

IV.

THE REST OF THE WAR: MALTA, SICILY, ITALY, CORSICA, FRANCE, BACK TO ITALY-- THEN, HOME!

- Thurs., July 22, 1943--Flew to Malta this morning by C-47. Spent night on hill just off Takali Airdrome. Spent a couple of hours talking to Maltese nurses.
- Fri., July 23, 1943--Moved into tin hut (British) on Takali Airdrome right in among the planes. I'm sleeping on a cot for the first time in months.
- Sat., July 24, 1943--The planes send dust howling through this hut. Malta has had 3000 air raids. There are old bomb craters all around the hut.
- Sun., July 25, 1943--Raid tonight. Heavy ack-ack barrage. 5 Jerries shot down. I had to run for a bomb crater, in my underwear & bare feet.
- Mon., July 26, 1943--Two missions today.
- Tues., July 27, 1943--97th bombed Agira & Milazzo today. Went up hill last night to see the nurses.
- Wed., July 28, 1943--Got two sweet letters from Mary Alice today. . . Malta is a tremendously rocky, terrifically windy, terribly dusty little island.
- Thurs., July 29, 1943--Malta has more flies, ants, and mosquitoes than Africa--and that's something!!
- Fri., July 30, 1943--Air raid tonight. Lots of flak from ack-ack fell around me. Foxholes are no good for that, I see.
- Sat., July 31, 1943--On duty in Operations tonight.
- Sun., Aug. 1, 1943--Went to Rabat tonight with Dave.
- Mon., August 2, 1943--A hectic day in Operations.
- Tues., Aug. 3, 1943--Went to Rabat this evening. Saw Burns Yates & walked part way home with him.
- Wed., Aug. 4, 1943--I went on mission over Sicily this morning as bombardier ("toggler"). (Lt. Grant, pilot; Stallings and Argentine, gunners.)
- Thurs., Aug. 5, 1943--Went to Rabat with Mac. Got doughnuts & cocoa, went to show ("A Night at Earl Carroll's"), stopped to hear Louie play piano, then walked home.
- Fri., Aug. 6, 1943--No mission today for 97th. 86th & 85th each had two planes shot down. There were 10 or more besides hit by flak.
- Sat., Aug. 7, 1943--I went on mission as bombardier over Randazzo, Sicily. I dropped 4 300-lb. bombs. There were about 75 bursts of flak, but we weren't hit. (Capt. Carlson, pl.; Vincent & Youmans, gunners.)
- Sun., Aug. 8, 1943--Loaded bombs last night. Moving to Sicily tomorrow or next day. Maj. Akers to Group Ops.; Capt. Willard to Sq. C.O.
- Mon., Aug. 9, 1943--Our move to Sicily is cancelled for 2 or 3 days. We'll probably have another mission tomorrow. Air raid alert tonight but nothing happened.

- Tues., Aug. 10, 1943--Went on mission as bombardier over Randazzo, Sicily. Flak hit close all around us & one piece went through the pilot's cockpit and peppered Lt. Smith's arm with glass. Close enough for me! (Lt. Smith, pilot; Anderson & Thurman, gunners.)
- Wed., Aug. 11, 1943--No mission today. We'll move soon. Went to Valleta with Mac. Noel Coward appeared in person at theater. We had to walk all the way back--6 miles.
- Thurs., Aug. 12, 1943--Flew by C-47 to Comunali Airdrome, Sicily (near Gela). Our new home for awhile. Saw Junior today.
- Fri., Aug. 13, 1943--Got lots of mail & pictures from Mary Alice and the folks.
- Sat., Aug. 14, 1943--Two missions for Sqdn. today. Axis is about through in Sicily. Went to see Junior at photo trailer this evening. As of 8-14-43 our Sqdn. has run 119 missions (928 sorties).
- Sun., Aug. 15, 1943--Our mission was cancelled today because nearly all of the Germans have gotten out into Italy.
- Mon., Aug. 16, 1943--Just one small corner of Sicily is still holding out. Tomorrow should finish it.
- Tues., Aug. 17, 1943--I almost hit a drunk soldier today when he took a bottle of wine away from a Sicilian without paying him & had the man crying and kneeling down on the ground. I can't stand that.
