

DICKOF

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write until now. Am back at the old base."

Flight Worth Effort

Continuing his letter and telling about the raid, Lt. Dickof said, "Before you get this, the news of the bombing raid on Japan will be quite old but I think I can add a few points which will surprise you—or will they? It happened that I was in one of the first planes over the target (the second plane I believe) and it did prove to be more than mildly interesting. Came back without a scratch so please don't start to worry. It really was an interesting flight from start to finish, and although it was an awfully long flight, it proved to be worth the effort. I told you before that I was working with a mighty fine airplane and believe me this mission proved it. A top notch plane being flown by a mighty excellent pilot makes a good combination. I think the censor will pass the enclosed article which tells you a little bit about the raid."

Passing over his part in the raid on Yawata very modestly, Sgt. Dickof did not describe the really tough time experienced by the flight crews on that bombing mission. Roy Porter, a correspondent, who went on the raid in one of the first three planes, graphically described the action over Yawata, which practically wiped out the steel and iron works of that city. Writing in the Calcutta Statesman June 25, he said in part:

"The first plane flew into the target in almost complete blackness. By the time the second Superfortress was over the target searchlights on the ground and a-a fire started.

"No Half Measures"

"We took off from a base in West China, carrying large loads of bombs and gasoline. We arrived over the target at exactly 11-09½ p. m. It was at that moment our bombs plunged downward right on the Japanese marks. The two minutes preceding, however, were rugged. In the first place the alarm had already been given by the first two planes. The searchlight batteries were full on. Enemy a-a fire was blazing below. Even before we approached the target area, we had to weave and dodge our way in.

"We only stayed about 10 minutes over the outer defenses but it seemed 10 times that long."

minutes ago that the end was in sight.

Secretary of State R. A. Gray and Stafford Caldwell, the state's special Ringling estate attorney, are in New York now discussing a compromise of several major claims against the estate.

CRASH

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burned.

Express Agent C. L. Alley of Jellico said first rescues were made by nearby mountaineers who tediously hoisted the injured by block and tackle slings up the shrubbery-lined gorge. Waiting ambulances rushed the injured to hospitals in Lake City, LaFollette and Jellico, and Corbin and Williamsburg, Ky.

Plasma Given

Rescuers worked doggedly early today to free two soldiers trapped in one of the smashed coaches. Doctors gave blood plasma transfusions to one of them, pinned down in the gorge wreckage. Two others who had been trapped were extricated, one of them dead.

The fireman, identified at a Jellico hospital as J. W. Tummins, of Etowah, died in the institution several hours after he was hurried free of the wreckage.

Reporter Willard Yarbrough of the Knoxville Journal telephoned his paper that he counted seven dead when he climbed into the engine room and looked out. He said two more dead were lying in the stream, running two to four feet at the wreck scene.

Engineer Trapped

"One soldier pinned in the wreckage cried 'Get me out of here or let me die right here,'" Yarbrough said.

The engineer, identified by the railroad as John C. Rollins, of Etowah, Tenn., was "somewhere beneath his engine," Yarbrough said.

Pvt. Wallace Lewis of Canton, Ohio, a passenger on one of the cars hurled into the gorge, said, "I saw a big flash, and someone said, 'There's going to be a wreck.' There was. I crawled out of the car, fell into the shallow creek and then stumbled out."

Army Doctors to Scene

In this Cumberland Mountain section on the Kentucky-Tennessee line, the L. and N. tracks traverse numerous trestles over deep gorges and loop around hair-pin turns.

Ten Army doctors and 12 Army ambulances were rushed to the scene from Clinton. They carried ample supplies of blood plasma.