

War Stories (cont.)

crashed within two miles of the eight days. A terrible crash at Tezpur. A C-87 with full fuel and bomb load lost an engine on take-off and flew into a native village, crashed and burned. Degen also crashed into a wog (native) village. To bed 21:00. Reading "Topper.

Saturday, 22 January. Up at 04:00. Bernie, Britts and I were pretty tired. Weather reported to be high so I tried to go under. No good. Went to 21,000 and over the top. Had an instrument let down to 500 feet at Kunming. Had a load of ice to boot. Wired Jeanne and the folks while there. Britts flew home, topped out at 20,000. 15 degrees below at altitude. Ronny and I got together for a gab session. We went over to the polo grounds to see the Snuffy Smith show. It was so terrible we left midway. Today was trip#28. Now have 335 hours in a C-46. To bed at 22:00.

Sunday, Jan 23. Up at 09:00, shaved and showered before going to church. First time to church in weeks. Got a package from folks and a church group. Greiners, Prices, etc. Very nice of them. Worked the afternoon shift and made out schedules. Had chicken for supper tonight. Good. Akers and Laubacher are in. Akers got gored in the butt by a wild elephant and bitten by leeches. Laubacher rented an elephant to ride, ten rupees (\$3.20) per day. Spirit is declining as 18 month policy is rumored. To bed at 21:00

Monday, 24 Jan. Up at 06:30 and to work in ops. Very few planes went out today. Butler took the Hospital ship again today. I took shower, shampoo and made out schedules. Put Brigita and myself on the "leave" ship to Bombay via Agra tomorrow. Ganley is navigating. Should be a nice trip and give me about 25 hours of flying time. Have shaved, packed a clean shirt so am ready for an 08:00 takeoff. Have Ronny and Laubacher on shuttle for next 30 days. A good deal.

Tuesday, Jan.25. Left for Agra in the "leave" ship with Brigida. Picked up a couple of Captains, 8 Privates. Arrived Agra at 17:00. Ate a fine meal and went into town with Navigator Ganley, and Marcus and Cowan, on leave. Bought a jacket for Jeanne but couldn't find a Gurkha knife. Guess I'll have to buy one from a real Gurkha. Bed at 22:00. Flew 8.5 hours today.

Wednesday, Jan. 26. Bart (Brigida) and I took the ship into Bombay, stopping only two hours. Would have liked to look the town over. Back to Agra still with the Captains. Again went into town. Saw a show. Bart met 6 Italian POWs. They get only 5 Rupees a month from the British. They've been POWs on "parole" for four years. To bed at 22:30. Pretty good food, tents for sleeping.

Thursday, 27 Jan. Came back to Chabua by way of Lalminarhat. Stopped at an auxiliary strip at Lucknow to let off Captains St. John and Goff. A nice trip in all giving us 24 ¾ hours flying time in 3 days. Was rather glad to get back. Met Ferguson and Brandt at ops at 17:00. They had just finished 5 ½ hours returning from Kunming. 100mph head winds. No one at home so went to bed at 21:00. Brought back some leather flags. (*Ed. Who did?*)

Friday, 28 Jan. Up at 08:00 for breakfast. Spent morning at Ronny's barracks helping Bomar beat Cristoforo at chess. Worked (for last time) in Ops this afternoon. The new regime is taking over. They're all Service Pilots and former airline men. Went back for more chess and listened to some records. Lost our game with Bomar and Myers. Am glad to be back from my trip west. Bed 22:00.

Saturday, Jan. 29. Up 08:00. Spent afternoon wrapping packages and aren't (am not) through yet. Went to the SOS show. Saw Susan Hayward in "Hit Parade of 1943." Good show but I'd seen it before. Lost a game of chess to Bomar. Heard that Short and twenty others were killed in a C-54 transport on take-off at Accra, Africa. Also Scepanic killed in a China raid August 25th. Bed at 22:00

Sunday, Jan 30. Up just in time to go to church. Enjoyed it. Ate lunch and was talking with Pitcher and got called out at 2:45 PM. Had 24 passengers and luggage to take over. Got off at 4:30 and it was dark by first ridge. Carried a heavy drift angle and still passed well north of Lake Tali. Got in at 8:00 PM and stayed all night. Poor beds. Ate nine eggs first. Bed 9:30. Took Bruce Thomas' clothes over and mailed them.

Monday Jan 31. Up 06:00 in Kunming and it was raining hard. Passed up breakfast and took off at 7:15. Flew snow storms for a couple hours. Many bearings were shot on some of the 2 ships leaving about the same time. Andersen and Porter are