- Wed., Aug. 18, 1943--Sick today with G.I.'s. Had to get up to puke tonight.
- Thurs., Aug. 19, 1943--Squadron moved by truck from Comunali to Gerbini #10, south of Mt. Etna. Been sick all day and have a sore back & ribs.
- Fri., Aug. 20, 1943--Capt. McRae gave me some pills to take & sent me to bed. Mt. Etna, a few miles N. of here, is smoking.
- Sat., Aug. 21, 1943--Feel O.K. today. Jr. sent for Mac & me in jeep tonight, and we went over to photo trailer and sang.
- Note for Aug. 14, 1943: On Aug. 14, a 97th gunner accidentally shot another gunner in the leg with a .45. Very bad wound, but he'll recover.
- Sun., Aug. 22, 1943--Washed clothes today.
- Mon., Aug. 23, 1943--Mac, Don, Dave, & I hitchhiked to Lentini & Syracuse (Siracusa) & back today. Rough rides over rough roads. . . A jeep accident today killed boy in the 86th & injured Maj. Hughes & some others.
- Tues., Aug. 24, 1943--Mac & I went over to photo trailer tonight and sang with Junior. We had the 2 Red Cross girls for an audience. The 97th Enlisted Men's Club opened tonight; half the men drunk.
- Wed., Aug. 25, 1943--One of our pilots was cleaning his .45 in his tent this evening when it accidentally fired, went through another tent or two, and hit and killed one of our gunners. This gunner had been overseas a year and had 43 missions. He was a nice fellow. The pilot is as nice a man as I know. Poor guy had hysterics. I hope this doesn't affect him permanently. What a tragedy.

- Thurs., Aug. 26, 1943--97th had mission today on Italy. Strangely enough, although they hit gun positions, there was no flak.
- Fri., Aug. 27, 1943--A DB-7 burst into flames over us last night & crashed about a mile away. Don't know what caused it. We have air raid alerts nearly every day, but nothing's happened so far.
- Sat., Aug. 28, 1943--Catania & Augusta evidently had raids this morning. There was beaucoup flak thrown up. One big bomb fell fairly close to this field. We may be getting it again soon.
- Sun., Aug. 29, 1943--The "G.I.'s" have me bad. I've messed my drawers twice in three days because I couldn't make it to the latrine. . . Heavy enemy raids on Catania & Augusta last night. Flares, flak, tracers, & bombs lit up the sky a big part of the night.
- Mon., Aug. 30, 1943--More raids on Catania & Augusta today. Enemy planes over us at various times but no bombs dropped on us. I'm on guard tonight--graveyard shift.
- Tues., Aug. 31, 1943--Got tooth filled this morning. Another engagement with dentist next Tuesday.
- Wed., Sept. 1, 1943--Mission today on Italy (by 97th). I'd like to go on some more missions, but Jr. delivered an ultimatum.
- Thurs., Sept. 2, 1943--Sqdn. had two missions on Italy today. Italian invasion starts tomorrow.
- Fri., Sept. 3, 1943--Invasion started this morning. 97th had one mission on gun positions.
- Sat., Sept. 4, 1943--No missions today. I went to photo lab and printed pictures.
- Sun., Sept. 5, 1943--Pay day. Went to church this evening. One year overseas today.
- Mon., Sept. 6, 1943--Took bath today. Mac, C.B., and I took turns pumping and squirting the water. Cold!!
- Tues., Sept. 7, 1943--One mission on Italy today by 97th. The Sqdn. now has 1015 sorties. . . Had tooth filled at dentist's today.
- Wed., Sept. 8, 1943--Italy surrendered this afternoon. Enemy planes are supposed to land here tomorrow and the crews surrender.
- Thurs., Sept. 9, 1943--Dental appt., 11:00. One tooth filled. The 97th had one mission today over Italy.
- Fri., Sept. 10, 1943--Junior sent to hospital today with trench mouth infection of tonsils. Mail from Mary Alice.
- Sat., Sept. 11, 1943--Mail from the folks today.
