

Christmas 1944



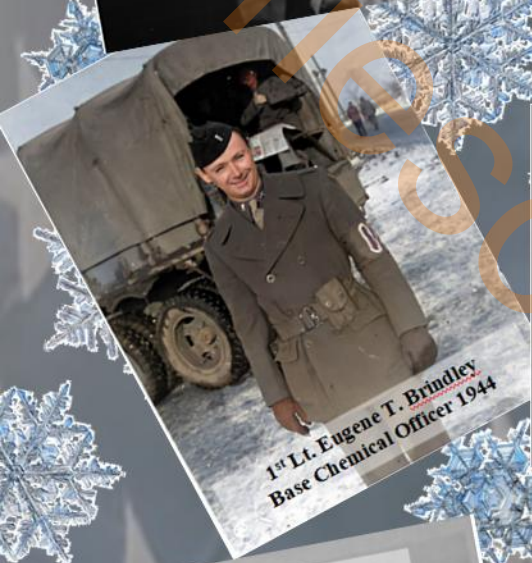
24th December 1944 – Captain James Ferguson and Dora Stephenson married



Sgt. Luther Rummage was shot down on his 13th mission over Germany and became an intern in Switzerland. The French Underground rescued him and he eventually returned home just two days before Christmas 1944.



Base Chapel Christmas 1944

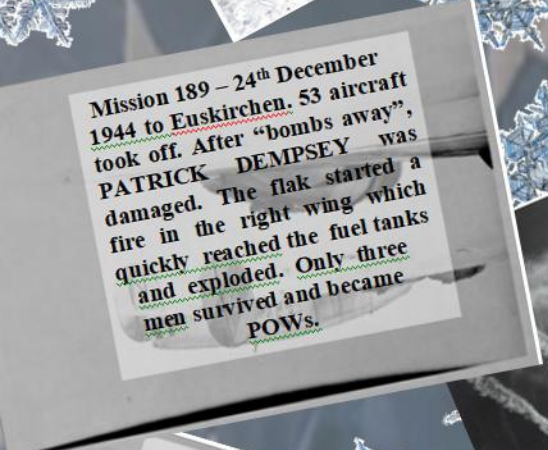


1st Lt. Eugene T. Brindley
Base Chemical Officer 1944

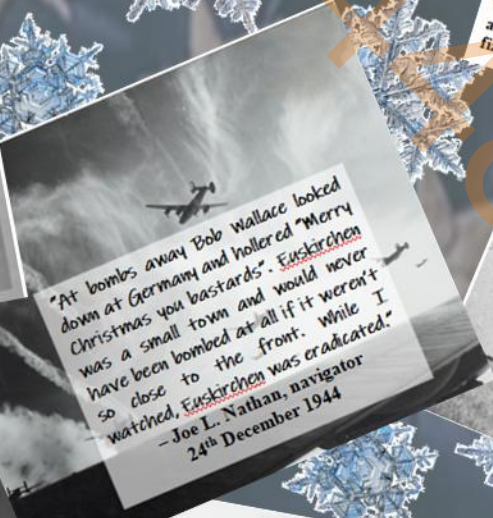
"After the service two trucks were waiting to take the base choir to the hospital site. We played carols with the patients joining in" - Sgt. Wally Balzer - chaplain's assistant - Christmas morning letter to fiancée.



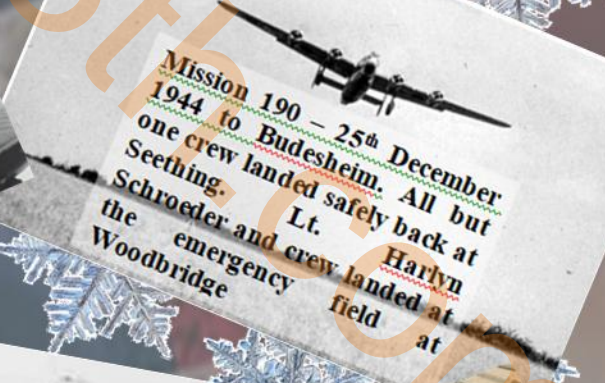
"I took the male chorus books and folding organ to the gym and when I got there one of the special Services officers asked me to play the organ over their public address system. I can't play these Christmas carols too well." - Sgt. Wally Balzer - chaplain's assistant - Christmas morning letter to fiancée.



Mission 189 – 24th December 1944 to Euskirchen. 53 aircraft took off. After "bombs away", PATRICK DEMPSEY was damaged. The flak started a fire in the right wing which quickly reached the fuel tanks and exploded. Only three men survived and became POWs.



"At bombs away Bob Wallace looked down at Germany and hollered "Merry Christmas you bastards". Euskirchen was a small town and would never have been bombed at all if it weren't so close to the front. While I watched, Euskirchen was eradicated." - Joe L. Nathan, navigator 24th December 1944



Mission 190 – 25th December 1944 to Budesheim. All but one crew landed safely back at Seething. Lt. Harry Schroeder and crew landed at the emergency field at Woodbridge



"We didn't even think about it being Christmas. There was no Christmas atmosphere" - Lt Neal Pettit, Navigator – 24th December 1944, Aircraft "Miss BeHavin"

