

War Stories (cont.)

reported missing since yesterday morning in #413. While I was on the Bombay trip, eight planes crashed here in the valley. One crew bailed out at 300 feet right over the officers area. Spent evening with Ronny, Christofero and others playing records.

Tuesday, Feb 1. Up at 2:30 and went over to Barracks 5 with the fellows most of morning. Ate at Chinese restaurant in 13th area. Miller and Kerkorian in #425 are down. No word from them since take-off at noon yesterday. Read a letter, showered. Don DeCasse called from ops. Got him up to the area and we ate at the Chinese restaurant again. Had a good gab session. He wants to fly the Hump tomorrow. Will take him as I'm going anyway. Bed at 10:30.

Wednesday, Feb 2. Up 08:30 and to operations with Don to get him straightened out, paper-wise. Van Fossen was navigator on plane. DeCasse came in on, and he wants one trip over Hump before returning to the States. Bed 9:30.

Thursday, Feb 3. Up 08:00 and DeCasse and I sweated out a trip all morning. About 11:30 we got a call. Took VanFossen over with us. I showed him all Lake Tali and Yunanyi airfield, the only two things visible. Solid instruments to 18 M. Started back at 6 PM. And flew till 10:00 getting back. Brought a Polish pursuit Major who said he'd rather fly three pursuit missions than one of these. Really cold. Was tired and hungry. Ate and bed by 23:00.

Friday, Feb 4. Up at 09:00 and Don and I went into Dibrugarh.. Bought some fake stones from some Tibetans. Had a keen old time showing them the town and Planter's Store. Looked at some Gurkha knives and some stones plus a little silver stuff. Don bought a mattress and a pillow, and I got some agate kind of stone. Rode home on a load of inions. Ronny, Van F and Don and some others were in tonight for a bull session. Bed At 10:30.

Saturday, Feb 5. Up at 8:15. Called out for trip. It was number 30. Found out they called 15 crews down and released them during the night due to weather. It wasn't bad going over at 1 PM. Started back at 3:30. Barnes, Gibson, Holland and several others were there. I had Whitney for co-pilot. Flew back over 20M and froze. Let down on instruments and ice to V.G. In at 7:15 PM. Bed at 9:30.

Sunday, Feb 6. Went to church. Had communion and an organ that another chaplain passing through loaned us. Found Don and ate lunch with him. Got two cards from Betty E., and two letters from Dad. Don played a little poker while I shaved, showered and shampooed this afternoon. Ate supper and am not on schedule. Saw a show with Alice Faye, "Gang's All Here." Bed at 9 PM.

Monday, Feb 7. Up at 10:00 and Don and I went over to see Brandt, Akers and Meyers and the others. Ate lunch then beat Don in 3 games of chess and stalemated one. Getting sharp Got two letters from Jeanne, one from Mother, one from Dad, one from Matt and one from Harold Bessey. Went with Peppell, Don and B. Johnston, to see a western at the S.O.S. Bed at 10:30.

Tuesday, Feb 8. Up at 08:00. Ate egg breakfast. Spent morning in bull session with Pratt, Scroogie and Johnston. Got haircut this afternoon. Went to a show again. Saw "Behind The Rising Sun." Not so good. Am on schedule tomorrow with Don. Ronny should be moving in tomorrow sometime. Bed at 9:20 as tomorrow is an early flight.

Wednesday, Feb 9. Up 08:15. Got called while at breakfast. Took #394 to Sookerating for gas. Got out from Sook at 12 noon. Ran right rear tank dry causing fuel flow and R. tach to fluctuate. Turned around but they settled down so continued on to Kunming. Had load of Xmas mail so glad I made it over. Got home at 8:15 PM. It was a pretty trip. Sent some wires. Don enjoyed the trip a lot, got some pictures. Have 32 trips now. Bed at 10:00. Tired.

Thursday, Feb 10. Up at 08:30. Went over to Barrack 5 and broke spring in Cristofero's phonograph. And spent all afternoon in Dibrugarh getting it fixed. Got a piece of Tibetan jade. Came back tired and tried to help Bomar fix the phonograph. Finally came home and wrote two letters.

Friday, Feb 11. Up at 08:00 and went over to 5 and Cristofero's. Still trying to get the phonograph to work. Spent day fixing Ronny's double deck bunk and getting him moved in. Took belated shower. No clean clothes left. This evening Ronny, Don and I went over to see Joe Turner. Gilmar was really drunk in the club. Got Jeanne's birthday wire this afternoon.