

Mum's birthday 5th.
Monday, February 1, 1943.
32nd Day—333 Days to Follow

2nd Nav on a flight to
Portage Bay this afternoon.

2nd Nav on night trip
to ~~Lago~~ Glen Ewen.

Navigating here is
easy with section lines
running N & S and E & W
and exactly 1 mile apart.

Tuesday, February 2, 1943

33rd Day—332 Days to Follow

I went to town this afternoon
and had my wing & stripes
sewn on ~~of~~ one of my tunics.
I was first Nav on a trip to
Esterhazy - flew home on a
single position line.

Wednesday, February 3, 1943

34th Day—331 Days to Follow.

Handed back our flying gear
this afternoon.

Thursday, February 4, 1943

35th Day—330 Days to Follow

We handed back our New gear this morning. This afternoon & to night we spent in Portage. I went around and saw Mrs Parr. Had my suit pressed at Roland Dannis. Then to night we went to the dance in the Mayfair. met Thelma and Roberto. went up to their place for supper after the dance. We left there at 9.30 am and went around to the hotel Portage where we booked two rooms. There were Jack Denham, Fred Smith, Bill Hardcastle & myself.

Friday, February 5, 1943

36th Day—329 Days to Follow

Caught the 7.0 am bus to camp and arrived just in time for breakfast. It was very cold to day but we had our wings parade in No 3 Hangar. Then the girls gave us a cup of tea in the mess. We then went in by bus to catch the train but found that it was 4 hours late. So we missed the connection to Chicago. Anyway we then gathered at the "Cave" for the night - it was lousy. Jim Duckworth & Bill Hardcastle took us home to Hoshins ~~forte~~.

Saturday, February 6, 1943

37th Day—328 Days to Follow

We were up about 10.30. Had a bit of breakfast and went down town. Caught a bus and had a ride around St Boniface. We caught our train for Chicago at 6.30 pm to night. Slept most of the night. We arrived in Minneapolis about 8.30 and St Paul about 9.2. We were too late to catch the early train to

Sunday, February 7, 1943

Chicago from St Paul, so we had to travel on the Hiawatha which did the 427 miles from St Paul to Chicago in about 6½ hrs. We went down to USO, then had tea, and afterwards booked a double room at the YMCA.

38th Day—327 Days to Follow

Monday, February 8, 1943

39th Day—326 Days to Follow

We arose at 9.30 had a shower and walked up town to S. La Salle St where we both received a telegram congratulating us and informing us that we have both received commissions. We changed 60 Canadian dollars into 52.80 American dollars at the Bank of Montreal. Then we went to a photob camera shop where I received \$20 as a trade in on the old camera and bought a 7oth Derby with built in range finder. Then we went to the Servicemen's Centre - it is just great. You could live here free of charge, everything is free - beds, meals, cigarettes, records made of your voice, dancing, bowling, games, sewing - almost everything. They told us that we can travel on the trams and buses free of charge. They hand out free theatre tickets - we went & saw Gertrude Lawrence in "Lady in the dark" - at the Civic Opera House. Retired 1.30 am.

Tuesday, February 9, 1943

40th Day—325 Days to Follow

The people here all are very friendly especially the service men. We meet quite a lot of them at the Service men's Club. There are quite a lot of sailors here. We arose at 10 this morning and then wrote a couple of letters. Then after dinner we caught a 52 bus which took us out along the shore of Lake Michigan. On the bus we met a girl from San Francisco - doing some sight-seeing. On the way back we stopped off & had a look through the Elks War Memorial and nearby was the zoo which we also visited - met a reporter from the Daily News. We collected a couple of tickets at the Centre this afternoon and we went and saw Casablanca & Harry oddles at the "Chicago" theatre.

Wednesday, February 10, 1943

41st Day—324 Days to Follow

Arose about 9.30 and wrote a couple of letters. It was much colder to-day - no sun and a cold wind blowing. We went up town had a look through Woolworths, the Public Library and Art Gallery. We went to Service Men's Club to night and met Leo Kenny. Had quite a good time dancing etc. Went to bed about midnight. We had our photos taken at the Club - they are to be published in the Chicago Times next Sunday.