- Sun., Sept. 12, 1943--Went to see Jr. at 4th Field Hospital. Red Cross girls took me. He's feeling better.
- Mon., Sept. 13, 1943--Worked on flight certificates today. The darned flies around here nearly drive you crazy.
- Tues., Sept. 14, 1943--Abie was in a jeep wreck tonight. He came into camp cut up around the face and almost incoherent. Chester and I took him over to the Medics. (Later: It turned out that "P.H." Hale was with him in the jeep, had been knocked unconscious in the crash, and was put in the hospital, where he died later.) (Abrahamson is an enlisted bombardier; Hale, an engineer.)

- Wed., Sept. 15, 1943--Dental appointment at 9:30. One tooth filled.
- Thurs., Sept. 16, 1943--We'll move to Italy probably tomorrow or next day.
- Fri., Sept. 17, 1943--Junior and Collins came back from hospital today.
- Sat., Sept. 18, 1943--Saw Jack Benny, Larry Adler, and Winnie Shaw in person at show held in the open at 12th A.S.C. Hq. near Lentini. It was really a good show.
- Note to Thurs., Sept. 16, entry: Move to Italy cancelled indefinitely (unofficially).
- Sun., Sept. 19, 1943--Orders to move at 6:00 tomorrow. We packed tents & equipment on trucks tonight.
- Mon., Sept. 20, 1943--Rode to Messina, crossed Straits on landing barges (trucks and all), landed in Italy at about 1:10. Swam in Mediterranean & spent night NW of Reggio.
- Tues., Sept. 21, 1943--Dental appt. at 9:30 couldn't be kept because of being on the road. Spent a nice night in an olive grove.
- Wed., Sept. 22, 1943--Up before light and ready to leave at 6:30. . . Camped near beach in the night and were able to swim in Mediterranean after the dustiest ride we've ever had.
- Thurs., Sept. 23, 1943--Swam again this morning. Started out again on road about 1330 hrs. Thick, blinding dust all the way. Heavy fog soaked us tonight.
- Fri., Sept. 24, 1943--Arrived at new base about 15 mi. from Taranto. We have nice set-up--boards for flooring the tents, building benches, etc. Don't know name of new field yet.
- Sat., Sept. 25, 1943--Italians guard our area with machine gun nests. It seems funny to see them going around with guns so soon after fighting us. . . We won't be at this base long.
- Note relating to Monday, Sept. 20--Junior had to sleep with me Monday night (Sept. 20) because his stuff didn't catch up to him.
- Sun., Sept. 26, 1943--Worked around tent today making benches, etc. . . Meredith ("P.H.") Hale died day before yesterday as result of his and Abie's accident in the jeep on Sept. 14.
- Mon., Sept. 27, 1943--Packages came from home today at last. It was really a help.
- Tues., Sept. 28, 1943--Junior dropped by this evening and got his half of the packages.
- Wed., Sept. 29, 1943--Went to Taranto today & looked around. Bought some olives, mustard, and stuff to enhance the chow we get. Got some good ice cream.
- Thurs., Sept. 30, 1943--Fred Bevis flew up in B-25 & we got together for a few minutes. Jr. was in Taranto and didn't get to see him. Chaplain gave talk tonight.

- Fri., Oct. 1, 1943--Wrote home today for first time in a couple of weeks.
- Sat., Oct. 2, 1943--Photo Freddie over us today; a few bursts of flak were thrown at him. We can expect a raid soon, I imagine. Jr. spent part of day over here.
- Note relating to Thurs., Sept. 30: Chaplain's talk on Thursday night was in reference to our conduct when we go back home. I hope that means we're going soon.
- Sun., Oct. 3, 1943--Dave came back from hospital in Africa this evening. We're going to Taranto tomorrow. Rain today.
- Mon., Oct. 4, 1943--Dave & I went to Taranto today. Ate lots of ice cream and candy & bought some trinkets. Got wet in rain on ride back in open truck.
- Tues., Oct. 5, 1943--Made me a bed (of sorts) today. Put clothes out to dry that had gotten wet in rain, so naturally it started to rain again.
- Wed., Oct. 6, 1943--Got sudden orders tonight for advance echelon of 50 men to leave early in the morning for Foggia Main.
