

## **Donald Smith's Diary**

Found by Dave Smith who made this transcription and sent it to [www.airmen.dk](http://www.airmen.dk) on 15 FEB 2010.

1943

Fri 1. Slept in until 9:30. Nothing doing tonight. Wrote 5 letters

Sat 2 Flew for three hours. Went to see "Wife came C.O.D." at night

Sun .3 Went flying for an hour. Learned "Gee" in morning. Wrote letters at night

Mon. 4. Flew in afternoon up to 15:00 Went to see "Woman of the Year" with Marshall

Tues 5 Did some Link training. Went to see "Joan of Paris" at the Doric.

Wed. 6 Listened to lectures all day. Wrote letters at night.

Thurs. 7 Review all day. C/O asked if I wanted a commission. Saw "Captain of the Clouds"

Fri. 8 Nothing to do all day. Wrote letters at night

Sat. 9 Did a bit of Link training.

Sun 10 Stayed in . Nothing to do. Browned off.

Mon 11 Stayed in. Tired of pictures. Felt a bit sick after dinner

Tues.12 Went to show at night with Marshall to see "Dangerously They Live"

Wed. 13 Lectures all day. Wrote some letters at night. Also at Golden Lion.

Thurs. 14 Went on raid to Lorient, France. First of its kind. 5:45 hours. Very successful

Fri. 15 Slept in as per usual. Helped bomb up. Wrote letters at night

Sat. 16. Ops cancelled. Had tea downtown. Went to W.V.S. library, then wrote letters.

Sun 17 Supposed to go to Rostock. Cancelled. Got ready to move

Mon. 18 Moved to Oakington. Offered beds for the night.

Tues 19. Checked in and wrote letters at night.

Wed. 20. Did Link training for a while. Wrote letters.

Thur. Stayed in again. Did more Link training.

Fri 22 Got paid. 7.10. Sold Charlie's uniform. Played cards

Sat. 23 Ops to Lorient. Attacked by Ju 88. trip successful.

Sun. 24 Slept ion Reported at 10:30. Supposed to go on ops. Cancelled.

Mon 25 Went to Cambridge with Bob and Charlie. Saw "This Gun For Hire".

Tues. 26 Went on ops to Lorient. Shot up. Pretty hot. Didn't drop bombs.

Wed. 27 Saw Group Capt. About commission. Went to "Slipstream Show" Very good.

Thurs.28. Flew in morning. Wrote letters at night. Went to YMCA for 15 minutes

Fri. 29. Briefed for Lorient. Scrubbed. Stayed in wrote more letters.

Sat. 30 Went in Cambridge with Lees, Farley and Krulicki. Got drunk and went to dance at Rex.

Sun 30 windy and rainy. No flying. Slept most of the day

February

Mon 1 Stayed in and wrote letters. Did training in day time

Tues 2 Went into Newmarket. Mary was on duty. Visitors White

Wed 3 Turned back from ops on Hamburg/ Kite V/S. Wrote letter to Gladys.

Thurs 4 Ops to Turino. Engine cut at Alps. Had to return. Worst luck.

Fri 5 Slept till noon. Got paid. Dance in mess at night. Wrote letters.

Sat. 6 Went to Cambridge. Got partly drunk. Went to dance. Had a good time.

Sun7 Ops on Lorient, Very successful. One engine failed on return

Mon.8 went to show in camp with Marshall. Went to YMCA

Tues9 Briefed for Wlhemshaven. Scrubbed . Bed at 8:30

Wed, 10 Brifed again. Airborn, Scrubbed Jettisoned bombs in wash. Very cloudy.

Thur 11 Air test. Briefed for ops but AC V/S. Wrote letters at night

Fri 12 Went to Cambridge with Vance. Went to show so see  
"Bumps in my Heart"

Sat 13 Raided Lorient "P" for fifth time.

Sun. 14 raided Cologne. Very clouded and light. Landed at Waterbeach

Mon 15 Went on leave. Drove to London with Skip. Went to Kings Arms and Convent  
Gardens.

Tues. 16. Went with Marshall to Kings Arms. Quiet evening.

Wed. 17 Went to Birmingham. Met Gladys. Went to show. Slept at Arden Hotel.

Thurs. 18 Came back from Birmingham. Met Marshall and Bates. Went skating.

