Glossary (page 1 of 2)

Abort—To abandon a mission for mechanical or other reasons
Attention—Military slang for the command “Attention”
Aussie—Abbreviation for our Australian allies
Bomber Bay—Area on a bomber where bombs are stored during a mission
Bomb Run—That portion of a combat mission where bombs are dropped
the most hazardous part of the mission
Bunk—Military term for bed
Buzz Bomb—German rocket, loaded with a bomb, directed toward England especially London in ’44 and ’45
Catwalk—Narrow (9” wide) walkway through the bomb bay
Chute—Part of parachute that was attached to the harness
Chow Line—Line up for food, somewhat like a “buffet” in civilian life
‘Chute—Shorter version of “parachute”

D Bar—Highly concentrated chocolate, included in Red Cross food parcels

E.T.A.—Estimated time of arrival

Ferry—German guard who would search your room
Flying Fortress—B-17 bomber
Foot Locker—Chest used to store clothes at the foot of our bunks
Forty & Eight—Type of German parachute. Name originated with the French in WWI with a 40” wide band

G.I.—Term originally meant government issue but came to include American soldiers and equipment
Goons—German prison camp guards
Gravel Agitator—Air Force slang for American ground personnel
Ground Crew—Air Force personnel who took good care of maintenance and repair of our airplanes (see special reference in Addendum Section)
Ground Founder—Another slang term for US military ground personnel
Hatch—Door entrance to or exit from airplane
Inter-Com—Abbreviation for (technical) interconnection between various positions on the plane
J.P.—Indicated Point; designated location from which bomb run begins
Jerry (or Gerry)—Abbreviated form for German military personnel
"What God Ordains is Always Good"

When you think of a tragedy or disaster, you wonder what good can come of it.

In my case, I couldn't imagine what, if anything good, could come out of being captured by the enemy and become a Prisoner-of-War.

It is true that many times during my incarceration, when my life, along with others was threatened, I was joined in prayer by other POWs—some who had not prayed in a long time, or perhaps this was their first time—and recognized that only God could save us.

But, no doubt, one of the obvious reasons why God put me in that position was a conversion, back to faith for one of our crew members. The navigator on our plane, Lt. Bob Hilliard (now living in the area of Washington) gives this account:

I was not a Christian when we flew in combat. I attended chapel services a few times but that was about it. I was not aware that anyone around me felt that Christ was important. I was uncertain about who He was and didn't think very much about religion in general. But something from my Mom's faith, or perhaps, from childhood, when I attended Sunday School, must have stayed with me.

"So, when I heard that our radio operator, Win Riemer was shot down, I got out my little New Testament that my Mother had given me when I went into service, and read it, especially the 23rd Psalm. I thank God for His patience with me and for sparing my life until I became a Christian."

Surely, this is a wonderful testimonial that, "What God Ordains is Always Good".
Glossary (page 1 of 2)

Abort—To abandon a missions for mechanical or other reasons
Atten-hut—Military slang for the command "Attention"
Aussie—Abbreviation for our Australian allies.
Bomb Bay—Area on a bomber where bombs are stored during a mission
Bomb Run—That portion of a combat mission where bombs are dropped, the most hazardous part of the mission
Bunk—Military term for bed
Buzz Bomb—German rocket, loaded with a bomb, directed toward England, especially London (in '44 and '45)
Cat-walk—Narrow (8" wide) walkway through the bomb bay
Chest-Pack—Part of parachute that was attached to the harness
Chow Line—Line up for food, somewhat like a "buffet" in civilian life
'Chute—Short version of "parachute"

D-Bar—Highly concentrated chocolate, included in Red Cross food parcels

E.T.A.--Estimated time of arrival

Ferret—German guard who would search your room
Flying Fortress—B-17 bomber
Foot Locker—Chest used to store our clothes at the foot of our bunks
Forty & Eight—Type of German boxcar. Name originated with the French in WWI with capacity of 40 men / 8 horses