- Thurs., Oct. 7, 1943--Loaded trucks with Ops. & Intelligence equipment in a driving rain. All of us got soaked. I'm to stay here till main bunch moves up. . . . Pay day.
- Fri., Oct. 8, 1943--Rain has stopped & we're having nice weather again.
- Sat., Oct. 9, 1943--Frieze & I went to Grottaglie & Francavilla today in a jeep and bought some bedspreads & stuff. . . . Photo Freddie was over today & a few bursts were thrown up at him.
- Sun., Oct. 10, 1943--Went to church at Gp. Hq. tonight. . . . Mail from home.
- Mon., Oct. 11, 1943--Went to dentist today & got filling replaced. Jr. brought me back in the Photo jeep & we talked awhile.
- Tues., Oct. 12, 1943--Italian pilot in a Macchi buzzed the field too low & killed an Italian soldier out on the airdrome. No sense in that kind of flying.
- Wed., Oct. 13, 1943--Went over to see Jr. a little while this morning. . . . Got some mail this evening.
- Thurs., Oct. 14, 1943--Went to Grottaglie this morning with Frieze & Altman & bought a few things such as scissors, stationery, etc. Ate dinner in town.
- Fri., Oct. 15, 1943--Moving to Foggia tomorrow. . . . Move called off for two or three days. Jr. moved up though.
- Sat., Oct. 16, 1943--We move early in the morning for Foggia. I'm driving Capt. Young up in the Ops. jeep.
- Sun., Oct. 17, 1943--Drove Capt. Young to our new base at Vicenzo (Foggia satellite). Roads awfully slippery & lots of convoys to pass, but I made it in five hours (160 miles).
- Mon., Oct. 18, 1943--Sqdn. ran mission today for first time in quite awhile. They got a lot of flak. . . . We set up new Ops. today.
- Tues., Oct. 19, 1943--Two missions for Sqdn. today. . . . I'm busy enough now that I feel as if I'm earning my money again.
- Wed., Oct. 20, 1943--One mission for Sqdn. . . . P-40 crashed & burned

- killing the pilot as he tried to land just at dark tonight on our field.
- Thurs., Oct. 21, 1943--Ten of our planes were hit by flak over Cassio. Capt. Gualtiere had to crash-land on our field & Abie was killed. We had to watch the whole thing & couldn't do anything.
- Fri., Oct. 22, 1943--Lt. Simmons of 86th, who was shot down over Kasserine Pass in Feb. & taken prisoner, escaped and got back to the Group today. He walked all the way from Rome through enemy lines.
- Sat., Oct. 23, 1943--Bombing near here last night. . . One mission for 97th today. . . Heard bombing near here this evening.
- Sun., Oct. 24, 1943--No operations today. Worked hard all day. Got new field jacket this evening. It's getting pretty cool in the evenings.
- Note for Friday's entry: Lt. Block had to belly in Friday after his hydraulic system was shot out by flak. (This probably refers to Thursday's mission, but the diary entry said Friday.)
- Mon., Oct. 25, 1943--Jr. was over today. Mail today. One mission for Sqdn. Put stove up in our tent this evening. Thigpen in kitchen cooked up our turkey tonight. (See note below Oct. 30 entry.)
- Tues., Oct. 26, 1943--No ops. today. Carlo & some of the others of us took a jeep, went into a little town near here (Troy, I think), & bought some chickens. (The town was Troia.)
- Wed., Oct. 27, 1943--No ops. today. Killed a chicken, fried and ate part of it.
- Thurs., Oct. 28, 1943--Fried & ate more chicken tonight. Lts. Smith & Dowling were in to help eat it.
- Fri., Oct. 29, 1943--Rain most of the afternoon. Cold weather is coming on. One mission today for Sqdn.
- Sat., Oct. 30, 1943--Got flooring at Foggia Main this morning & put a floor in our tents. It's really nice now.
- Note completing Monday's entry above: Capt. Young, Lt. Dowling, Lt. Block, & F/O Gaskins came in and helped us eat it. It was darned good.
- Sun., Oct. 31, 1943--"Georgia," Billy Tell, "Shorty," Ernst, Hoaglund, & Youmans left for home this morning because they've completed their combat tour.
