

Wawarsing, N.Y. 12489  
Box 124

July 30, 1970

Lt. Colonel Raymond Savera  
CMR #2, Box 12427  
APO San Francisco, 96201

Dear Col. Savera,

Enclosed is an excerpt from Joe's Diary which I thought you would like to have.

I have made arrangements to have the Diary copied and will get a copy to you as soon as I can.

It has given me great comfort to know you thought as much of Joe as you did and would like to have a copy of his Diary.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Jeszeck

So goes a good day in the war. Flew 51 nobody complained about hard seats, aching back, high gas.

Tis the wonder of my life I never drew a bad crew. On every crew that I ever had the privilege to fly with we had trophies or KBA to prove it. I kind of hope that part of this is my work.

Let me give a rundown on my crew as I know them:

#1 Col. Flynn. He is mentioned more than once in these pages. A big Irishman. A handsome man in a coarse featured way Pat Flynn. Went thru Cadets in '39. Old Col. Flynn can fly an airplane. When we are in these fiascoes flying in a circle he always knows north south east and west. When he has to fly, shout, listen to two radios and interphase with the engines, listen to NOZ, Navigate, etc. 3 or 4 things are left out. When he gets his own crew he lets Navigator worry about when I am Engineer worry about if we can do it, Copilot work and everything goes smoothly. He is a good competent A.C. And he still has Dash.

When all is quiet he will go trolling for ground fire. He lets me use all my idiotic schemes for increasing ground fire. When V.C. shoots at us I flash on and off Navigation lites. When ground fire dies down I put #2 in rich, run props out of sync. and Charlie thinks he got one and everybody shoots at a cripple. So Old Col. Flynn is a good natured Irishman and we do have fun together.

#2 Lt. Davis. Brand new in A.F. Young, intelligent, eager. We won't have him long cause he is going to be a good A.C. He only made 1 mistake since I been on crew, and that my fault. I was so used to a faultless performance that I did not check him like I should. I really don't know the Lt. like I should but he is a good one.

#3 Col. Savera. I don't know too much about him either but he is a good Navigator, a good troop, and a good crew member. His job is Ulcerville. He has about 10 things going at once. He is the man who has to know where we are, where friendlys are, if its safe to shoot. He is working about 3 radios talking to six people. Has to get artillery clearance. He is about the busiest man ever. They is all kind of things to irritate a man in these conditions and if he is irritated he don't show it, does a good competent job, has his sense of humor. He and Major Anderson are two reasons we gots a good crew.

#4 Major Anderson. Everything I said about Col. Savera and his job goes for Major Andy. They are one time Navigator and one time NOZ. Now this NOZ is another trip to Ulcerville. He stands in the door with his NOZ, the airplane is flying from a 20 to 60 degree bank, he has to visually lock on a target, identify it so Navigator knows where we are. And he is the one who mostly points the guns. This NOZ I tried it a time or two and its weird, you got left eye looking in NOZ and right looking outside. The NOZ is a light amplifier and amplifies light by 2140 times. This means you NOZ eye is looking at a bright lite. When you come off NOZ and look outside you NOZ eye is blank. As a matter of fact you automatically put your master eye in NOZ and when you look in NOZ then look outside your master eye sees a big black nothing. His job is difficult if not impossible and me Navigators are par excellence. Col. Savera is about beginning, Jan. Major Andy has about 3 months to go. Good people, good navigators in an impossible job and still gots a sense of humor.

#5 on the crew is Good Old Jes, an idiot over age in grade.

#6 is Chandler our Illuminator Operator. Chandler has his first job on flying status. His voice is kind of high he is really not too sure of himself, but he is learning. He is our Brains in the Back End. He assesses Battle Damage, is jump master, launches flares, smokes, runs Illuminator, he does it all. He is more of a Yiddish scholar than a Combat Crewman, but some day when our Orthodox Jew is the scholar that he is going to be he will look back on the times when he was a Combat Crewman and a good one. And while he is teaching peace and Brotherhood in his Yeshiva he will hear the words of Lt. Davis on the interphone, kill kill kill. Chandler is young, eager, and I do believe he has a fear of fucking up, and he will. But tis not the FU that counts, its the recovery. No sweat on Chandler.

#7 our Chief Gunner Fage. Fage is another intelligent man he thinks. Course he can't have too much smarts, he is an ex-marine. Now the gunners job on this aircraft is work. We load 1500 rounds in a gun. When a gun is empty it has to be reloaded again. With Col. Flynn learning a trigger blow rate is 3000 rounds a min. you can see that a gun can be empty in 30 sec to a minute. We got 4 guns and you can see when the shooting is going on they are a busy bunch of boys. Well, like I says Fage is very intelligent. He reads, he thinks, he wonders and worries, course he can't be too smart to be an ex-marine.

#8 is Vangelisti. There again I do not know the man. Really he is very young, tall, skinny, Italian. He is Bravo gunner and Alpha gunner does all the talking. But he is back there and he works. As I said the guns get empty real quick, takes time to reload, and the troops in back are busy busy while the shooting is going on. He was the cook this morning as a gunner I can recommend him highly, as a cook not too much.

This is my crew. There are really not too many people in this world that can say this is my crew.

They is only three or four of us that can kill this crew. Any man on it can save it. All of us are going home about the same time except Major Andy. We do a nasty dirty job with Dash. We are not smart, as a matter of fact, we are not real brave. With the exception of Col. Flynn and meself, and I do believe that he and me think the same.

Fu— it, if this day I die let me go tall and strong in the saddle. We have lived so long and suffered so much. For so many reasons, Ah yes we surely did. If we get instant dead this tour tis so much better to die like a man, still with the joy of youth in our hearts. This one more time with the kids is not to be sneezed at. Lord Love a Duck, Each man owes our Maker one death. God Hates a Coward. When we meet our Maker Face to Face he does not check the color of our drawers. Tis what we do in this life that counts not what we really are.