

HILDRETH CREW
SEPT. 4, 1994
991 TWEED DRIVE
AKRON, OHIO 44319

JACOB L. GRIMM
209 S. MARKET ST.
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DEAR JAKE,

THE CREW HISTORY IS ACCURATE SO FAR
AS I CAN TELL. PAUL HILDRETH'S REPORT
IS MUCH THE SAME AS HE TOLD ME.

YOU ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -
THE FIRST WAVE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT - FROM
MY VANTAGE POINT - WAS A SOLID LINE FROM
ONE O'CLOCK TO 5 O'CLOCK. I WATCHED
THE FW-190 THAT GOT US AS HE APPROACHED
ALONG THE RIGHT WING WITH HIS GUNS BLAZING.
LARGE GAPING HOLES POPPED UP FROM
WING TIP TO ROOT AS HE HIT US AMID
SHIPS & PASSED UNDER OUR PLANE.

IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING WHEN TALKING

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WITH THE CREW SEVERAL DAYS LATER THAT OUR GUNS DESTROYED THE FW 190.

ALL 4 ENGINES SHUT DOWN AND OUR INTER-COMM WAS SILENCED IMMEDIATELY. WE WERE BURNING AND TWO B 17S AHEAD OF US WERE ALSO BURNING AND WENT DOWN.

PAUL THEN ORDERED ME TO BAIL OUT AND AFTER A SHORT DISCUSSION I LEFT THE CO-PILOT SEAT, GRABBED MY CHEST CHUTE, POKED THE TOP GUNNER, WENT UNDER THE FLIGHT DECK, POKED HINK (NAVIGATOR) - HE POKED WILLIE (BOMBARDIER). THEY THEN WENT OUT THE FRONT HATCH AND ME AFTER THEM. THE TOP GUNNER WENT THROUGH THE BOMBAY TO THE RADIO ROOM - STUCK TEMPORARILY IN THE BOMBAY V STRUTS.

THIS ALL HAPPENED IN SECONDS AND WAS DONE ORDERLY AND IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER BY ALL CONCERNED.

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OUR CREW WAS A DISCIPLINED AND TRAINED CREW THANKS TO PAUL AND I ATTRIBUTE OUR SUCCESSFUL BAIL OUT TO THAT TRAINING.

CONCERNING THE PLANE "008"

WE FLEW THIS SHIP ON HER FIRST TRAINING FLIGHT AFTER DELIVERY TO McDILL FROM THE MODIFICATION CENTER AT CHEYENNE, WY. WE TOOK HER OVERSEAS AND FLEW HER IN MANY COMBAT MISSIONS INCLUDING HER LAST AND OUR 37TH. FOR A TIME COL. SPERRY FLEW "008". SHE SEEMED TO BE A PARTICULARLY STABLE PLANE. I COULD SUPPLY MORE DETAIL BUT I SUSPECT MORE THAN ENOUGH HAS BEEN SAID.

SINCERELY,
Win Worcester

OVER →

OUR FIRST MISSION WAS MISSION NO. 1 FOR
THE GROUP DATED 4-12-1944 - SPLIT, YUGO
CEMENT PLANT.

WE GOT HIT BY FLAK IN #2 ENGINE -
THE ENGINE LOCKED UP & WE HAD TO LEAVE
THE FORMATION & RETURN AT 135 MPH
DUE TO A FREE WHEELING NON-
FEATHERED PROP. - OUR INITIATION
OF FIRE!