



## Summary Information

**Title:** Frank Devereaux World War II Collection  
**Collection Number:** 2005:050  
**Creator:** Frank Devereaux  
**Collection Dates:** 1944-1945  
**Extent:** 5 digital photographs, 1 digital flight log  
**Language:** English

## Collection Abstract:

Frank Devereaux served as a togglier on a B-25 Mitchell bomber in the 380<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron (M), 301<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (M) based in Italy. This collection contains digital copies of Devereaux's flight log and photographs documenting his missions over Brenner Pass, northern Italy, and southern Austria from December 1944 to March 1945.

## Repository:

The History Center  
102 N. Temple  
Diboll, TX 75941  
936-829-3543  
[www.thehistorycenteronline.com](http://www.thehistorycenteronline.com)

**Author/Processing Information:** Processed by Matt Gorzalski in March 2012.

## Biographical/Historical Note:

Frank Devereaux was born on October 13, 1922 in Alto, Texas. He attended schools in Diboll and eventually graduated from Lufkin High School. After enlisting in the service he was stationed at Seymour Johnson Field. Eventually becoming staff sergeant, Devereaux served as a togglier on a B-25 Mitchell bomber in the 380<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron (M), 301<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (M) based in Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart for an injury on February 24, 1945 when flack hit his plane over Germany, and his bomber crew subsequently dubbed him "Purple Heart Devereaux." He received the Soldier's Medal on May 3, 1945 for stemming the flow of gasoline into the bomb bay after flack hit his bomber over Germany, allowing the pilot to safely return the plane and its crew back to base in Italy. Devereaux notes that his first mission as bombardier was January 4, 1945.

His bomb group primarily targeted sites in northern Italy and southern Austria, keeping Brenner Pass, an important German supply route between Austria and Italy, closed. A typical payload consisted of four 1,000-pound bombs which were dropped often on railroad yards and bridges. Devereaux recorded his missions in a flight log as a personal record of his service. In a 2012 interview with Jonathan Gerland, Devereaux explained he flew sixty missions before being relieved of air combat duty, although his log only records thirty-seven missions because the Army instructed that soldiers cease recording combat missions for security reasons in case the log fell into enemy hands.

### **Collection Scope and Content:**

The Frank Devereaux World War II Collection consists of digital copies of a flight log and photographs documenting his service in World War II. This collection provides insight on the bombing missions in central Europe from December 27, 1944 to March 24, 1945. The flight log records Devereaux's bombing missions as toggler over northern Italy and southern Austria. Most missions targeted Brenner Pass and various railroads around the Italy-Austria border. The entries describe location and target, mission results, amount of flak, damage to aircraft, planes lost, bomb load, flight time, and observations specific to each mission. The log also lists Devereaux's military friends and has information on first aid procedures. A log transcription created by History Center staff is included. The photographs show Devereaux and his crew in front of a B-25 Mitchell bomber, or general B-25 photographs.

### **Arrangement:**

#### **Subject Terms**

##### **Topics**

- Mitchell (Bomber) -- Photographs
- World War, 1939-1945
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Veterans -- Texas
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations, American

##### **Corporate Names**

- United States. Army. Air Corps.

##### **Personal Names**

- Devereaux, Frank, 1922-

##### **Locations**

- Austria
- Brenner Pass (Austria and Italy)
- Brenner Pass (Austria and Italy) -- History, Military -- 20th century
- Italy

### **Access and Use**

**Access Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on this collection.

**Acquisition Information:** Accession 2005:050 was donated by Frank Devereaux on August 12, 2005; accession 2012:005 was donated by Frank Devereaux on February 3, 2012.

**Custodial History:** These materials were either created by or collected by Frank Devereaux. He loaned the photographs and flight log to The History Center in 2005 so that copies could be made and included in the 2005 World War II exhibit. The flight log was loaned again in 2012 and digitally scanned. All original materials were returned to the donor.

**Citation:** Frank Devereaux World War II Collection, 1944-1945, 2005:050, The History Center, Diboll, TX

**Alternative Formats:**

Reference prints of the flight log and photograph are available. See Collections Scans for the digital copies.

**Related Material:**

For another flight log and additional World War II materials see: Gayle Cruthirds Collection, 1930-1991, 2005:070, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Frank Devereaux's oral history interview 247a.

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**Collection Inventory**

**Box 1**

- Folder 1 Flight Log (Reference Copy) and Transcription, 1944-1945
- Folder 2 Photographs (Reference Copies), 1944-1945