of Discharge	Discharged or Retired for Disability, Line of Duty, Yes
Field of Cause of Disposi	First Diagnosis field
Month of Disposition	August
Year of Disposition	1945

Source: This information was obtained from the Hospital Admission Card data file (1944-1945) created by the Office of the Surgeon General Department of the Army. In 1970 the National Research Council first compiled this for statistical purposes using the EMTs (Emergency Medical Tags) and other Office of the Surgeon General Office Records during WWII.



Ken Russell

KENNETH E. RUSSELL

82ND AIRBORNE CO. F 505. WW II



JULY 29. 1924

JUNE 6. 2004



2 BRONZE STARS. 2 SILVER STARS. 2 PURPLE HEARTS