

303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 6

12 December 1942

Target: Railroad Marshalling yards, Rouen / Sotteville, France

Crews Dispatched: 21

Crews Lost: Frost (2 KIA, 5 POW, 3 EVD) Flickenger (4 POW, 6 EVD)

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 51 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lbs H.E. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 22,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 10,539 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 2 Destroyed, 2 Probables, 1 Damaged

Twenty B-17s took off for this mission. Two aborted almost immediately. Six others aborted later and returned early--four turret failures, one gun failure, one oxygen trouble, one engine failure, and one gas leaking. The primary target was Romilly-sur-Seine. It was clouded over and Rouen was bombed on the way home.

Crews reported only slight anti-aircraft fire, but were attacked by approximately 40 FW-190s and ME-109s that inflicted quite a few cannon holes. Two Group B-17s were shot down about 25 miles east of Paris. One ship piloted by Capt. **Frost** went into a flat spin, not burning, about 48 minutes from the French coast on the way in. Nine parachutes were seen to open and an FW-190 stayed with the ship going down. The other aircraft, piloted by Lt. P.F. **Flickenger**, dived out of formation five minutes later and headed back, tailed by five FW-190s. His B-17 started to go down and was last observed going into a cloud formation. Three aircraft could not locate the target and returned to Molesworth with their bombs. Seven aircraft bombed the target.

After the fighters left *Wulfe Hound*, Lt. **Flickenger** continued westerly a short distance, descending to approximately 500 feet. He announced over the interphone that he had to set the B-17 down because it was no longer airworthy and, at that altitude, if the engines quit, "we were dead." Eight of the crew gathered in the radio room in crash positions. Lt. **Flickenger** and Lt. **Williams**, the co-pilot, did a superb job of clearing some electrical high tension wires. They made a perfect wheels-up landing, with the ball turret pointing downward, in a hayfield in the midst of about 10 or 11 startled French men and women. The crew smashed the radio and IFF equipment, exited the plane, did as much damage to the aircraft as possible, and retired to a nearby copse of woods.

Lt. **Flickenger** and Lt. B.R. **Polk**, the bombardier, were later captured and placed in Luft II at Sagen. Sgt. G.N. **Dillard**, the ball turret gunner, and S/Sgt. K.J. **Kurtenbach**, the tail gunner, were captured by the Gestapo at the Dijon, France, railroad station on Christmas Day, 1942. They were vigorously interrogated in a civilian prison, were transferred to POW status, and spent two and a half years in various stalags. S/Sgt. **Kurtenbach** became the "Man of Confidence," or enlisted man camp leader, at Stalag 7-A at Moosburg, Bavaria, and 17-B at Krems, Austria. He performed invaluable counseling to newly arriving POWs, as well as helping plan escapes from German confinement. After liberation he was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal.

In subsequent action, six members of the **Flickenger** crew (Lts. **Williams** and **Schowalter** and Sgts. **Whitman**, **Fegette**, **Hartung** and **Therrien**) and three members of the **Frost** crew (Lt. **Mays** and Sgts. **Hildebrand** and **Toney**) managed to evade capture by way of Spain and returned to Allied hands. Lt. **Williams** and Lt. **Schowalter** returned to Molesworth 31 Jan 1943. T/Sgt. **Hartung** and Sgt. **Therrien** returned to Molesworth 10 Mar 1943. T/Sgt. **Whitman** and S/Sgt. **Fegette** returned to England 1 Jun 1943. After spending a restless year in the United States T/Sgt **Fegette** came back to Molesworth and was dispatched on 26 additional combat missions, between 10 July 1944 and 14 April 1945, with his old 360th BS as a Radio Operator with various crews.

