

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

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D-DAY

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

COMPANY MORNING REPORT

ENDING 2400

14 APR 44

(DAY)

(MONTH)

(YEAR)

STATION Quorndon Leicestershire England

ORGANIZATION Co "F" 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 OTHER ORGN			5			5
TOTAL			127	16	24	167

RATIONS	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RATIONS REQUIRED FOR	DAY OF WEEK	Mon	NUMBER
		DATE	17 Apr 44	152
MESS ATTENDANCE	MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT			TOTAL
	BREAKFAST 152	DINNER 152	SUPPER 152	456
MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY	MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS			AVERAGE
	MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS			152
MEN PRESENT	MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY	NET	O & OTHERS MESSED	TOTAL
	143	143	9	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 MEN

Arthur W. Miller,

SIGNATURE

U.S. 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 Prccht Trf Inf
(CO. DET. ETC.) (PARCEL UNIT) (ARM OR SERVICE)

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
0-1288804	Smith, James J	1st Lt	J
fr US with Hq 82nd A/B Div to trfd to 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			
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 awaiting 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	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T	PRES	ABS'T
ASGR			3		5					
ATCHD										
ENASGD										
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						
ENASGD						
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN			5	1		6
TOTAL			137	10	19	166

RATIONS	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RATIONS REQUIRED FOR	DAY OF WEEK <u>Fri</u>	NUMBER
		DATE <u>28 APR 44</u>	<u>155</u>
MESS ATTENDANCE	MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT		TOTAL
	BREAKFAST <u>155</u>	DINNER <u>155</u>	SUPPER <u>155</u>
MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY	MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS		AVERAGE
	MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS	NET	<u>155</u>
MEN PRESENT	MEN PRESENT <u>147</u>	LESS	TOTAL
		<u>147</u>	<u>155</u>

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT AND THAT RATION FIGURES SHOWN ARE PRESENT AND CORRECT AS REPORTED TO ME:

Arthur W. Miller,

SIGNATURE

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

1st Lt. 505th Prccht Inf, Personnel Officer

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 1944

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.