

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910959765603321
Autore	Grilley Robert <1920->
Titolo	Return from Berlin : the eye of a navigator / / Robert Grilley
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Madison, Wis., : University of Wisconsin Press, c2003
ISBN	9781283906579 1283906570 9780299185039 0299185036
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (206 p.)
Disciplina	940.54/4973/092 B
Soggetti	World War, 1939-1945 World War, 1939-1945 - Aerial operations, American World War, 1939-1945 - Regimental histories - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di contenuto	The 401st Bomb Group (H) in England at war -- Paris in June: the first mission -- Hamburg -- Landscapes and Elizabeth -- Berlin -- Frevant -- Montbartier -- Leipzig I -- Munich I and II -- Leipzig II -- Marlene Dietrich -- Saint-Lo -- Merseburg -- Lead team -- Nienburg and Kettering -- Peenemunde -- Berlin II -- Good-bye, Elizabeth -- Ludwigshafen -- Ludwigshafen again -- Groesbeek -- Forgotten missions -- Munster -- Nurnberg -- After the last bomb run -- Back in the U.S.A.
Sommario/riassunto	During the summer of 1944, the now-legendary American Eighth Air Force was engaged in a ferocious air battle over Europe to bring the Allies victory over the German Third Reich. This is the story of one B-17 navigator and his crewmates, men who faced extraordinary danger with a maturity beyond their years. This vivid and detailed account of combat flying and its psychological toll also recalls the beginning of Robert Grilley's development as a painter of international renown, as he spends his off-duty time drawing the peaceful Northamptonshire landscape around Deenethorpe airbase. Wakened with flashlights on their faces in the predawn hours, he and his crew repeatedly face the

Luftwaffe in battles five miles high, flying through flak "so thick you could get out and walk on it." Stretching their stamina to the limits, they succeed time after time in their missions to bomb munitions works, railyards, the Leuna synthetic oil plant at Merseburg in eastern Germany, the V2 rocket research center at Peenemunde on the distant Baltic Coast, and even to strike Hitler's capital city, Berlin. But Grilley finds interludes of unexpected grace and restoration on his days off, making serious drawings from nature at the neighboring Yokehill Farm. There he slowly cultivates a friendship with a curious eight-year-old, the lively child Elizabeth, who becomes for the combat flyer a symbol of survival.

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