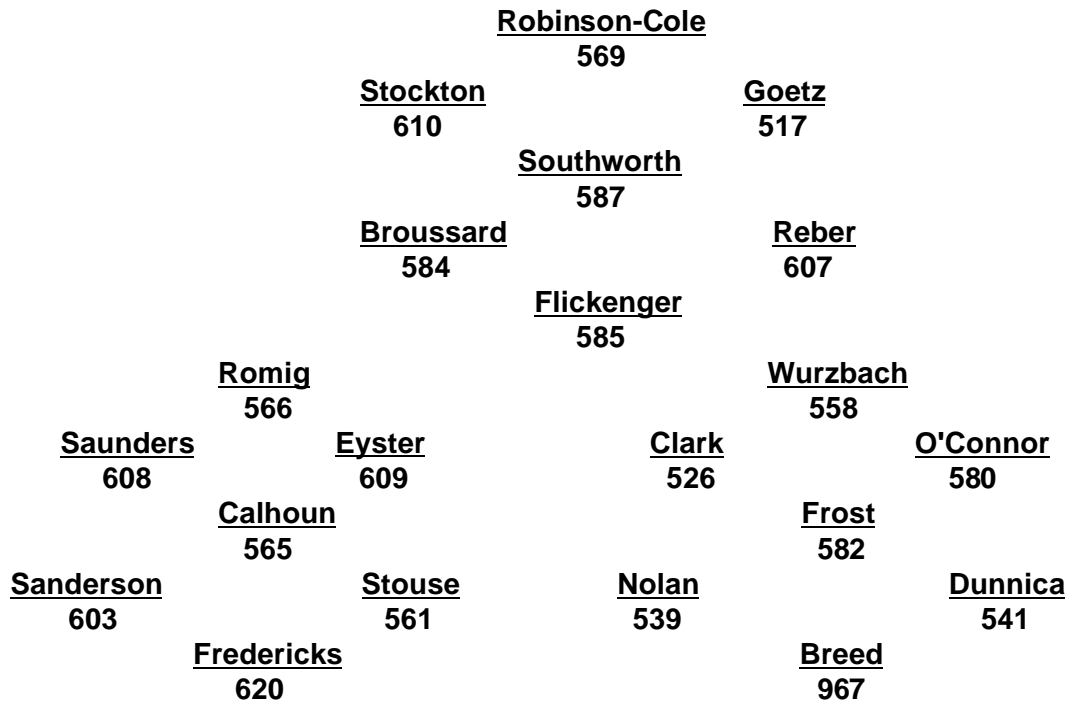
The ten members of the **Flickenger** crew exhibited great courage and capability in the manner in which they landed their B-17, conducted themselves as POWs, and evaded capture. Extraordinary heroes, all!

The Germans later were able to transport *Wulfe Hound* to an airfield, make repairs, and put it into flyable condition. It became part of the Luftwaffe "Kampfgeschwader" KG200 Squadron. *Wulfe Hound* and other American, British, and Soviet bombers and fighters of this "Spook Squadron" took part in highly secret, mysterious, and questionable operations.



B-17F #41-24585 Wulfe Hound 360th BS (PU-B)
Original 303rd BG(H) B-17F-27-B0
First 8th AF B-17 captured and flown by Germans

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



One (1) aircraft failed to take off:
Capt. Breed (360th) in 967

Eight (8) aircraft aborted this mission:
Lt. Dunnica in 541 Capt. Calhoun in 565
Lt. Clark in 526 Lt. Saunders in 608
Lt. Eyster in 609 Capt. Fredericks in 620
Capt. Goetz in 517 Lt. Broussard in 584

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| CREW POSITIONS CMP - Command Pilot P - Pilot CP - Co-Pilot NAV - Navigator ANV - Ass't. Navigator MNV - Mickey Navigator ENG - Engineer BOM - Bombardier RO - Radio Operator | TOG - Toggler BT - Ball Turret Operator TT - Top Turret Operator TG - Tail Gunner NG - Nose Gunner RG - Radio Gunner WG - Waist Gunner LWG - Left Waist Gunner RWG - Right Waist Gunner GUN - Gunner | VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer RESULTS OF MISSION KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war | DOW - Died of wounds EVD - Evaded the enemy INT - Interned in neu cuntry REP - Repatriated RES - Rescued ESC - Escaped BO - Bailed out DCH - Ditched CR-L - Crashed on land CR-S - Crashed at sea |
|--|---|---|--|

