**Kilpatrick Crew, 22nd June 1944**

JOSEPH M PERRY, Jr was born in San Leandro, CA on Sept 20, 1924. Inducted on April 6th, 1944. Took basic training Fresco, CA and went to armament school in Lowry Field, Denver, CO for nine weeks. Went to gunnery school in Laredo, TX for six weeks and became an A.P. armorer gunner.

Aircrew was made up in Salt Lake City, UT and overseas flying training was at David Monthan Field, Tucson, AZ. Went to Mountain Home, ID for more training and to make bomb group

On April of 1944, flew B-24 to England by way of Trinidad, Brazil and Africa, Arriving May 12, 1944

Group was in the battle of Normandy and north France. First mission was D-Day. On June 22. 1944 while bombing the Marshalling Yard, plane was hit by flak, sending the landing wheel through the hole in the wing and cutting all controls to the outboard motor. They dropped out of formation, throwing out all their ammunition and dropping their bombs on an airfield , on the way back to England, Fighters attacked them. Forcing bail-out, Pilot Lt. David Kilpatrick was hit, seriously wounded and died after bail out in the arms of a Frenchman. Roland Holwegner, the nose gunner was wounded as was the co-pilot, Lt. Allardt.

Once on the ground, the French took Perry to their farm. There, with Germans all around, he asked to be taken to a forest to hide. He slept there and started walking south. He came to a village early in the morning. Not knowing if they were friendly he went around the village until he came to a turn in the road and encountered a German on a motor cycle. He walked by him but decided he needed help. The second man he met was a Frenchman whom he asked for help.

Perry was taken to a school where the Gendarmes (police) helped him. They took Perry to Fouquet’s farm to wait. In a day or two they brought tail gunner Koch and ball gunner Woodruff to the farm. There was a British soldier, John Vallely who had been there for four years. He told them the best thing to do was to wait because all escape routes were closed due to the invasion.

They next took them to Huby’s house in town where he met up with the rest of his crew. The seven men were placed with different French people on different farms to wait for liberation. Perry was placed on the Le Grain farm and after many encounters with Germans while working there for two months, finally was liberated. Arrived back in England Sept 13, 1944 in time for his 20th birthday.