



**43rd Bomb Group (H) Time Capsule Submission**  
**Commemorating**  
**The 75th Anniversary of the 43rd's Activation at Langley Field, Virginia**



**Full Name and Rank of 43rd Bomb Group Member**

**Paul Roland Seymour**

**Serial Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1919

**Where Born (City and State)** Fall River, Massachusetts USA

**Dates Assigned to 43rd** January 1942- June 1945

**Assigned Squadron** 19<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Bomb groups of the Army Air Forces  
**Serving in the Pacific PNG**

**Duties While with the 43rd** Paul was an aerial photographer

**Name of Person Submitting Item & Relationship to 43rd BG Member (self, spouse, son, niece, etc.)**

Sylvia Bernadette Seymour daughter and memory  
of my twin sister who died Sharyn Michaelleen Seymour

**Description of Item(s) Donated to the Time Capsule**

**A copy of Paul's Journal that he kept while coming to Australia with troupes aboard the "Bliss" in 1942. This was typed by me as it was written I have the small notebook. I included some photos of Paul his Australian Warbride Alma, and his twins. Also included some photos of his mates here in Australia.**

Significance of Item(s), Personally and/or Professionally \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ***This journal was found by me after the sudden death of my twin sister Sharyn in July 2013. It brought me closer to Dad Mom and Sharyn. When I die I want Dad to be remembered. Having an American Dad and an Australian Mom has made me close to two nations. I grew up in USA and came to Australia in 1978. I will always be part of World War 2 as that is how my parents met and loved one another.*** \_\_\_\_\_

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- ***Please submit this form and your items to:  
Louise Terrell, 207 Huron Street, Houghton MI 49931, NLT 30 August 2015***
- ***Contact Louise through email at lterrell5@verizon.net or by phone at 703-999-3542 with any questions or to provide notification that your item(s) are being sent***
- ***If you want to keep originals of items, documents, etc, please make and forward only copies***

This is a journal my Dad Paul Roland Seymour wrote while he was on the Troop Ship BLISS



Paul Roland Seymour Aerial Photographer in the Pacific.

Captain Sandbate

C.O Troops Col. Webster

I.N.S. correspondent Pat Robinson

From San Francisco to Brisbane, Australia

Travel time 24 days

Date of Sailing Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1942

Date of Arrival Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1942

6 ships in convoy

2 destroyers

1 cruiser light

Saturday Jan 31, 1942

Left dock at one o'clock travelled around the bay for a few hours. Passed under the Golden Gate Bridge at approximately six P.M. Headed for the open sea. Feeling fine so far. Ship Completely blacked out so went to bed around seven P.M.

Sunday February 1, 1942

Rolled out of bed around seven thirty. Washed and had breakfast about eight thirty. Been running

Pretty heavy. Still feeling okay though. Had Mass on deck at 10:30. Took it easy the rest of the day. Getting ready for the blackout. Will have dinner at 6:30. Only two meals a day now.

Turned clock back one hour 135 degrees W

Monday February 2, 1942

Rolled out of bed at same time. Washed and had breakfast. Came back above decks and turned my Breakfast over to the fish. Took two turnovers to give it all to them. Feeling kind of low. Stomach Goes down when the ship goes up and vice versa. Going to try to eat slow tonight. Had life boat Drill at 1:00 P.M. Black out

Tuesday February 3, 1942

Went to breakfast but had to hurry out before I finished. No eruption though. Just that feeling. Same thing last night at dinner. Feeling better now though. Had another life boat drill at 1:P.M.. Had a little excitement today. Cruiser fired its guns just testing. We were all looking for Subs. Think my dinner will stay down okay tonight.

Blackout

Wednesday February 4, 1942

Feeling great now. Had a big dinner last night. Really enjoyed breakfast this morning. Weather is Getting warmer. Washing in Salt water isn't too much fun. Love to buy some hard water soap. Tested 80 cal and 30 cal machine guns on our ship today What a racket! Getting ready for black out Now Am I hungry.

