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page 49 Collection of items related to 447th Bomb Group

Announcement card of celebration of victory next to clipping about how terrible war is. Underneath Minker writes Joy, Pride -----and Remorse

The 447th Bombarbment Group and Attached Units

Celebrate victory in Europe

and

Nineteen months of cordial Anglo-American friendship and co-operation with a
2nd Anniversary Celebration

June 10, 1945, At Rattlesden

The Officers and Men of this Station cordially invite you to attend the festivities
Entertainment begins at 2 p.m. Dancing starts at 7:30 p.m. Please bring this
card for admittance

[Article on war] Was is more terrible than all the words of men can say: more
terrible than a man's mind can comprehend.

It is the eyes of men after battle, like muddy water, lightless.

It is cities--labor of generations lost-- now dusty piles of broken stones and
splintered wood--dead.

It is the total pain of a hundred million parted loved ones -- some for always.

It is the impossibility of planning a future; uncertainty that mocks every hoping
dream. Remember! It is the reality of these things--not the words.

And when it is in your mind so strongly that you can never foget, then see how
you can best keep peace. Work at this hard with every tool of thought and
love you have. Do not rest until you can say to every man who died for man's
happiness: "You did not die in vain."

"Men in Bombers" [see note]

Fighter pilots get emotion because their work is quick and it ends before the
emotion has time to end, and the emotion is still with them when they climb
out of their planes. A fighter pilot can get drunk at his work, emotionally drunk,
but a heavy bomber pilot just works, an aerial taxi driver he call himself ruefully,
a freight engineer and he just works and the men who fly with him just work.
[Underline by Ralph Minker] Long-range heavy bombarbardment takes hours,
three and four hours going and three and four hours returning, and that is too
long for emotion to last. There is brief emotion when the enemy closes in and
there is the feeling of combat, vicarious for everyone except the men at the
guns at the moment, and the bombardier gets it briefly when he squeezes and

the bombs cascade out, but those moments are lost in the long monotony of the mission, the hours of steady, noisy airplane pounding in the air, the deadly drugging effect of the engines on nerves, the long times, one hour, two hours, three hours, four hours, on oxygen, the careful, precise, non-amusing, can't be done improperly stream of things that the pilot, the engineer, the radio man, the navigator have to do, the sitting and waiting, ears aching, head rocking, mind-alert hours, sometimes tilting mentally forward for something that may never come, pitching mentally over when it does not come. Men who fly bombers and who fly in bombers come out of their airplanes exhausted and bored in a way no one was ever bored before. Men who fly in bombers are not really older than the men who fly in other kinds of airplanes; they just look that way.

Elliott Arnold in "Tomorrow Will Sing." (Duell, Sloan and Pearce.)

Cover for 447th Bomb Group and attached units upon completed 258 Combat Missions Announces its 2nd Anniversary. 10 June, 1945

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page 2 of the Commemorative Program photos of leadership

Col. Hunter Harris, Jr. Original Commanding Officer

Col. Wm. J. Wrigglesworth Former Commander Officer

Lt. Col. Louis G. Thorup Commanding Officer

Upon this, the second anniversary of the organization of the 447th Bombardment Group, we have emerged victorious from a great battle against the enemy. This victory was made possible by the determination and devotion to duty of the members of the Armed Forces and by the Allied spirit of co-operation. The 447th Group, with its attached units, has contributed in a large measure to the success of this great battle and has acquitted itself proudly and with honors.

On behalf of myself and the former Commanding Officers of the Group, I wish to express thanks and admiration to every member of this command. The Ground and Staff Personnel have displayed a co-operation and devotion to duty that is the epitome of exemplary accomplishment. Through their long and arduous hours of effort, the intricate problems of supply, maintenance, and administration have been solved, culminating in the successful accomplishment of our assigned tasks. The Flying Personnel, because of their gallantry and courage, were never turned back from their objective by the enemy. They carried on despite severe weather conditions, fierce opposition, and often times heavy losses to deal the devastating blows which spelled defeat to Nazi Germany.

I desire to express, in behalf of every Rattlesden man, our appreciation for the invaluable aid and many courtesies extended to us by our hosts, the gallant people of Britain, during our sojourn here. The imprint of this enduring hospitality will remain in our thoughts for many years to come.

LOUIS G. Thorup, Lieutenant Colonel, Air Corps, Commanding.

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