- Mon., Nov. 1, 1943--On mission today Lt. Bruce's plane blew up over target. Two men (Albers & Manzie) bailed out, but only one chute opened. Flak either exploded in a wing tank or hit the fuse of a bomb.
- Tues., Nov. 2, 1943--Two missions for Sqdn. today. Total sorties for Sqdn. to date: 1171; total missions: 142.
- Wed., Nov. 3, 1943--Two missions today for Sqdn.
- Thurs., Nov. 4, 1943--Winter is here. It's getting colder every night.
- Fri., Nov. 5, 1943--Albers came back today after bailing out in enemy territory when Lt. Bruce's plane exploded on Monday. He was burned in the face but otherwise is O.K.

- Sat., Nov. 6, 1943--A bomb fell near Foggia last night, but I think a British plane accidentally dropped it.
- Sun., Nov. 7, 1943--I nearly froze last night. We're going to board up the sides of the tent to keep the cold air out.
- Mon., Nov. 8, 1943--Rain & hail today. Got new typewriter for Ops. Took bath by fire tonight. May go to town tomorrow with Dave.
- Tues., Nov. 9, 1943--Dave & I went to Cerignola today on the pass truck. A very cold ride. Bought a couple of chairs (90¢ each) & some scarves. Had spaghetti & roast beef for dinner.
- Wed., Nov. 10, 1943--We built sides out of wood and frag tins in our tent today to help keep out the cold air. We've been hearing a lot of artillery fire these days (and nights).
- Thurs., Nov. 11, 1943--One Sqdn. mission today. Armistice Day this year is just like any other day of the year--except that the guns we hear are real.
- Fri., Nov. 12, 1943--Capt. Gualtiere, Hart, Thurman, & Tuttle left for home. . . . Part of Manzie's chute with blood on it was brought in today. He's definitely dead.
- Sat., Nov. 13, 1943--Collins finally got back from hospital today. Another plane came in with one feathered prop today but made it O.K. An 84th plane bellied in after Friday's mission. One engine was feathered, but they made it all right.
- Sun., Nov. 14, 1943--Terrific wind has been blowing for a couple of days. It's almost as bad as the African Sirocco.
- Mon., Nov. 15, 1943--Went to SAF stage show in Foggia this afternoon. It was very good. Windy, rainy ride back in open truck. Wind ripped our tent this evening.
- Tues., Nov. 16, 1943--Rain and wind.
- Wed., Nov. 17, 1943--Going to Naples on 3-day pass tomorrow morning.
- Thurs., Nov. 18, 1943--Left for Naples on pass truck at 7:00; got there at 1200. Frieze, Coldren, & I staying at Washington Boarding House.
- Fri., Nov. 19, 1943--Clear day today (mostly). The town is O.K., but I dislike the people very much. Every hotel and private home seems to offer women's bodies as their chief attraction.
- Sat., Nov. 20, 1943--Stayed at a different hotel tonight. Prices are high everywhere, and the people are a thieving, lying bunch. (Later note: I was too harsh; I later learned to like many of them.)
- Sun., Nov. 21, 1943--we're all ready to go back, & none of us care to see Naples again. Left at 1230; got to camp at 1730.
- Mon., Nov. 22, 1943--Stood down today. Went into Foggia to stage show. Package from home today.
- Tues., Nov. 23, 1943--Rain & sloppy mud have stopped operations in Italy.
- Wed., Nov. 24, 1943--97th mistakenly bombed 8th Army troops today. I feel sorry for today's lead bombardier; he really felt terrible about that. Just one of the fortunes of war.
- Thurs., Nov. 25, 1943--Thanksgiving Day. One mission for Sqdn. Lovely dinner of turkey, cranberry sauce, & all the "fixings."

- Fri., Nov. 26, 1943--Rumor today of big meeting sometime soon in Cairo of Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill, & German leaders. I'm on guard tonight from 0200 to 0600.
- Sat., Nov. 27, 1943--Two missions for Sqdn. today. I was sick this afternoon. Got letter from Kendall. Worked on mission records tonight.