Blackout

Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1942

Weather really is getting warmer. Only used one blanket last night. Didn't use that half the night. Last Typhus shot. Arm not too sore. All men were ordered below decks at 3:45 P. M.. All clear

At 4:00 P.M..

Cruiser planes out all day patrolling. Ran into several schools of flying fish. Entertainment tonight  
Band and All.

Blackout

Turned clock back another hour 150 W

Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1942

Boy is it getting hot! I wish we could go around in shorts here would be a help. Still taking life easy.

Work one hour out of the day. Don't work hard then. Did part of my wash Rugged with salt water.

Same as shower. Wrote a couple of letters. Don't know when I'll get to mail them. Time show.

Blackout

Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942

Crawled out of bed at 5:30 A.M.. Had early breakfast. 7:00 A.M Early dinner also 4:00 P.M..

Will continue on same schedule for one week. Had my hair cut of today. Look a sight. Feels great

Though. Hot as hell now. Somewhere south of Hawaii. Water getting low. Should stop at one of  
the islands soon.

Sure had a full meal tonight.

Blackout

Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1942

Went on duty for an hour today.

Came off and went to Mass at 10:30. Spent most of the

day studying aerial maps, map making and reading. Had a swell dinner. Chicken and all the fixings.

Rained last night after dinner so we stripped and took a shower. Felt good. First fresh water shower

Since we left.

Blackout

Monday February 9, 1942

Nice cool breeze all day. Very near the equator picked up two British destroyers. The dragged two Ships and then one Australia destroyer and one British destroyer and one Australian Cruiser and Four ships. Took it easy as usual. This would be a regular pleasure cruise if we only had three meals a day and no inspections.

Blackout

Tuesday February 10, 1942

Crossed the equator at midnight last night. Hot as hell! Read another book today. Studied a little More on my notes. Man transferred from destroyer to cruiser for surgical operation. One destroyer Left the convoy to sort some trouble returned just before dusk. Heard shooting in the distance while it was gone. News correspondent gave me dome fruit. Swell fellow.

Blackout

Wednesday February 11, 1942

Had plenty of rain today. Stripped and took another fresh water shower in the rain. Water being rationed now. Cooler now never thought I would swab decks in the Army. Going on watch on the Bridge tonight. Read another book today. Makes three so far. Hope to see land soon. We are Somewhere near Tahiti.

Blackout

Thursday February 12, 1942

Weather sure is hot. Breaking out with that dam heat rash again. Did a little history review today. American. Had a lecture on first aid. Still taking it easy as usual. This is a regular vacation. Washed my only pair of fatigues. Had plenty of chow today. First time I really felt that I couldn't put away any more. Travelling North now.

Blackout.

Friday February 13, 1942

One destroyer and the cruiser left us during the night. Only one destroyer left now.

Recopied a few of my photo notes. Had an informal talk by the international News War Correspondent. Decent chap. Rather interesting. Had another first aid lecture. Strange plane

Flew over ,no alarm given though. Cruiser returned at 5:00 PM.

Headed East now.

Blackout

Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 1942

Dick's getting married today. Wished I could have been there. Felt low because I wasn't. Picked

Up seven more ships. 2 heavy cruisers and one destroyers at noon. Convoy now has 16 vessels all told. 11 ships, 2 heavy cruisers 1 light cruiser and 2 destroyers. Hottest day yet. Wish we had gone to Alaska. Been day dreaming all afternoon. Must be the heat and lack of entertainment.

Blackout

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1942

Went to Mass at 10:30. The heat is really rugged. The poor chaplain was soaking wet with sweat.

Took it easy as usual. Water getting rather low. We only get two canteens full each day. Morning

Heat rash cleared up by G I soap. Suppose to have turkey for dinner. It was found to be rotten

Threw it all away. Has wieners instead.

