

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 cntry 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, George 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	Conver, Militon 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
LWG	Milford, Roger W., Sgt
BT	Jenkins, Robert R., Sgt

KIA

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