- Sun., Nov. 28, 1943--Two missions for Sqdn. today.
- Mon., Nov. 29, 1943--Chills and fever today. Capt. McRae is sending me to a hospital in Naples tomorrow.
- Tues., Nov. 30, 1943--Started for Naples in ambulance but, due to an accident on road, I wound up in hospital at Caserta.
- Wed., Dec. 1, 1943--This is 36th Gen. Hosp. Some pretty nurses here. Spam for dinner but had a good supper.
- Thurs., Dec. 2, 1943--The meals have been good so far. I'm feeling fine except that I've got fever blisters on my mouth.
- Fri., Dec. 3, 1943--Can take bath tomorrow. Start walking downstairs to meals tonight. Have had no pills since I've been here.
- Sat., Dec. 4, 1943--Walked over to lab. for blood smear. Took bath. Restless. Very little to read.
- Sun., Dec. 5, 1943--Ham for dinner. Nurse just told me I'll be released soon.
- Mon., Dec. 6, 1943--Still in hospital sweating out discharge. Took another shower this morning. Fried chicken for supper.
- Tues., Dec. 7, 1943--Beef for supper tonight. I think I'm leaving tomorrow--I hope.
- Wed., Dec. 8, 1943--Discharged from 36th Gen. Hosp. & sent by truck to 6th Personnel Center outside of Naples. Sleeping (?) in pup tent on wet ground. Air raid alert tonight.
- Thurs., Dec. 9, 1943--I'm in "D" Co. of 29th Replacement Battalion here. My chances of getting out soon seem very slim. It's very cold in this little valley.
- Fri., Dec. 10, 1943--Several thousand new guys have come in, & this place is a long way over-crowded. It would make a lovely bombing or strafing target.
- Sat., Dec. 11, 1943--Green from the 97th came in last night. We may get to leave soon. Heavy rain tonight. I got mixed up with a "queer" & almost had to hit him.
- Note relating to Thursday, Dec. 9: Sat down next to a kid from Lakeland Thursday night at a show. His name is John Harrison. . . This place here used to be a big race track.
- Sun., Dec. 12, 1943--Terrific rain & hail storms today. The fellow I was sharing a pup tent with was moved out last night & of course took his shelter-half with him. There's nothing here but mud.
- Mon., Dec. 13, 1943--Moving out tomorrow by plane for Foggia (I hope). I'll be very happy to leave this place.
- Tues., Dec. 14, 1943--Ride on C-47 is cancelled till tomorrow. Green & I spending night at Albergo Centrale in Naples.

- Wed., Dec. 15, 1943--Caught C-47 from Naples to Foggia & finally arrived once again at the 97th Sq. area. It's good to be back.
- Thurs., Dec. 16, 1943--Had lots of mail & some packages awaiting me when I got back.
- Fri., Dec. 17, 1943--Had to go to bed this afternoon because I suddenly got awfully weak.
- Sat., Dec. 18, 1943--Went to Foggia to picture show, Bob Hope in "They've Got Me Covered." I got weak again and went to bed as soon as I got back.
- Sun., Dec. 19, 1943--Terrific malarial chill this morning. Capt. McRae is going to keep me here this time, thank Goodness!
- Mon., Dec. 20, 1943--I'm afraid I'm getting yellow jaundice on top of my malaria. I'm about the weakest I've ever been.
- Tues., Dec. 21, 1943--Sat up and read awhile today but had to go back to bed. Mail from Mary Alice.
- Wed., Dec. 22, 1943--Sat up quite awhile today & read. Hope to get up tomorrow. Took a bath in here inside the tent tonight.
- Thurs., Dec. 23, 1943--Got up and went back to work today. Feeling pretty good but am still a little wobbly.
- Fri., Dec. 24, 1943--Christmas Eve. Spent evening with Junior. Started taking quinine again. Have to do it for 8 days.
- Sat., Dec. 25, 1943--Xmas Day. Good turkey dinner. Fred Bevis came over & we visited. We went over to Photo trailer & saw a movie, "Tennessee Johnson." Chester gave Mac & me each a coca-cola tonight. But wonderful!