Blackout

Monday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1942

Changed time back one hour at noon. Getting into enemy waters. Sub picked up on our star board

Beam. No action though. All ports are to be closed at all times now. Played casino this

Afternoon also Rummy 500. A fellow next to my bunk was singing "Ave Maria" last night. Made me feel a little homesick. It really was pretty beautiful. Hope he sings it again tonight.

Blackout

Tuesday February 17, 1942

Weather a little cooler. Not much though. So hot at chow last night that I just put all my food

Between bread and brought it up on the deck to eat. Coffee has been putrid for two days now.

Fourteen ships in convoy now. Two heavy cruisers left. Tried to write a letter today but lost  
My ambition. Feel tired all the time.

Blackout.

Wednesday February 18, 1942

Ash Wednesday Lost this day altogether. Crossed the International date line last evening.

Thursday, February 19, 1942

Weather getting cooler. Feel great. Attacked by subs twice. Probably sunk the first.

Depth bombs dropped oil appeared on surface of water. No action on the second. Dangerous

Waters from here on in. Changed clock back one hour. Won't be long now I hope. Getting

Steam up in winches. Rumors flying thick and fast.

Blackout.

Friday, February 20, 1942

Rather dull day today. No excitement. Raining and cool. Handed us certificates stating that

We crossed the international date line. Wrote five letters today, Ohio, Mass<sup>2</sup> Colorado, and

New York. Signed the payroll. Hope we get paid this month. Money getting low. Wish I

Had a nice big juicy steak. Wish I had some food. I'm starved.

Blackout

Saturday, February 21, 1942

Changed time back one more hour today. Should be getting nearer land. One ship left the

Convoy for New Zealand. Weather sure is getting nice and cool. Need a blanket at night now.

Several birds were flying around all day. Boy do I get hungry. It sure is a long time between meals.

I'll be glad when I can get three meals a day again.

Blackout

Sunday February 22, 1942

Went to Mass at 10:30. Convoy split today. We picked up an auxillary cruiser from Australia called the Westralia. The new ship and the two destroyers plus the original four ships of our convoy are all that's left. The rest went to Melbourne. Completed the formation of sixteen images today. Rather hard work doing it.

Blackout

Monday, February 23, 1942

Getting a little impatient now that the end of the trip is near. Had a review checking up on Our equipment. Weather getting warm again. Large flying boat flew over at 1:30 PM and about Every hour thereafter until dark. Sure was a welcome sight. Lots of swells today. Water much Rougher. No questions yet as to my folding pin hole boxes.

Blackout.

February 24, 1942

Attacked by sub today. Came very close to our ship. Destroyer sunk it after dropping several depth charges after it went down. No excitement. Getting shoes shined and clothing cleaned up ready to leave ship tomorrow. Still no sight of land yet though. Water calm today. Still sweating out my two pin hole boxes.

Blackout

Wednesday, February 25, 1942

Saw land in the distance as soon as I got up today. Sure looks good. Took on the pilot at 8:30 AM just outside of the bay. Proceeded up the bay at 9:00. Met a few coast guard boats coming

Out. Large Australian cruiser left us and gave us a big cheer. Guess they are glad we are here.  
Anchored off the river at the end of the bay at one o'clock. Proceeded up the river at 1:30 PM.  
And reached our dock at 3:00 PM. People cheered us all the way up the river. Went down  
The gang plank at 4:30 Went immediately to Doomben race track, where tents were already set up  
For us. People cheered us all the way. Brisbane sure is a swell town. Pretty and neat. This camp  
Is like a regular park. Had our first Australian chow. Okay. Talked to a few people at the gate  
Very pleasant and courteous. I am sure going to like it here now.

Blackout

#### SECOND TRIP ABOARD THE BLISS

From Brisbane Australia

To Melbourne Australia

Travel Time 5 days.

