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Interview

10-3-89

JOHN:

I AM TRYING TO FIND SOME OF THE ISSUES YOU ARE MISSING OF THE CURB. IN MY LETTERS TO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE DIVISION I ASK IF THEY HAPPEN TO HAVE OLD ISSUES. ■

I HAVE A COPY OF THE MAY 5, 1944 ISSUE, ONLY BECAUSE MY PICTURE IS IN IT. I CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY I DON'T REMEMBER THE INTERVIEW.

JOHN, WHEN I ARRIVED IN ENGLAND THE PILOTS + GROUND CREWS REPORTED TO THE GLOUSTER AIR PLANE FACTORY. PUT OUR PLANE TOGETHER + CHECK THEM OUT FOR FLYING. ON DEC 4, 1944 WE FLEW THE ENGLISH CHANNEL. ARRIVED LIEGE ON DEC 10, 1944. ORDERED TO ST. VITH. ARRIVED DEC. 15, 1944 FLEW FIRST MISSION, AM, DEC 17, 1944. LEFT AT ST. VITH TO WAIT FOR PILOT THAT WAS SENT ON A SUPPLY MISSION. LEFT ST. VITH AT 4:15 PM, 12-17-44 FOR BEHOE, (WE HAD NO MAPS) I FLEW WEST + LANDED AT VIELSAHM. ASKED TO RECONNOITER AREA EAST OF VIELSAHM RAN INTO SMALL ARMS FIRE + NOTICE A TANK BATTLE GOING ON. (JOHN, AS YOU KNOW THE WEATHER WAS TERRIBLE + CEILING WAS 300 TO 500 FT)

I LANDED ON A STRIP ~~OUTSIDE~~ OF VIELSAHM NEAR THE TOWN OF MY. TWENTY CURBS HAD ASSEMBLED

ON THE STRIP. RANKING MAJOR DECIDED WE SHOULD FLY WEST, RAN INTO A FOG BANK + I TURNED NORTH WITH 6 OTHER PILOTS. IT WAS GETTING DARK + GAS WAS LOW SO I PICKED OUT A SPOT TO LAND. WHEN MY WHEELS TOUCHED I NOTICED A WIRE FENCE IN FRONT OF ME SO I GUNNED THE ENGINE, WENT THRU THE FENCE + BROKE MY PROP, HOWEVER I DID MAKE A LANDING STRIP FOR THE OTHER PLANES. NOT KNOWING WHERE WE WERE WE WENT INTO TOWN + FOUND OUT THAT WE WERE IN THE TOWN OF NAMUR, BELGIUM. THE PICTURE THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CLUB OF PILOTS + OBSERVERS WAS TAKEN NEXT DAY DEC 9, 1944. MY PLANE WAS REPAIRED + WAS ORDERED TO LIEGE, BELGIUM. I, THEN, RECEIVED ORDERS TO FLY TO WERBOMONT + REPORT TO MY BATTALION COMMANDER. (THE 592 FA STILL HAD ELEVEN 155 HOWITZERS + WERE ABLE TO OPERATE AS A UNIT) I REGISTERED FIRE ON THE ENEMY IN THE TOWNS OF WERBOMONT, ERIE, GORONNE, PETITHER, KREUTZ + HOLZHEIM. + OTHERS I DIDN'T KNOW.

IN APRIL 1945 AIR SECTIONS WERE ORDERED TO RENNES, FRANCE FOR REACTIVATING THE 106TH DIVISION. END OF APRIL UNIT FLEW TO BAD EMS GERMANY TO FLY MESSENGER

SERVICE TO THE VARIOUS P.O.W. CAMPS THAT WERE OPERATED BY THE 106TH DIVISION.

ON JUNE 16, 1945 I FRACTURED MY RIGHT LEG IN A FREAR AIRPLANE ACCIDENT AT FULDAG GERMANY.

I FLEW OVER 35 MISSIONS + WAS AWARDED THE AIR MEDAL.

JOHN I HOPE THERE IS ENOUGH INFO FOR YOU TO WRITE AN ARTICLE TO GO WITH THE PICTURE.

Sincerely

Pete Leuman

P.S. LT JOSTEN WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER OUTFIT. S/SGT GRAY WAS COMMISSIONED A 2ND LT + STAYED WITH DIVISION UNTIL THE END.

ALSO, MY ENGINE ICE D UP ON ME TWICE HAD TO DEAD STICK LAND IN THE SNOW. NOSE OVER BOTH TIMES, FORTUNATELY THE PROP ENDED IN THE RIGHT POSITION. WE DIDN'T HAVE AVIATION GAS. FILTERED TRUCK GAS.

Mr. Pete Lauman
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September 23, 1989

Pete,

Thanks for the list of CUBs that you offered. I did have all of them, but do appreciate you thinking of me.

I am missing 8 issues:
Vol 18-3&5
Vol 19-5
Vol 21-2&3
Vol 22-2
Vol 25-2
Vol 27-3

If you come across them let me know.

I was given a few old CUB newspapers. I am sitting here looking at the May 5, 1944 CUB newspaper, page 3. There appears as a feature story "*Maytag Messerschmitts*" *Keep Our Artillery OP's Up in the Air - Way Up*

The 106th Pilots tell how the Liaison Planes are used. Very prominent in a picture, centered in the page, is 1st Lt. C. W. Lauman, 592 FA, along with 2nd Lt. Josten and S/Sgt Jack Gray. Below that is a picture of Gray taking off in a CUB with a couple of barracks in the background.

It appears to be an interesting story.

This brings up a point. Could you prepare a story about your experiences in Belgium? It would make good reading. This newspaper is in such good shape that I could re-run the photo. Most of the old newspaper are brown and decaying, but this one was on a paper material of better quality and has held up.

I was pleased to run across it.

Nice seeing you at Schaumburg. If you have any stories and pictures let me know.

John Kline
editor, **The CUB**
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