

Name _____



WWII Journal

Study Guide

Read the Journal of Adolph Blum, *My Life in the Service*. Read all entries and complete the questions and activities for each entry date. (Some answers are given in days before the dated question.)

May 5, 1943

What does the last paragraph of the entry mean to you?

June 2, 1943

Explain why Iceland is called “the land of the midnight sun”.

Using context clues, what is “terra firma”? _____

June 10, 1943

Why would he think there was a raid?

June 28, 1943

What does he mean by "A red letter day!"?

July 15, 1943

Describe his mood and attitude so far. Does he feel like he is in danger? Has he been overall positive or negative?

July 18, 1943

For three days he writes "June" instead of "July". Why would he make this mistake?

How has his attitude changed in the past three days? What are the two main reasons for the change?

July 30, 1943

How are flights into Germany different from his earlier raids? Quote three phrases (from the past 5 days) that show he is more scared on these missions.

August 12, 1943

Is there evidence that the war is starting to change?

September 6, 1943

From the context clues, what do the words “farce” and “ambling” mean?

September 7, 1943

Why did he call his mission a “Milk Run”?

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May 5, 1943

What does the last paragraph of the entry mean to you?

They are going to fight the war end it and go home without seeking any glory.

June 2, 1943

Explain why Iceland is called “the land of the midnight sun”.

Because Iceland is so far north, during the summer when the Earth is tilted toward the sun it never goes down below the horizon.

Using context clues, what is “terra firma”? ground, dirt

June 10, 1943

Why would he think there was a raid?

He is in gunner school and heard anti-aircraft fire (Ack-Ack) for the first time.

June 28, 1943

What does he mean by “A red letter day!”?

Red letters would note something very important, such as their first raid.

July 15, 1943

Describe his mood and attitude so far. Does he feel like he is in danger? Has he been overall positive or negative?

He has a positive attitude and writes mostly about the things he sees and people he meet. He has only been on one mission that went fine so he doesn't realize the danger he is in.

July (June) 18, 1943

For three days he writes “June” instead of “July”. Why would he make this mistake?

He witness people dying for the first time and pulled bodies out of the plane wreckage. This could be so traumatic that he forgets what month it is.

How has his attitude changed in the past three days? What are the two main reasons for the change?

He is starting to see the realities of war with people dying. The missions are becoming more dangerous so he has a much more cautious attitude. His attitude changed with the crash of the bomber and with missions starting to actually go into Germany where the defenses are much tougher and they are more likely to get shot down.

July 30, 1943

How are flights into Germany different from his earlier raids? Quote three phrases (from the past 5 days) that show he is more scared on these missions.

They are going into areas of heavy fighter opposition and they are going too far into German territory where there is heavier flak.

July 25, "Saw two B-17s go down without a man saved-this unnerved me to such an extent that I actually started shivering." July 26, "It's bad to leave a spot open it leaves the formation more vulnerable." July 30, "If I even knew fear, I knew it then."

August 12, 1943

Is there evidence that the war is starting to change?

They did many hard missions in July, but few missions in August. One easy mission in August shows German defenses are weakening.

September 6, 1943

From the context clues, what do the words "farce" and "ambling" mean?

Poorly planned, foolish. (Definition: A farce is a broad satire or comedy, though now it's used to describe something that is supposed to be serious but has turned ridiculous.)

Ambling - Wandering without a purpose or direction.

September 7, 1943

Why did he call his mission a "Milk Run"?

The mission was uneventful, like delivering milk.