Date of sailing March 3, 1942 Tuesday March 3, 1942

Date of arrival March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1942.

Two ships in convoy One Australian and Auxilliary Cruiser

Tuesday, March 3, 1942

Boarded ship at four o'clock in the afternoon. Put down below decks for the trip.

Pretty rugged down there. Had dinner about seven thirty. Stood on deck and watched the moon

Come up on the river. Sure was pretty. Won't let us sleep on deck tonight. Still loading a few

Odds and ends.

No blackout

Wednesday, March 4, 1942

Woke up at six o'clock and found we were way out in the harbor. Pulled us away from the dock

At ten the night before. Dropped the pilot off about three PM. Really picked up speed then.

Water sure is rough as hell. The old boat is rocking all over. Gave us three meals today.

Sandwiches at noon. Not bad. Going to sleep on deck tonight.

Blackout.

Thursday March 6,1942

Sure was cold on the deck last night. Better than sleeping in the hold though. Water calm as a

Mill pond today. Beautiful full moon last night. Cleaned my pistol today.

This salt air raises cain with a gun if you don't oil it every day. Had a drill at ten this morning.

Think I'll find me a place to sleep.

Blackout

Friday March 6 1942

Sure was cold sleeping on the deck last night. Better than sleeping below.

The weather is really comfortable during the day. We had a patrol bomber with us off and on all day.

He had been zooming around the ships giving us a thrill now and then. The wind has been blowing

All day and the sea sure is rough. I really have my sea legs now though.

Blackout

Saturday March 7,1942

Sea nice and calm today. Don't do much but the time still passes quickly. Should be in port soon.

Passed a large convoy going the other way. Also several lone ships. We have been going in and out

Of large rock islands. Sure is a rocky coast. Weather really cool. Planes with us all day. Sure are

Welcome.

Blackout

Sunday March 8,1942

Woke up inside the harbor today. The town sure looked big. Picked up the pilot at three this

Morning. Docked at 10:00 AM. Disembarked at noon and immediately boarded a train for

Ballarat. The whole town was at the station to greet us. Brass band and all. They cheered us

As as we marched to our head quarters. They proceeded to split us up and put us in private homes,

Two or three fellows to a home. It sure feels swell. I am just dying to try out our soft bed.

This is the end of Dad's journal . He no doubt did not have much free time after he  
Left the Bliss Ship. His arrival in Ballarat and then on to Melbourne where he met my Mom.

I hope that you can use this. It has brought me close to my dad typing his memories as he sailed  
Here. Paul died June 29<sup>th</sup> 1997. Alma in April 24<sup>th</sup> 1984

Paul was from Fall River Massachusetts USA. He was a veteran of World War 2, serving in 19<sup>th</sup> and  
43<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Groups in the 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force in South Pacific from February 1942 to November 1945

He met Alma Dale Jones from Melbourne. They were Married in September 12, 1942. Twin  
daughters Sharyn and Sylvia were born in Melbourne January 6, 1945.

Alma and the twins travelled on the Lurline with 500 other Australia War Brides in June 1945 to  
San Francisco.

I thought you would like these World War 2 Veteran's memories of his Journey as a soldier.