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24558 *Hunga Dunga*

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| P | Wurzbach, Clemens K., Maj |
| CP | Haas, Joseph E., 1Lt |
| NAV | Anderson, William J., 2Lt |
| BOM | Steele, Earl A., 2Lt |
| ENG | Koenig, Bernard H., T/Sgt |
| BT | Brody, Harry J., S/Sgt |
| RO | Gergash, Bernard A., Pvt |
| TG | Batterson, Frank L., Sgt |
| RWG | Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt |
| LWG | Isham, Lawrence W., Sgt |

B-17F #41-24580 *Hell Cat*

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| P | O'Connor, Oran T., 1Lt |
| CP | Ruppe, Eldon T., 2Lt |
| NAV | Gordon, Bruce W., 2Lt |
| BOM | DuMont, Earle J., Jr., 2Lt |
| ENG | Mullendore, Merle S., T/Sgt |
| BT | Brunnet, Arthur, Sgt |
| RO | Hughes, Norman, Sgt |
| LWG | Hill, John E., Sgt |
| TG | Bitter, Emile V., Jr., Sgt |
| RWG | Robuck, Lester M., Sgt |

B-17F #41-24526 *Leapin' Liz*

| | |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P | Clark, James B., Lt |
| CP | Bouton, Paul, Jr., Lt |
| NAV | Hoffman, Charles E., Lt |
| BOM | Lusk, Don W., Lt |
| ENG | Reino, Thomas J., T/Sgt |
| RO | Wilder, LeRoy W., S/Sgt |
| RWG | Hall, George F., S/Sgt |
| TG | Rukes, Merlyn D., S/Sgt |
| BT | Kennedy, John W., Jr., Sgt |
| LWG | Land, Jonathan S., Sgt |
| | (Abortive) |

B-17F #41-24541 *Spook*

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| P | Dunnica, Lawrence G., 1Lt |
| CP | Pacey, Orson E., 2Lt |
| NAV | Thornton, Leonard E., 2Lt |
| BOM | Montgomery, James H., Jr., 2Lt |
| ENG | Tucker, Harry W., T/Sgt |
| RWG | Dew, Robert L., Sgt |
| RO | Holland, Bertis W., Sgt |
| BT | Cascio, Philip T., Sgt |
| TG | Taylor, Claude P., Sgt |
| LWG | Harker, Wayne E., Sgt |
| | (Abortive) |

B-17F #41-24539 *Jersey Bounce*

| | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| P | Nolan, Robert J., 1Lt |
| CP | Kruse, Richard L., 2Lt |
| NAV | McColl, Daniel A., 1Lt |
| BOM | Hopper, Richard R., 2Lt |
| ENG | Hively, Roy J., T/Sgt |
| BT | Kinney, Jesse R., Sgt |
| RO | Hamill, Milton, Sgt |
| LWG | Maxwell, Samuel P., Sgt |
| TG | DeMuth, Edward L., Sgt |
| RWG | Goff, James P., Sgt |

B-17F #41-24582 *One O'Clock Jump -CR-L*

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---------|
| P | Frost, William W., Capt | POW |
| CP | Mays, Robert L., 2Lt | EVD |
| NAV | Phillips, Joe P., 1Lt | POW |
| BOM | Brownlee, Leon W., 1Lt | POW |
| ENG | Hildebrand, Kenneth G., T/Sgt | EVD |
| RO | Powers, Joseph E., Sgt | EVD/POW |
| BT | Shaw, Floyd J., Sgt | KIA |
| LWG | Devine, William S., Sgt | POW |
| TG | Toney, James R., Jr., Sgt | EVD |
| RWG | Davis, Billie K., Sgt | KIA |

