

Dec. 3, 1984
at Madison, NH.

Frank Ward Jr.
interviewed by
Oct. 1940 Rachel Ward

NOTES
DURING
TAPING

Airforce Recruiters recruiting pilots

0-25 - June 1941 -

Report to East St Louis

primary

to Randolph Field, Texas
then Ellington Field, near Houston
for advanced flight training.
to MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla

30 for B-17 flight training.

54 92nd Bomb Squadron of 28 planes

After group formed then

Bradenton Florida, then to
Bangor Maine for outfitting for
combat readiness.

70 Some before had weather trouble
landing on Greenland

76 Direct flight permission to
Prestwick England, then to

Aug 42 Bovington, 30 mi north of London.

90 "The Wash" ~~at~~ Alconbury, England
became regular barracks of
bomber groups. Trucks were
transportation.

110 First mission disastrous ~~the~~

~~the~~ Fighters hit by 30 cal.
bullets. 70 millimeter exploded.

Four men eliminated out of 9 men
crew. Airplane then used for spare
parts.

- 14
 150 Moved up to "The Wash" at Conbury.
 156 Squadron Commander.
 160 Bombing inland but German fighters too active in bases on French coast.
 170 No fighter escorts for us at beginning of war.
 175 Knocked off fighter bases ~~so~~ so they moved to inland Germany.
 185 P-51, P38, & P57 were our fighter escorts.
 195 Briefings by aerial photographers but avoid churches.
 200 Carried 5 tons of bombs
 212 For submarine pens,
 2,000 lb. armor piercing bombs
 For munition factories 200-500 lb incendiary bombs.
 Others general purpose bombs.
~~212~~
 250 Crew trained very well.
 260 Off duty between missions
 280 Weather could scrub missions
 Plenty of crews.
 290 Adequate quarters & food.
 Very wet in England
 310 After 35 missions, rotated back to states.
 315 Bryant Texas instrument school then to Lockland Ohio Base

home
 Sept 44

340 Trained troops but not for Pacific Theater. Things slowing down after VE + VJ day, many discharged then.

340

Side 2

0-6 → (Apparently no sound)

7- Return to civilian life. Purchase of apple orchard in Madison, N.H.

18- 22 - Flights over enemy territory. Anti aircraft was a threat every time you went out. Shapnel,

35. Americans did daylight bombing British did night bombing by dropping a flare then bombed on that. They didn't flight

45 Strategy of one lead bomber all in formation. would bomb on same place.

50 One picture showed on the coast of North Sea Penemunde where Germans were developing atomic bombs which was destroyed.

75 Primary secondary & tertiary targets were designated so that if you ran out of targets, you next found a target of opportunity.

80. Over Germany never brought bombs back.

90. Favorite plane - would like to keep same out with good crew. Great trust developed.
- 100 - Picture of an airport on French coast Chateau D'Un which was an airbase giving us a lot of trouble because German fighters were coming out of.
- 110 Mannheim - An oil refinery - on Rhine River
- 125 - Brunsbuttel - on a
- 130 - Picture of ^{my first} crew -
- 140 Then second crew.
- 150 x Sweden - aluminum plant where Germans took over for.
(easiest mission of all)
Complete devastation.
called it a milk run

Interview

- 175 w/ Christine Ward, Frank's wife who had war duty in the War
25 or 30 nurses, doctors + few dentists.

- 195 Landed Belfast, ran a Gen'l Hosp. for 3 or 4 months
then to Diddington on the Hunts
8th Air Force - took care of Air Corps casualties for a year

New interviewee

before the invasion.

200 - Into Normandy on D6

750 bed evacuation hosp
attached to 1st Army.

215 Backlog of 600 patients
waiting for surgery one time

12 operating room tables. 12 hr
shifts - 8-8. 24 ~~hours~~ a day.
Anaesthesia nurse.

230

In Army Nurse Corps
In France then Belgium Germ
and to Czechoslovakian borders

5-6 to 10-12 mi from front
Evacuation Hospital were
before the Regular Hospital.

258 Military discipline made it easy

260 Battle of Bulge

Black Ambulance corps
used to volunteer 4 hrs. more
to help carry litters after
already working 12

275 Battle of Herten Forest - bad
Worst wounded of all
worse than Battle of Bulge
At a standstill so more wounded
in bad shape.

