

303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 10

13 January 1943

Target: Lille Fives Company Locomotive Works

Crews Dispatched: 19

Lost: One crewman, S/Sgt P.D. Ferguson

Length of Mission: 3 hours, 6 minutes

Bomb Load: 5 x 1000 lbs M44 H.E. Demolition bombs

Bombing Altitude: 23,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 11,667 rounds

An early morning briefing was conducted by Maj. **Green**. Gen. **Hansell** was in the lead 305th BG(H) Fortress with Col. Curtis **LeMay**. For the first time, Groups flew the new staggered "Combat Box" in their eighteen aircraft formations. Wings flew in columns of Groups.

The 303rd BG(H) dispatched nineteen B-17s, led by Lt. Col. **Marion**. One B-17 aborted, #41-24562, *Sky Wolf*, 358BS-A (Lt. **Morales**), when the right waist gun and left nose gun couldn't be fired. Eighteen ships attacked the target from 23,000 feet with 45 tons of 1000-lb. M-44 H.E. bombs. Slight to moderate flak was encountered. The Group observed 15-20 FW-190 German fighters, but were only attacked by two. One was destroyed and the other damaged. All aircraft returned home safely, although some had numerous flak holes.

One crewman, S/Sgt Paul D. **Ferguson**, in 427BS B-17 #41-24610 *Joe Btfspk II*, failed to respond to the crew interphone "oxygen check." Another crewman found him dead from oxygen failure. Two men from another crew suffered frostbite.



'8' Ball MK II Nose Art

Several crew members complained about the new "Combat Box" formation. The Fortresses were flying much closer than usual. Prop wash was experienced during much of the mission, making flying difficult. Maj. **Romig** blamed it on the Groups being too close together. 1Lt. Jack **Roller** called it "damned unhealthy." However, the Group soon learned how to utilize this new innovative formation.

Maj. **Romig**, flying in #41-24625, *The '8' Ball MKII*, had as his co-pilot, 1Lt. Sanford T. **Smith**. Lt. Smith was the Group's first replacement First Pilot to fly a combat mission. *The '8' Ball MKII* was the first replacement B-17 to fly on a combat mission.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



One (1) aircraft aborted this mission:
 Lt. Morales in 562

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<u>CREW POSITIONS</u> 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 <u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> 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
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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24577 *Hell's Angels*

P Baldwin, Irl E., Capt
CP Oxrider, George J., 1Lt
NAV Grant, Donald L., 2Lt
BOM Schieble, Robert C., 1Lt
ENG Ziemer, Frederick B., T/Sgt
BT Brody, Harry J., S/Sgt
RO Dasher, Everett A., T/Sgt
RWG Maxwell, Samuel P., Sgt
TG Sadler, James K., S/Sgt
LWG Heaps, Theodore G., Sgt

B-17F #41-24541 *Spook*

P Dunnica, Lawrence G., 1Lt
CP Pacey, Orson E., 2Lt
NAV Thornton, Leonard E., 1Lt
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., S/Sgt
LWG Harker, Wayne E., Sgt

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

P Haas, Joseph E., 1Lt
CP Hungerford, Merle R., Jr., 1Lt
NAV Anderson, William J., 2Lt
BOM Steele, Earl A., 2Lt
ENG Koenig, Bernard H., T/Sgt
BT Smith, Robert H., Sgt
RO Gergash, Bernard A., Pvt
TG Batterson, Frank L., Sgt
RWG Isham, Lawrence W., Sgt
LWG Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt

B-17F #41-24562 *Sky Wolf*

P Morales, Carl H., 1Lt
CP Swaffer, Calvin A., 2Lt
NAV Herman, Charles L., 2Lt
BOM Zasadil, Frank E., 2Lt
ENG Hinds, Francis G., T/Sgt
BT Carroll, Albert V., Sgt
RO Hamill, Milton, S/Sgt
RWG Lucas, Jack, Sgt
TG Blake, Robert C., Sgt
LWG Westfall, Max M., Sgt
(Abortive)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24635 *The '8' Ball MK II*

P Romig, Eugene A., Maj
 CP Smith, Sanford T., 1Lt
 NAV Strickland, Joseph M., 2Lt
 BOM Yonkman, Robert J., 1Lt
 ENG Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt
 RWG Howard, Earl R., Sgt
 RO York, Robert F., Sgt
 BT Gerow, Warren H., T/Sgt
 TG Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt
 LWG Murphy, Murel A., Sgt

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

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

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

P Bales, Ross C., 1Lt
 CP Dooley, Walter E., 2Lt
 NAV Browning, Richard C., 2Lt
 BOM Thomas, Paul M., 2Lt
 ENG Winter, Raymond K., Jr., S/Sgt
 TT Perkins, Homer T., S/Sgt
 RO Kilgore, Raymond H., T/Sgt
 BT Zsamper, Joseph G., Sgt
 TG Snell, Jack D., S/Sgt
 RG Van Ravenstein, Edward A., Sgt
 (Winter was also RWG & Kilgore was LWG)

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
 LWG Adams, Ralph B., Sgt
 RWG Swanson, Harry F., S/Sgt
 TG Markiewicz, Joseph L., S/Sgt
 BT Silva, Carlos J., Sgt