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24609 *Holy Mackerel*

P Eyster, Ercil F., 1Lt
 CP Hayward, Fred H., 2Lt
 NAV Gilliam, Jackson P., 2Lt
 BOM Cargill, William D., 2Lt
 ENG Dunham, Harold J., T/Sgt
 RO Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt
 TT Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt
 BT Davis, Marcus K., S/Sgt
 TG Bauer, Floyd E., S/Sgt
 WG Marcelonis, Joseph G., T/Sgt
 (Abortive)

B-17F #41-24608 *Yehudi*

P Saunders, Frank A., 1Lt
 CP Kirk, Leonard W., 2Lt
 NAV Forester, Oscar F., Jr., 2Lt
 BOM Kossis, Norman, 2Lt
 ENG Cozza, Victor J., T/Sgt
 LWG Wagner, Lloyd E., S/Sgt
 RO Clevenger, Walter M., T/Sgt
 BT Hoklin, Leif H., S/Sgt
 TG Chitwood, Russell O., S/Sgt
 RWG High, Howard A., Sgt
 (Abortive)

B-17F #41-24566 *Zombie*

P Romig, Eugene A., Maj
 CP Kalhoefer, Herbert E., 1Lt
 NAV Brightbill, Donald H., 2Lt
 BOM Dyar, Wilmer E., 2Lt
 ENG Woods, Lyle C., T/Sgt
 LWG Renner, Warner E., S/Sgt
 RO Bachom, Thomas F., T/Sgt
 RWG Kinsey, Harold A., S/Sgt
 TG Thomas, Lawrence W., S/Sgt
 BT Millett, Bernard W., Cpl
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24561 *The Duchess*

P Stouse, Harold L., 1Lt
 CP O'Connor, Squire T., 2Lt
 NAV Elliott, Jesse H., 2Lt
 BOM Mathis, Jack W., 2Lt
 ENG Audiss, Eldon W., T/Sgt
 RO Richardson, Donald R., T/Sgt
 LWG Tupper, Theron S., S/Sgt
 BT Garriott, John A., S/Sgt
 TG Owen, Calvin H., S/Sgt
 RWG Brown, Houston B., Jr., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24565 *Idaho Potato Peeler*

P Calhoun, William R., Jr., Capt
 CP Dooley, James, Lt
 NAV Strickland, Joseph M., Lt
 BOM Dominick, George B., Lt
 ENG Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt
 BT Mulgrew, William C., S/Sgt
 RO Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt
 RWG Fortunak, Richard C., S/Sgt
 LWG Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt
 TG Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt
 (Abortive)

B-17F #41-24603 *Green Hornet*

P Sanderson, Ellis J., 1Lt
 CP Bowman, Horace D., Jr. 2Lt
 NAV Spence, John W., 2Lt
 BOM Ward, Grady B., 2Lt
 ENG Devers, Sidney, T/Sgt
 RO Jones, Miles B., T/Sgt
 BT Greene, Frank W., S/Sgt
 RWG Swanson, Harry F., S/Sgt
 TG Markiewicz, Joseph L., S/Sgt
 LWG Silva, Carlos J., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24620 *Snap! Crackle! Pop!*

P Fredericks, Jacob W., Capt
 CP Shayler, Walter K., 1Lt
 NAV Hoyt, Otis A., 2Lt
 BOM Fonorow, Milton S., Lt
 ENG Hlastala, Michael S., T/Sgt
 RWG Schneiderman, Henry G., Sgt
 RO Smith, Richard J., S/Sgt
 BT Nardine, Howard H., S/Sgt
 TG Murray, Gilbert A., Jr. S/Sgt
 LWG Collins, Harvie L., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24585 *Wulfe Hound CR-L*