Fri 19. met Mc in Kings Arms. Went to St.Patrick's Dance Bates brings Lil back.

Sat 20. Went down to London. With <?> to dance. Got drunk. Went to Strand Palace

Sun 21 Went down to 402 to see boys. Met Mickey at 3:30. Went drinking. Back at 11:30

Mon 22 Went to see "Random Harvest" and "You Were Never Lovelier" with Jimmy.

Tues. 23. Reported at 9:30. Nothing doing. Wrote letters at night. Visited. YMCA

Wed 24 Nothing doing. Supposed to fly Ac V/S Did serving at night. Wrote letters. Went  
to Y

Thur 25 Flew in morning and afternoon. Saw CNSA show and NAAFT at night

Fri 26 Flew two hours in morning. Had interview with A.O.C at Watson. Went to show in  
evening.

Sat. 27 Flew for 4 hours in afternoon. Played snooker and listened to radiogram at night.

March

Sun 14 Briefed for ops. Cancelled. Saw Stirling burn up next to drome.

Mon 15 Briefed for ops. Cancelled. Went to town to see show with Bob.

Tues 16 Briefed for ops. Cancelled. Played baseball in afternoon. Wrote letters at night.

Wed. 17 Went to Black Bull with the boys. Met Lina. Went to airmen's dance.

Fri 19 Took Lina to Cambridge to see "This Above All" Had meal and came back.

Sat 20 Studied up for P.F.F. board Wrote letter home. Went to Black Bull for a few.

Sun 21 Flew in 'S' for an hour in afternoon. Went to Black Bull to meet Lina. Very nice time.

Mon. 22. Flew for an hour in afternoon. Supposed to meet Lina at 7:30. wrote a letter before going out.

Tues 23. Went to Cambridge with Jack. Saw "Green Eyed Woman" had tea at Enos Café

Wed. 24 Supposed to go on ops. Cancelled. Cancelled. Whole evening wasted

Thur 25. No flying. Went to ENSA show then to Black Bull with Jim and Charlie.

Fri 26 Went to Cambridge with Bob and Jack. Went dancing to Guildhall. Met Lina. Very nice time.

Sat. 27 Ops to Berlin SI engine V/S over North Sea. Returned after two hours.

Sun 28/ Didn't do anything. Went to Black Bull with Jim. Met Lina there. Fairly good time.

Mon 29. Air test in 'S' engine still V/S. Ops to Berlin. Quiet trip on whole. Bed by 7 o'clock.

Tues. 30. Went to Cambridge with Bob and Jack. Had tea at Eros Café

Wed 31 Nothin doing. Went to town with Bob. Went to Rex Dance hall.

April

Thur. 1 Nothing doing again

Fri 2 Sgts. Dance. Went to Black Bull with Jim. Met Lina. Very good dance.

Sat 3 Left for London. Got rooms at Strand Palace. Went skating.

Sun 4 Up late. Went to London zoo with Bob and Jim. Went drinking at night

Mon 5 Met Gladys at 3 pm. Left London at 11 am. Went to show. Took Gladys home. \

Tues 6 met Gladys at 10:45, Stood lunch . Went to two shows. Went to pub at night.  
Wed 7 Went to London on 11 o'clock train. Met Mary. Went to pub then Convent Gardens. With Bob, Jim etc.

Thurs 8 Went to Kenely to see boys. Arrive Cambridge 6o'Clock. Went to Bun Shop .

Fri 9 Reported back. Got a new kite. Supposed to go on ops tonight. Frankfurt. Quiet night.

Sat 10. Nothing dong. Slept until 3pm.

Sun 11 Nothing doing. Went down to Black Bull with jack and Charlie.

Mon 12 Went out with Lina. Went to Black Bull then for a walk.

Tues 13. Went into town with Bob. Met Fay and Valerie. Wnet to Bun Shop then dancing.

Wed. 14 Flew an air test. Supposed to go on ops tonight. Completed ops to Stuttgart.

Thurs.15 Nothing much doing. Went for a walk with the boys

Fri 16 Did an air test today. Supposed to go on ops tonight. Went to Mannheim

Sat 17 Slept nearly all day. Went to town. Tried to go canoeing. Too late. Came back early.

Sun 18 Me Lina. Went to Black Bull Tavern and walked to Willingham. Grand night for a walk.

Mon. 19 Supposed to go on ops. Cancelled.