G.I.—Term originally meant "Government Issue" but came to include American soldiers and equipment
Goon—German prison camp guard
Gravel Agitator—Air Force slang for American ground personnel
Ground Crew—Air Force personnel who took good care of maintenance and repair of our airplanes (see special reference in Addendum Section)
Ground Pounder—Another slang term for US military ground personnel
Hatch—Door entrance to or exit from airplane
Inter-Com—Abbreviation for (electrical) interconnection between various positions on the plane
I.P.—Indicated Point; designated location from which bomb run began
Jerry (or Gerry)—Abbreviated form for German military personnel
Glossary (page 2 of 2 pages)

KLIM--Brand of powdered milk included in Red Cross food parcels
Kilometer--.6214 miles

Latrine--Toilet
Leave--Time off (usually several days) with written permission to leave the base
Liberator--B-24 bomber
Little Friends--US or British fighter planes who accompanied us on a mission
Limy--Nick-name given to British military personnel by Americans

Mae West--Life preserver
Mess Hall--Area where meals were served to military personnel
Milk Run--Easy mission, with little or no enemy opposition
Mission--Combat flight, usually over enemy territory
M.P.--US Military Police
Mustang--US P-51 fighter plane

Ninety Day Wonder--Officers who were commissioned after 90 days' training
Nose--The very front part of a B-17, made of plexi-glass, which provided working area for the navigator and bombardier

Prop--Propeller

Rack--Slang term for bed or bunk

S-2--U.S. Military Intelligence
Spare--Extra plane available in case another plane was disabled
Spuds--Potatoes
Static Chaser--Radio Operator
Super Duper Pooper Scooper--Device used by the Germans to evacuate the toilets in the prison camp

W/X--Radio man's abbreviation for "weather"
Glossary

German

Appel--roll call
DuLag--(abbreviation for Durchgangslager)--transit camp for POWs
Flak--(Flieger Abwehr Kannon)--anti-aircraft
Fuehrer--leader; Adolph Hitler
FW--German fighter plane made by Focke-Wolfe
Hausfrau--house wife
"Hande Hoch"--"Hands Up", in surrender
Kartoffeln--potatoes
Kriegesgefangenen, also Kriege--POW
Lager--section of fenced-in area of prison camp
Luft Gangster--German derogatory name for American airmen
LuftWaffe--German Air Force
"Mach Schnell"--"Hurry Up"
ME--German fighter plane made by Messerschmitt
Oflag--prison camp for officers
Posten--guard
"Raus"--"Get Out"
Schwarte Brot--black bread
Schweinhund--German derogatory name for American airmen
Soldat--soldier
Stalag--prison camp for ground personnel (enlisted men)
Stalag Luft--prison camp for airmen
Suppe--soup
Vorlager--camp area that contained German administration buildings, camp hospital, warehouse and guards' barracks
KLM—Brand of powdered milk included in Red Cross food parcels
Kilometer—.6214 miles

Latrine—Toilet
Leave—Time off (usually several days) with written permission to leave the base
Liberator—B-24 bomber
Little Friends—US or British fighter planes who accompanied us on a mission
Lingy—Nick-name given to British military personnel by Americans

Mae West—Life preserver
Mess Hall—Area where meals were served to military personnel
Milk Run—Easy mission, with little opposition
Mission—Combat flight, usually over enemy territory
M.P.—US Military Police
Mustang—US P-51 fighter plane

Ninety Day Wonder—Officers who were promoted in a short time due to the rapid turnover in the area for the navigator and bombardier
Nope—The very front of a B-24 Bomber is also referred to as the nose of the plane

Prop—Propeller
Puck—Slang term for bed or bunk

R-1—U.S. Military Intelligence
Rats—Extra plane available for emergency
Sardine can—German prisoner of war
Spuds—Potatoes
Start-bus—Slang for being himself

Super Duper Pooper Scooper—Device used by the Germans to dispose of their camp waste

Volunteer—soldier who volunteers to fight for another country in a separate capacity

WX—Radio man’s abbreviation