

August 14, 1986

Mr. Russel Strong,

With my memory as it is here goes.

We took off some time before dawn. We went south to the south coast and past the Brest Peninsula, down the Bay of Biscay. We were flying at low level to avoid radar.

We went to Gibraltar. On arriving, the wind was blowing quite strongly from the east. We approached from the west and made a dry run at the runway, as it was very short. There was a terrific down-draft. The plane dropped about 300 feet. The radio operator was taking pictures of "the Rock" from the radio hatch. He would have gone out the hatch, but some of us had to grab his legs.

We couldn't bank to the left, because of Spain, so we had to bank to the right and go around the rock again.

There was a major in charge of whatever we were hauling. He was looking out of the radio hatch. We hit the down-draft again. The major almost went out of the hatch. Some of us had to grab him by his legs to keep him from going out. We landed this time.

We were at Gibraltar a couple of days. Went into town to eat and shop. I remember the white bread tasted almost like cake. I think we all bought silk stockings.

We gunners had to take good care of our guns, as the salt air really started them to rust.

We left Gibraltar and on toward Algiers. We were to cross the coast near Oran. There was a British destroyer there and the recognition signals got mixed up and they started to shoot at us. The signals were straightened out and we proceeded on to Algiers.

The night we arrived in Algiers, the Germans bombed the port. We were told it was the first time in months. They bombed two nights in a row.

I recall bombs bursting and balloons on the ships in the harbor burning.

I think we left the next day and went to Marrakech, Morocco. We spent the night there and left for England the next morning. As we crossed the coast, we could see Casablanca.

I think we landed at Exeter and was supposed to stay the night. We decided not to stay, but go on Thurleigh.

It was an interesting trip and to this day, do not know what it was in the bags loaded in the bomb-bay.

I hope this will help you.

*Charles M. Davis*