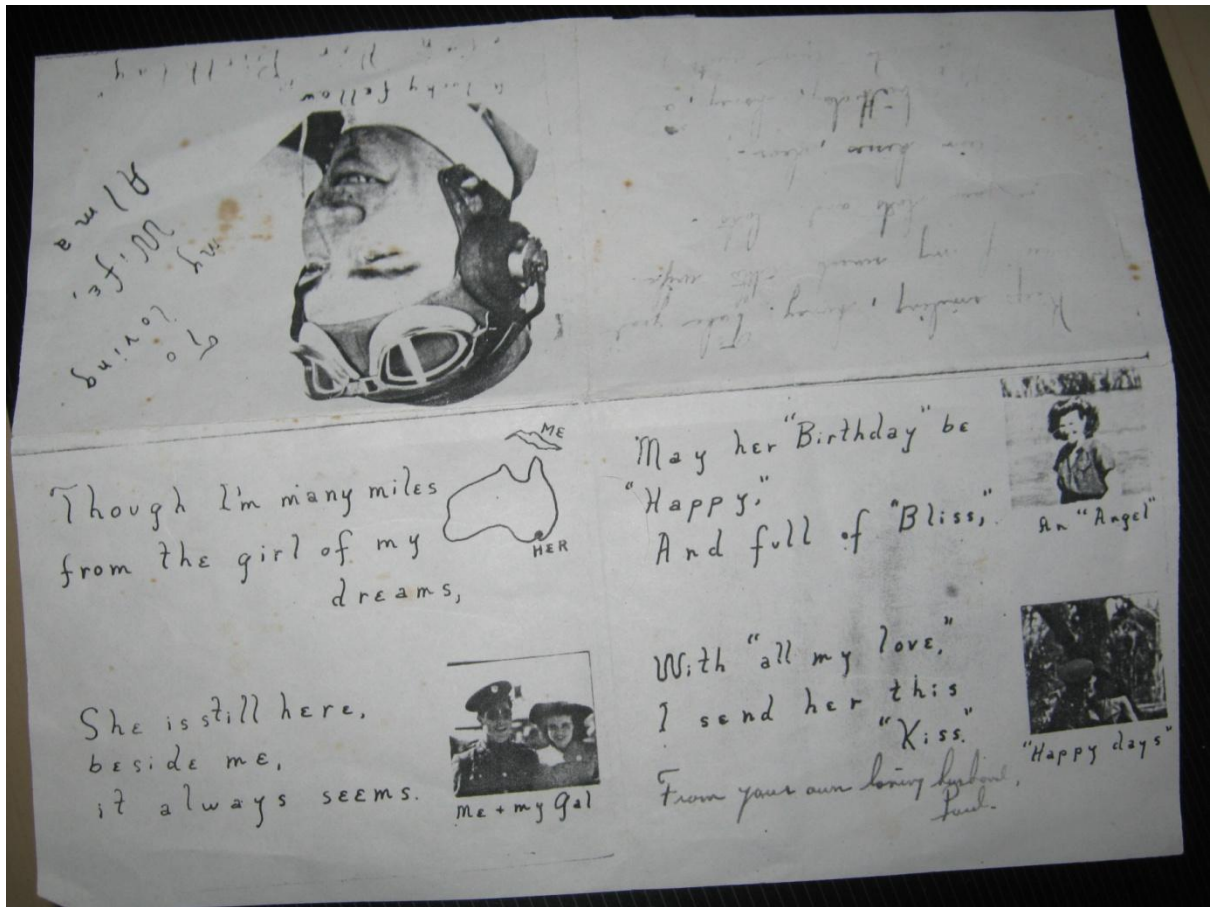
Sincerely Sylvia B. Seymour



Mom and Dad Brisbane.



Paul fellow Yanks issued new clothes in  
Mareeba Australia.



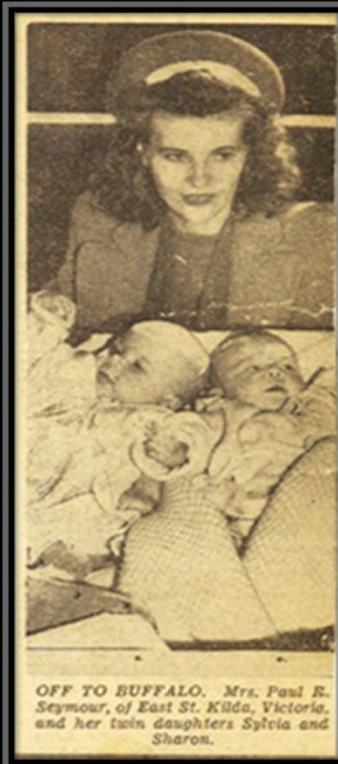
Letter to Mom!