Didn't see any gangsters - Chicago

Thursday, February 11, 1943

42nd Day—323 Days to Follow

Jack was not feeling very well to-day, so stayed in bed. I went down to Chinatown - Renee Le Mon attached herself and came along too. Then because it was so cold we finished up at a show "Arabian Nights". Then the three of us saw Army Surgeon to-night + a stage show - almost nude girls dancing around - very poor. Came home and went to bed about mid-night.

Abraham Lincoln's birthday so all
Friday, February 12, 1943
43rd Day—322 Days to Follow
the kids had a holiday.

Wrote a letter this morning, had breakfast and dinner about 12 and then caught the bus out to Jackson Park where we ~~paid~~ paid a visit to the Museum of Science and Industry. It is quite a large building and contains hundreds of most interesting exhibits - most of them working - aeroplanes, etc - those that are not working can be made to do so by pressing a button. And inside is a real coal mine - poppet head, cage + all where people are lowered into the mine + taken for a ride is a train and shown all the workings. The place was filled with kids from about 7 yrs upwards - & all very interested in everything. The whole thing was really marvellous - the gift overs from the Chicago World Fair - I believe.

Saturday, February 13, 1943

44th Day—321 Days to Follow

Saturday is the night out - the streets were crowded as we were coming home at 10:45 pm to night. -
Arose at 10 o'clock and caught a tram to Washington

Park where I took a photo of the Fountain of Time. Then this afternoon Jack and I visited Grant Park and had a look through the Field Museum of Natural History, The Shedd Aquarium, and the Adler Planetarium. The three of them are really marvellous - especially the museum. - but all of them were great, something to be really proud of. I wish we could have a bit more time to see them all properly. We then visited the Service Men's Centre in Michigan Ave. Later on - after tea we went over to Brookdale Theatre to see "Good Night Ladies" - but could not get in so we went along & saw "Black Swan".

I bought an exposure meter \$16
K2 filter \$3 92
& a Roth. Derby camera (lost Monday) \$62
\$81 92

Sunday, February 14, 1943

45th Day—320 Days to Follow

Went to church 9:00 am - then across the road. Then took a few photos of the elevated railway. Walked along to Union Station & found out the times for the Zephyr to morrow. Harry Black met us at the YMCA at 10 o'clock and took us down to the southside to meet his girlfriend & their folks. - The Eveleighs have two girls Ruth & Sadie - both accomplished musicians have won a couple of thousand dollars worth of music scholarships. They played & sang for us - on piano & pick up records - Boppy & Boss etc. Then after tea they took us to a bowling alley, where we had a couple of lines - large bowls & 10 pins. Went back to the house and did some dancing, singing - talking about short - they have

Monday, February 15, 1943

46th Day—319 Days to Follow

a brother or uncle - Melbourne who has sent them some of the Sun Pictorial Books. We had a great night - they are really very nice people - Mrs Eveleigh speaks with a very broad scotch accent. They invited us down again. We left their place about 12:30 and Harry drove us to the Flamingo Club, where we had a few drinks & sat & watched the stage show - mostly strip tease acts. We arrived home at 4:00 am. All the alley shows, and taverns are open on Sunday, just as usual - the streets are just crowded with people.

Monday 16th.

We awoke at 12 o'clock. I rang up Mrs Eveleigh & the girls - told them we could not stay any longer. Then we caught a taxi to Union Stn & caught the Zephyr at 4:00 pm - 1/2 hr late. Met a Mr Barker from Lancashire who bought us a few drinks & dinner. We arrived at Minneapolis at 8:30 pm. Caught a taxi up to YMCA & booked in for the night. Then went for a walk up town. We collected quite a few souvenirs of the Zephyr including an American flag.

Tuesday, February 16, 1943

47th Day—318 Days to Follow

Arrived in Minneapolis about 1:30 - 4 hrs late. Jack rang up Mrs Riley so we then proceeded to her place. Had lunch & talked for the rest of the arose at 11:30 - had breakfast and then took a tram out to ~~the~~ Minnehaha park where we proceeded to take photos of statues, bridges, falls (frozen) - Jack coming down a flight of steps - covered in snow & ice - slipped & continued the journey sitting down. After getting frozen we warmed up in a park ranger's hut, then proceeded to take photos of the Mississippi & bridge. Had tea about 7:0 and caught our train for Winnipeg at 8:30 pm.