300 Battle of Bulge
101st Airborne wouldn't
give up. parachutists
Snow on ground - airforce
couldn't get out to bomb supply lines
Day after Christmas - dogfights
the airforce did finally get out.

327. Gonsils out in hospital, met
his wife in England -

345 Strategy

350 Lucky to be alive

355 American doctors in evacuation
hospital trauma surgery

375 Common to have doctors
make their own unit.

2nd Tape Side 1

Interview w/ Chris Ward

Abundant Supplies
0-10 Use of new drugs in evacuation
hospital
10-18 Alice Gabriel a nurse in same unit
20 - Discharged from Army. then
lived 6 months in Ohio
30 - Then to North Conway Hospital
33 K-Rations in the field for 3
months. Spam for Xmas Thanksgiving
K-Rations - in 3 boxes
breakfast - lemon juice + coffee
lunch - cheese ^{hard tack} biscuits
4 cis dinner - cheese ^{hard tack} in a can, lemon juice, coffee hard choc.

56. Cot in fields mostly
Winter in Belgian hosp,
former TB sanatorium

Enlisted men did sleep
in field regardless of snow.

65 Detached ~~off~~ service after Battle of
Bulge ~~Service of~~ along toward February
they slept in tents with snow on ground

Buy your own sleeping bag
Army gave 3 G.I. blankets
~~blankets~~

90. Not much civilian contact
not time for anything but
sleep after 16 hr. day.

110 Not during war, no one had
opportunity to go into the town.
Cared for French townspeople *
for they had no hospitals +

☆

Dec 3, 1984 at Madison N.H.

NOTES
DURING TAPING

Christine Ward, interviewee,
interviewed by Rachel Ward
at St Luke's Hospital NYC.

formed a group of doctors + nurses
went to Fort Stevens

300 enlisted men 45 nurses +
20 or 30 doctors + 3 or 4 dentists
+ 3 or 4 Red Cross

Jan. 42 — Sept 42
Northern Ireland Gen Hosp.
Then to Eng.

Diddington on the Hunts
8th Air Force - took care of
Airt casualties over there for

in + 6

750 bed attached to 1st Army
after 1st Army took St Lo
Patton

Heavy duty - backlog of 600 patients
for surgery - huge reception tent
operated 12 operation room.

12 hr. shifts anaesthesia
8-8- swapped some by 4 hr.

~~Wrote~~ Army Nurse Corp.

Followed war -
France to Czechoslovakia

5/6 mi

Evacuation.

Enlisted men did ward duty
scrub nurse -

In Belgium during
receiving all wounded after Battle
Black ambulance corp used to come
over every night - extra 4 hrs. voluntary
Battle of Herkain Forest, nurse mess
at standstill at that point

101st Airborne Parachute Troops

About a week, snow on ground -
as soon as air force could fly
dogfights over hospital.

f

(2)

Prestwick England near Glasgow
Scotland for couple days

Then

to Bovington 30 m N of London

2 missions out of there

Area of England call "The Wash"

8th Air Force mostly there

next base ~~Albany~~ Alconbury - bases equipped

w/ barracks w/ coal ~~etc~~ heat

& showers. Transport by truck

to where you wanted to go -

1st Mission quite disastrous

Took off about noon, Commander said

If any trouble over Eng Ch,

One of wing men left, 2 min

2nd other ~~it was~~ ^{man} left, 2 min

Fighters hit

Waistgunner in middle

hit by 30 cal. fire

ball turret gunner hit from under

Navigator had a 20 mm. had a shell

Lost 4 out of a 9 man crew

Trimtab was destroyed, gas tanks

Pilot + copilot both had to hold

to the stick

Oct '41 Everyone had to sign
up over 21

UNH 2nd yr.

June 41 East St. Louis

Randolph Field Texas

Ellington Field

30 mi E Houston

Advanced Flight

2nd Lieut. Mac Dill Field,
Tampa Fla.

Learning to fly B17 -

Training: first to observe

Instrument flying -

92nd Bomb Group had

3 squadrons of 7 planes ea

Hdqtr's had about 28 planes

to Bradenton Fla. maneuvers

Bangor Maine - for equipping
for combat readiness with radios + guns.

Ready for England.

Weather trouble - so many landed
Gen. Arnold in On Green

Permission to fly from Gander to