B-17F #41-24605 *Knockout Dropper*

P Roller, Jack, 1Lt
 CP Cline, William J., 2Lt
 NAV Henson, Walter C., 2Lt
 BOM Shoup, John R., Jr., 2Lt
 ENG Ketron, Frank M., S/Sgt
 RO Williams, Lemuel R., T/Sgt
 RWG Hardaway, Sidney T., Sgt
 BT Beringer, John L., Jr., S/Sgt
 TG Burnham, Arthur L., S/Sgt
 LWG Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24559 *Ooold Soljer*

P	Lyle, Lewis E., Capt
CP	Bartlett, Keith O., Lt
NAV	Embach, John H., 1Lt
BOM	McCright, Ewell R., Lt
ENG	Smith, Gene K., T/Sgt
RWG	Bradford, Edward A., Sgt
RO	Balcombe, Clayton S., Sgt
BT	Sangster, Robert A., Sgt
TG	Smith, Woodrow W., S/Sgt
LWG	McGiffin, Tom, Sgt

B-17F #42-2973 *Iza Vailable*

P	Fredericks, Jacob W., Capt
CP	Way, Arthur C., Lt
NAV	Hoyt, Otis A., Lt
BOM	Fonorow, Milton S., Lt
ENG	Hlastala, Michael S., T/Sgt
RWG	Schneiderman, Henry G., S/Sgt
RO	Smith, Richard J., T/Sgt
BT	Nardine, Howard H., S/Sgt
LWG	Collins, Harvie L., Sgt
TG	Murray, Gilbert A., Jr., S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24602 *Yardbird*

P	Farrar, John W., 1Lt
CP	Trojan, Joseph E., Lt
NAV	Auman, Rictor H., 2Lt
BOM	Stewart, Jack W., 2Lt
ENG	Hassler, Kenneth C., S/Sgt
RWG	Prescott, Paul H., S/Sgt
RO	Lindewall, Erick K., T/Sgt
BT	Sunderlin, Joseph R., Sgt
LWG	Bartlett, Frank W., Sgt
TG	O'Connell, Lincoln T. S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24567 *Beats Me*

P	Marion, Charles E., LtCol
CP	Christianson, Roy W., Lt
NAV	Moore, Paul G., Capt
NAV	Anderson, Samuel H., Lt
BOM	Dieffenbach, Albert W., Lt
ENG	Pacheco, Antone, T/Sgt
RO	Roth, Charles L., S/Sgt
RWG	Sherman, John H., S/Sgt
BT	Soria, Peter, Sgt
TG	Stevens, Wayne O., S/Sgt
LWG	Dobbins, Jerry W., Sgt

B-17F #41-24579 *Thumper*

P	Breed, William H., Lt
CP	Sample, Harry T., Jr., Lt
NAV	Deadman, Capt
BOM	Santerre, Homer N., Lt
ENG	Putala, Stanley, T/Sgt
RWG	Halpin, Michael J., Cpl
RO	Herbert, Joseph M., T/Sgt
BT	Kuffel, Mathias A., S/Sgt
TG	Lentz, James H., S/Sgt
LWG	Loken, Roy C., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Cole, Lloyd R., Capt
 CP McCune, Robert N., 2Lt
 NAV Driggs, Robert P., 2Lt
 BOM Sherwood, Lyle D., Lt
 ENG Purinton, Bliss D., S/Sgt
 RO Brandfas, Dale F., S/Sgt
 RWG Callery, Phillip J., Sgt
 BT Witte, Arch, Jr., S/SGt
 LWG Coomes, Clarence S., S/Sgt
 TG Van Etten, James R., Sgt

B-17F #41-24619 *S for Sugar*

P Hagenbuch, Glenn E., Capt
 CP Barker, John C., Lt
 NAV Soha, Walter M., Lt
 BOM Bryant, Edward N., Lt
 ENG Zipfel, Charles E., T/Sgt
 RO Miller, Gordon D., T/Sgt
 TG Henderson, Grover W., Sgt
 RWG Hinds, Durward L., Sgt
 LWG Storer, Charles R., Sgt
 BT Pennington, James L., Sgt

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

P Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
 CP Dillinger, John L., 2Lt
 NAV Schueler, Jon R., 2Lt
 BOM Conner, Milton K., 2Lt
 ENG Means, Lucian W., Jr., T/Sgt
 RO Doughty, Edward J., S/Sgt
 RWG Brandt, Waldo B., Sgt
 BT Belk, Jack, Sgt
 LWG Kirkpatrick, Ward M., Sgt
 GUN Stringer, James L., Sgt

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

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
 RWG Bryant, Carson, S/Sgt
 TG Ferguson, Paul D., S/Sgt KIA
 LWG Milford, Roger W., Sgt
 BT Jenkins, Robert 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
 RWG Blankenship, Irwin D., Sgt
 RO Mayo, Donald A., S/Sgt
 LWG Jurosek, Bernard, Sgt
 RWG Hand, Victor G., Sgt
 TG Gross, Luther N., Sgt