Dear Dane

Trying to recall things that happened 35 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 highlights. One a training mission it was about 14 hr. long we were heading back to base and most of the crew were asleep or hunkered and hit an air pocket and dropped about 500 feet. I happened to be hunkered up and was ok but every one else came out of their seats. It was funny.

On one mission we flew with our A/C P-40's waiting so on the way up to target we iced up and used up too much gas so we were forced to fly into Japan. It was a short run way and we had to use our hydraulic brakes, but they depended on our F.P.D. to keep the hydraulic fluid. So we had to hit the run way with the brake back 2 blew out two of our tires. We made the landing ok but had to have tire plugs so we had
about five days question 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. I'm sure you know by now Jimmie's position was tail gunner so he was isolated from the crew from beginning to end of mission. Jimmie was a happy-go-lucky kind of a guy and got along with everyone. He was hard to wake up in the morning so we litterly had to drag him out of bed for breakfast.

Jane 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 Parker
Wishing you a merry Christmas