



We dropped our bombs on the target. Then they shot the #1 engine out and Joe feathered* it. We increased power and stayed in formation the best we could but was having a hard time. Fighters were around but didn't attack us. I stayed with the formation for a few minutes and then we lost the #3 engine. Then we had to lose altitude although we were throwing out all the equipment. Then the #2 engine started running away and we didn't have any power in either of the other two engines. So I told the boys to get ready to bail out.

Everyone went to their places and I held the plane while they got out. Luckey put my parachute where I could get hold of it. They had to get out where they did because we were coming to some hills and the clouds were pretty bad so we got out where we did.

They got out and I was there alone - it sure was a lonely feeling. Gampel stopped and asked me if I wanted him to stay. I said no,. I guess he thought I was going down with the plane.

I called up on interphone to see if they all were out and they were so I put on my chute and started out. I had trouble getting between the seats, but I did. I put my jacket inside my chute harness and it is coming in handy. Anyhow I looked out and saw the Bombay doors and wondered if I would clear them; I did.

*Feathered - change angle of propeller blades to lessen wind resistance