

Dear Dane

Trying to recall things that happened 55 years ago is a big assignment for me but perhaps I might mention a few of the things we did as a crew.

these are in no particular order but here are some of the high lights. One a training mission it was about 14 hrs long we were heading back to base and most of the crew were asleep or slumbered we hit an air pocket and dropped about 500 feet. I happened to be buckled up and was ok. but every one else came out of their seats. it was funny.

on one mission we flew with out the aux pumps working so on the way up to target we iced up and used up more fuel so we were forced to fly into Japan it was a short run way and we had to use our hydraulic breaks, but they depended on our F.P.V. to keep the hydraulic pumped up. so we had to hit the run way with the break locked blew out two or three times. well we made the landing ok. but had to have tire floups so we had

about five days vacation in Japan. That was fun.

One of the things we enjoyed at the end of a bomb run. We usually got back to base early in the morning so breakfast was the first order of the day and we all ways had fresh eggs and fresh milk. Jimmie's position was tail gunner so he was isolated from the crew from beginning to end of a mission. Jimmie was a happy ~~go to~~ lucky kind of a guy and got along with every one. He was hard to wake up in the morning so we literally had to drag him out of bed for breakfast.

Dave & I am sending several photos and a copy of the Award for you to keep. Perhaps with time I'll remember more. I hope these will be of some comfort to you.

Your good friend
Fred Parkes
Wishing you a
Merry Christmas