Paul and some of the USA Troops in Denver before coming to Australia.



Paul relaxing before coming to Australia and the Pacific.



Mum aboard the Lurline 1945  
On her way to the USA and Dad..

Dad was also a Life Time Member of Stephen Sikora Post 1322 The American Legion  
950 Payne Avenue, North Tonawanda, New York USA.

He served as Post chaplain there for seven years.

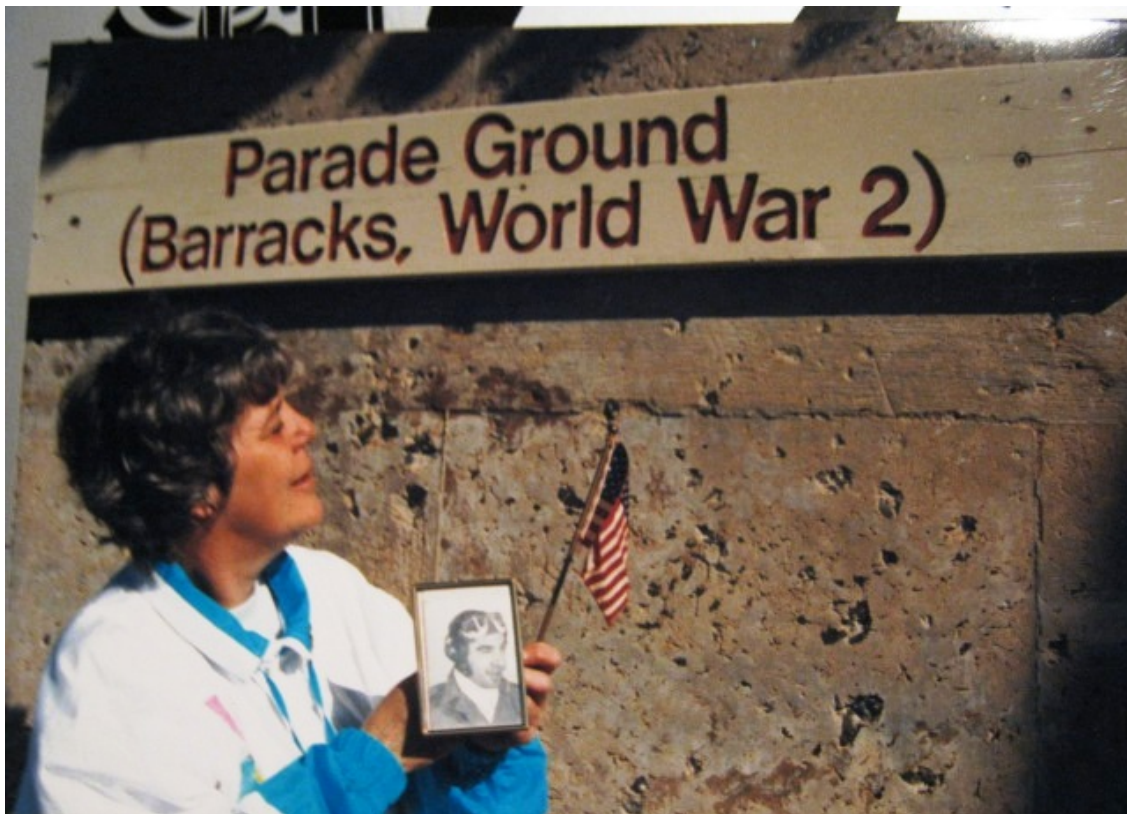


Denver before shipping out!



Dad with his Mom Albertine

These photos were taken when Dad came here in 1988 to our Bicentennial. These are taken at the National Shrine in Melbourne.



Portsea, Point Nepean where they had barracks - My sister with picture of Dad and American flag