2/Lt David A Nickerson 824 Sq.

With the best of wishes.
Yours Sincerely,
Elizabeth E Sweatman

This News clipping was enclosed with the letter

15th AAF IN ITALY. "It seemed that more happened in those
ten minutes than in all the rest of my career," said 2/Lt David A.
Nickerson, 20,118 South Main street, Sharon, Mass.
The bombardier of a B-24 Liberator, he had just returned from
a successful bombing mission on the largest oil refineries in Odertal,
Germany, where he had been engaged in a violent air battle with
more than seventy enemy fighters.

Coming through the heavy cloud cover, they were attacked
from the rear as they approached the target. Wave after wave of fight-
ers pressed home the assault. Firing rockets and machine guns they
came in for the kill. In a few minutes ten bombers went down in flames.
Five fighters concentrated their attack on the plane. From ev-
ery direction they swarmed in. After ten minutes of these attacks the
aircraft was badly damaged; every turret and gun had been shot out,
as well as the electrical and hydraulic systems, and part of the oxygen
system.

Going into the target," continued Lt. Nickerson, "I had to go
back and crank the bomb-bay doors open. One door wouldn’t open so
I bombed through the other door. After bombs were away the naviga-
tor, nose gunner and I had to go to the flight deck for oxygen. Our
oxygen line had been shot away and our supply was exhausted."

"The pilot’s oxygen line had also been shot away, but he had
stretched the radio operator’s line into the cockpit and had been using it. He filled oxygen bottles while the co-pilot took over the con-
trols, until we got out of the enemy territory and went down to a lower
altitude."

"It all seemed like a bad dream. However, we got out of that
spot and finally landed safely, with only the memory of a tough mis-
sion."

He was recently awarded the Air Medal for “meritorious
achievement during aerial flights,” also wears the Distinguished
Unit Badge.

Lieutenant Nickerson was graduated from Sharon High School
in 1942, and was employed by the Bird Machine Co., So. Walpole,
Mass., until entering the service in April 1943. Later he was appointed
an aviation cadet. After completing the bombardier’s course, he re-
ceived his wings and commission at Childress Texas, May 20, 1944.
His mother Mrs. Elizabeth E. Sweatman, lives at 118 South
Main in Sharon, Mass.

The Letter

Dear Mrs. Jaffe:

I want you to know that I appreciate very much the clipping
that you sent me containing your brother’s story of that horrible
experience the boys went through last December.

I am enclosing a clipping which you may like to have. If only
this thing (the war) would be over soon!
If you can spare the time I would enjoy hearing from you.

2/Lt George Bouras (D) 824 N
1/Lt. Richard E. Brown 824 C/P
T/sgt George E. Davis 824 E
T/Sgt Robert L. Hughes (D) 824 R/O
2/Lt Robert W. Kime (D) 824 P
S/Sgt Adolf Marcus 824 N/G
2/Lt David A. Nickerson 824 B
S/Sgt John B. O’Neill (D) 824 T/G
S/Sgt Charles E. Ranck 824 B/G
S/Sgt Arnold Reiff 824 U/G