

## Gotha Mission – 24 Feb 44

By

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The following is from John "Robbie" Robinson, a waist gunner with the 703<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Squadron who went over with the first crews. He completed his missions in May, 1944 and returned to the US a couple of weeks before the Kassel Mission.

Gotha Feb 24, 1944

Wright's Crew ( My Crew): I flew as left waist gunner on this mission. Stimmel's crew also flew this mission. Stimmel's crew had flown beside us on most of the missions that had been flown. This mission our eleventh mission we flew in aircraft tail number 501, a beat up old aircraft from another squadron as our plane was being repaired from battle damage from the last mission. The loss that day was 13 aircraft from the 445th. We were almost one of them as we were reported down. Two ME 109's rode our tail to the clouds 1500 ft above the ground from 28,000 ft. We got in the clouds and pulled out. Had two engines burning.

We limped back across the channel at about 500 feet, cleared the cliffs and returned to base at Tibenham about two hours late after Stimmel's crew had landed. They thought we were down in flames. We were the last to return that day, only by Gods Grace.

Webmaster Note: The Stimmel crew he refers to was the aircraft that Hal Turell flew on (see another account of Gotha mission).