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He was assigned to the 344th Bomb Group, 495th Squadron, on October 15, 1943 as a Pilot. In August of 1944 he was transferred to the 494th Squadron.

"I trained at Lakeland, Florida for overseas and departed for England via Savannah, Georgia and the Southern Route. Was a copilot on Donald Deffke's crew, but flew my last 20 missions or so as first pilot with a number of different crews. Completed 65 missions on December 12, 1944 and returned to the states on December 26, 1944. I was discharged on June 9, 1945 at Ft. McPherson, Georgia.

Then spent 25 years as an Air Traffic Controller at FAA Rapcon-Tower in Mobile, Alabama. Suffered coronary in October of 1966 and was forced to retire on disability in 1968.

Note that the copy of Orders for overseas shipment has a few well known names on it. Flying with Lt. Deffke and myself were the Crew Chief S/Sgt Maurice Gerhardstein and Radio-Gunner Sgt. Francis J. Lawrenz."



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