Had one pr gloves between us wore one each, kept other hand in pocket.

girl in Woolworths left her counter and came across to the book counter to serve us so that she could hear us talk. Said she could listen to us for hours

Wednesday, February 17, 1943

48th Day—317 Days to Follow

Arrived in Winnipeg at 1:30 pm - 4 hrs late. Jack rang Mrs Riley & we then took a taxi to Riley's where we had lunch & talked for the rest of the afternoon. The two children - Colin and Patricia are home from school with colds. Mrs Riley's sister - Helen is a school teacher. We drove around to Mrs Shaw's for an hour or so to night.

Thursday, February 18, 1943

49th Day—316 Days to Follow

Jack & I went right seeing this afternoon after leaving 5 films at Eastmans to be done. We took quite a few photos in St Boniface & Winnipeg. Jack did some line cuts to-night with Colin. I lay on the bed & read "The Good Earth."

Friday, February 19, 1943

50th Day—315 Days to Follow

We arose about 10:30 & prepared our own breakfast and toddled off up town again. Taking a few photos of outside & inside of Manitoba Parl't Bldgs on the way. Met Tom Sheridan & Alan Wheeler, who are going to Rivers as instructors. Collected our photos.

Clare & Alan were married
Saturday, February 20, 1943

51st Day—314 Days to Follow

to-day

Looked around the house all morning and afternoon till 5.0 - Then set off for station. On the way we met Ivan Chapple and then Blackie (Jack Croft) and several NZ boys from Portage. Arrived in Portage - had tea and went to the dance where we met Marion & Betty. Took the 11.45 bus back to camp and slept in the drying room of barrack block 265.

Sunday, February 21, 1943

52nd Day—313 Days to Follow

using Ivan Chapple's blankets. Janitor nearly fell over this morning when he arrived & saw us sleeping on top of a 6 ft pile of mattresses. We had breakfast in Sgt's mess. Shaved etc saw Ray Rogers. Had dinner in Airman's mess. - Carted our baggage into CN by taxi & caught 12.30 train. Met Neville Kite, Tom Sheridan & Alan Whalot - A tender from 1 C NS picked us up & took us out to camp.

Barbara's birthday 11th Apr.

Monday, February 22, 1943

53rd Day—312 Days to Follow

Washington's Birthday

4 of us have a suite that used to be the CO's - 2 bed rooms and bathroom. We were given a bit of a talk on our course. It is quite strange to be called "sir" by sgts etc & to be saluted by all & sundry.

Officers' Mess is very nice - good meals etc. There was a meeting of the mess this afternoon.

yesterday we had breakfast in Sgts mess, dinner in airman's mess & tea in Officers' mess

Tuesday, February 23, 1943

54th Day—311 Days to Follow

Arose at 7 am and had breakfast at 8.15. Then at 8.45 reported for work. We spent the morning in the synthetic DR Trainer - really a great idea. Pilot & Navigator are separate. - Pilot keeps track plot, can give dope to Nav - drifts on drift recorder, Nav has set, & can take DF logs. Pin points are shown on screen. Both are connected by microphone & headphones & to control tower. It is really a marvellous set up.

Elaine's birthday 29th

Wednesday, February 24, 1943

55th Day—310 Days to Follow

The batman collected our laundry this morning - he will bring it back on Sat when it is done - the charge is put on our mess account. The batman comes in each day and makes our bed and cleans up the place for us.

The meals are excellent. & supper about 10 pm.

Breakfast from 7.30 to 8.45.

Dinner 11.30 to 2 o'clock

Tea 4.30 to 7.30.

Thursday, February 25, 1943
56th Day—309 Days to Follow

We marked a few logs to-day.

It seems funny to have
the boys saluting us
and have everyone call
us "sir" even to sqts

Gremlins

Widgets (baby).

Fifiellas (female)

6.25

14

62.30
25.30
87.50

Friday, February 26, 1943
57th Day—308 Days to Follow

We were paid to-day - collected
~~\$82~~ \$82 - for a 6 days. +
diff between sqts pay + WO's for
14 days

There are quite a few WAAFs
here, but they call them
WD's and they get a
prop & are then called
LAW's.

Saturday, February 27, 1943

58th Day—307 Days to Follow

Worked till 12:0 and
then were given the
afternoon off. I spent
the afternoon writing
letters.

Sunday, February 28, 1943

59th Day—306 Days to Follow

Went to Mass this morning -
wrote letters all day.
Very cold wind blowing.