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A BOMBING MISSION

By

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Composition and Literature I

OUTLINE

Introduction: Material from personal experience

I. A combat crew

- A. Members
- B. Duties

II. Beginning of mission

- A. Waking up crews
- B. Eating breakfast

III. Preparations for mission

- A. Briefing
 - 1. Briefing officer
 - 2. Security officer
 - 3. Engineering officer
 - 4. Weather officer
 - 5. Chaplain
- B. Preparing individually
 - 1. Clothes
 - 2. Equipment
- C. Preflighting

IV. Mission

- A. Departing
- B. Taking off
- C. Getting into formation
- D. Flying to target
- E. Reaching target
- F. Assembling after target
- G. Returning to base
- H. Landing

V. Post-mission activities: interrogation

- A. Results of bombing
- B. Enemy action
- C. Conditions in flight
 - 1. Equipment
 - 2. Weather
 - 3. Personnel

Conclusion: Mission completed

During World War II many people in the United States read accounts of the bombing of enemy cities and installations. Few of them realized what a bombing mission involved. From personal experience I shall explain in detail a combat mission made by heavy bomber crews.

A combat crew consists of four officers: the pilot, co-pilot, navigator, and bombardier, and six enlisted men: the engineer, radio operator, nose gunner, top gunner, ball gunner, and tail gunner. The pilot is in charge of the crew and performs the task of flying the airplane. The co-pilot is second in command and assists the pilot with the flying. The duties of the navigator concern proper routes, location of plane, flying time, and weather conditions. The bombardier operates the bombsight which releases the bombs on the target. The engineer is the mechanic of the plane while it is in the air. He is responsible for the plane's mechanical functioning. The duty of the radio operator consists of carrying on communication from the plane to the headquarters. The four gunners operate gun turrets from their respective positions and protect the plane in case enemy fighter planes attack. Although each member of the combat crew has his particular assignment when in flight, these various duties are so correlated that the ten members function as a team.

A combat mission begins at the time flying crews are awakened. The time at which they are awakened depends upon the length of the mission. It is the duty of the charge of quarters to see that all