- Sun., Dec. 26, 1943--Rain & mud & cold. On guard tonight.
- Mon., Dec. 27, 1943--Cold wind & rain. Planes haven't been able to take off for several days because of mud. I've been doing a lot of reading.
- Tues., Dec. 28, 1943--Sqdn. ran a mission today for first time in several days. There's been too much mud.
- Wed., Dec. 29, 1943--Went to Foggia to picture show this afternoon. Got some lovely letters from Mary Alice this evening.
- Thurs., Dec. 30, 1943--Sqdn. mission today. Osendott of Transportation was killed last night on a motorcycle. He was a quiet, nice boy. It's too bad.
- Fri., Dec. 31, 1943--Sqdn. mission was a dry run today--clouds too thick over target. New Year's Eve; lots of drunks firing guns at midnight tonight.
- Sat., Jan., 1, 1944--Rain & mud. New Year's Day.
- Sun., Jan. 2, 1944--Lousy weather. Rain & mud every day.
- Mon., Jan. 3, 1944--Rain & mud. Lousy, nasty weather. Kissed Mary Alice goodbye two years ago before joining Army.
- Tues., Jan. 4, 1944--One mission for Sqdn. today. Cold wind. Went over to Photo trailer to see a picture show this afternoon.
- Wed., Jan. 5, 1944--Rain & mud & terribly cold wind. 16 months overseas today. Moving up near Vesuvius soon. Taught last day of school 2 years ago today.

- Thurs., Jan. 6, 1944--Two years in Army today. Several flurries of snow today. Cold wind.
- Fri., Jan. 7, 1944--Nicer weather today, but it's cold.
- Sat., Jan. 8, 1944--Mud is drying up somewhat, but it stays cold all the time. Sqdn. ran mission today. Lots of snow on surrounding mountains now. Ice on ground every morning.
- Sun., Jan. 9, 1944--Burns Yates & Jansen Davenport from Lakeland came over with Jr. this evening.
- Mon., Jan. 10, 1944--(No diary entry this date.)
- Tues., Jan. 11, 1944--(No diary entry this date.)
- Wed., Jan. 12, 1944--We're moving tomorrow to our new base by Mt. Vesuvius.
- Thurs., Jan. 13, 1944--Moved by truck to Vesuvius Air Field. I had a slight chill on the trip. I hope my malaria isn't coming back.
- Fri., Jan. 14, 1944--Put up Operations & Intelligence tents today & fixed up our living tent. I built a door for our tent.
- Sat., Jan. 15, 1944--Had severe chills & fever this morning & Capt. McRae sent me to 70th Station Hospital in Naples.
- Sun., Jan. 16, 1944--Had chill at noon which lasted for over an hour, then had high fever & felt awful. Couldn't eat much today.
- Mon., Jan. 17, 1944--Had another chill this morning and then a temperature of 105.2. They moved me to a better bed in another ward. I feel a lot better this evening.
- Tues., Jan. 18, 1944--Feel much better today. Ate well.
- Wed., Jan. 19, 1944--A red letter day. The medics from camp brought me mail from Mary Alice & home.
- Thurs., Jan. 20, 1944--Still feel good. Had turkey for supper; & after I ate in bed, I slipped downstairs for "seconds." The walk back up tired me out, though.
- Fri., Jan. 21, 1944--Just another day in the hospital.
- Sat., Jan. 22, 1944--Nothing happens, except I'm bored.
- Sun., Jan. 23, 1944--Nothing.
- Mon., Jan. 24, 1944--Nothing.
- Tues., Jan. 25, 1944--The doctor here wouldn't make a good pfc.
- Wed., Jan. 26, 1944--I've developed a very bad cough & cold.
- Thurs., Jan. 27, 1944--Cough & cold still bad.
- Fri., Jan. 28, 1944--Cold still bad. Can't taste food, but had a good dinner today.
- Sat., Jan. 29, 1944--Junior came in to see me today & brought mail from home.
- Sun., Jan. 30, 1944--Letters from Mary Alice.
- Mon., Jan. 31, 1944--Cold still bad.
- Tues., Feb. 1, 1944--Took shower today.
- Wed., Feb. 2, 1944--Read all day.