

Contents

Preface	9
Foreword by Richard G. Yerick, Ohio, USA.....	12
Eight schoolboys	15
Backdrop	15
Our school.....	16
The sixth grade	18
My diary	21
My photos.....	22
Eight comrades	25
Basic training	25
Our battery in St. Valentin-Langenhart.....	34
Nibelungenwerk.....	47
Training in the battery	49
Living quarters.....	57
Rations	64
Things get serious	69
Allied reconnaissance 1943.....	69
15th US Air Force (15th USAAF)	72
Big Week.....	102
Routine in the position	111
Daily routine.....	111
Action stations.....	140
Military postal service	145
What the day may bring	147
Leave and off-duty hours	147
Movies	154
Sicknesses and other ailments.....	157
Parents' evening visit	163
Battery parties	164
Rough times	169
Allied reconnaissance in 1944.....	169
Days of major combat	177
Night attack.....	186
Attack of October 16, 1944	190

Memorable events	193
Live firing exercises at Rust am Neusiedlersee	193
Normandy Invasion	201
Assassination attempt on Hitler	202
The affair with the rifle	203
Promoted to Luftwaffe Assistant First Class	204
Official assignment.....	208
Turn of the year 1944/45.....	210
Climax	213
January 8, 1945.....	213
Attacks in February and March 1945	220
It's all over.....	225
Comrades who came and went	225
We take leave of the battery.....	236
Between demobilization and the end of the war	240
The postwar period.....	247
Appendix.....	251
Documentation.....	251
Other documentation and data.....	255
Bibliography and other useful reference sources	267
About the author.....	269