P Flickenger, Paul F., 1Lt POW
 CP Williams, Jack E., 2Lt EVD
 NAV Schowalter, Gilbert T., 1Lt EVD
 BOM Polk, Beverly R., 2Lt POW
 ENG Whitman, William A., T/Sgt EVD
 RWG Therrien, Norman P., Sgt EVD
 RO Fegette, Iva Lee, S/Sgt EVD
 BT Dillard, George N., Sgt POW
 TG Kurtenbach, Kenneth J., S/Sgt POW
 LWG Hartung, Frederick A., T/Sgt EVD



FLICKENGER CREW - 360th BS

B-17F Wulfe Hound #41-24585 (PU-B)

(original crew assigned 360BS: 23 June 1942 - photo: 14 Oct 1942)

(Back L-R) 1Lt Paul F. Flickenger (P), 2Lt Jack E. Williams (CP),
 2Lt Gilbert T. Showalter (N), 2Lt Beverly R. Polk (B) - (Front - not identified)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24569 *Memphis Tot*

P Robinson, George L., LtCol
CP Cole, Lloyd D., Capt
NAV Driggs, Robert P., 2Lt
BOM Dieffenbach, Albert W., Lt
ANV Anderson, Samuel H., Lt
ENG Purinton, Bliss D., S/Sgt
RO Brandfas, Dale F., S/Sgt
TG Callery, Phillip J., Sgt
BT Witte, Arch, Jr., S/Sgt
GUN Coomes, Clarence S., S/Sgt
GUN Van Etten, James R., Sgt

B-17F #41-24607 *Jerry Jinx*

P Reber, Ehle, H., 1Lt
CP Mitchell, Allan D., 2Lt
NAV Byrom, Jarold J., 2Lt
BOM Swindle, Robert J., 2Lt
ENG Hamilton, Duke L., Jr., S/Sgt
TG Blankenship, Irwin D., Sgt
RO Mayo, Donald A., S/Sgt
WG Jurosek, Bernard, Sgt
RG Hand, Victor G., Sgt
BT Gross, Luther N., Sgt

B-17F #41-24610 *Joe Btfsplk*

P Stockton, Donald E., 1Lt
CP Lipe, Fort W., 1Lt
NAV Grant, Lawrence H., 2Lt
BOM Shirley, Lloyd A., 2Lt
ENG Smith, Roy Q., S/Sgt
RO Amos, Lee H., S/Sgt
TG Meyer, Marine H., Sgt
WG Bryant, Carson, S/Sgt
GUN Packer, Dean M., Sgt
BT Jenkins, Robert R., Sgt

B-17F #41-24517 *Kali*

P Goetz, William H., 1Lt
CP McDermott, Mark L., 2Lt
NAV Madrid, Robert L., 2Lt
BOM Smith, Robert W., 2Lt
ENG Shelly, James F., T/Sgt
RO Walters, Joseph H., S/Sgt
TG Storer, Charles R., Sgt
RG Levering, Edward T., Sgt
BT Runge, Walter E., Sgt
WG Milford, Roger W., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24587 *Bad Check*

P Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
CP Dillinger, John L., 2Lt
NAV Grice, Charles R., Lt
BOM Bryant, Edward N., Lt
ENG Means, Lucian W., Jr., T/Sgt
RO Doughty, Edward J., S/Sgt
TG Brandt, Waldo B., Sgt
GUN Rutt, Donald H., Sgt
WG Cooney, Robert M., Sgt
BT Hairr, Elwood F., Sgt

B-17F #41-24584 *Susfu*

P Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Lt
CP LeFevre, William G., Lt
NAV Herman, Charles L., Lt
BOM Sherwood, Lyle D., Lt
ENG Smock, Edmund L., T/Sgt
RO Karanson, William A., Jr., S/Sgt
TG Choice, Hudson, Sgt
RG Morrison, Thomas H., Sgt
WG Bridges, Alvin A., Sgt
BT Hummel, Wilbur F., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)