

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 79

20 October 1943

Target: Center of City, Duren, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 19

Crews Lost: Lt. Hartigan, 11 crewmen; Lt. Hendry, 10 crewmen

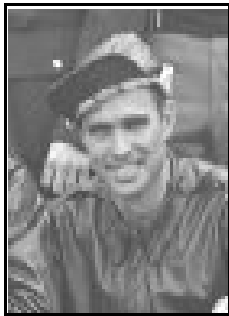
Length of Mission: 5 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 26,700 ft

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 2 Destroyed, 3 Probable

Nineteen 303rd BG(H) aircraft were dispatched with no aborted flights. All aircraft carried ten 500-lb. bombs. When approaching the enemy coast, six ME-109s came out of a cloud bank that the 303rd BG(H) aircraft were about to enter. They achieved complete surprise and the Luftwaffe attack was described by one pilot as an "ambush." The nose attacks were not seen until the ME-109s were about 500 yards from the Group formation. Capt. George T. **Mackin** in *Miss Bea Haven* #42-5257 359BS, dropped his bombs in the vicinity of Gilze-Rijen. He left the formation and landed at Mildenhall.



T/Sgt James J. Brown

Two Group aircraft were knocked down on the first pass. #41-24629 (*No Name*) 358BS, piloted by 1Lt. John W. **Hendry**, Jr., crashed near Valenciennes, France. Cannon shells from the ME-109s started a fire in the left wing gas tank. The order to bail out was given after the B-17 was in danger of quickly exploding from the gas tank fire. 2Lt. William B. **Harper** and T/Sgt. James J. **Brown** were killed. Lt. **Harper** is buried in Normandy American Cemetery near Coleville-sur-Mer, France. Lt. **Hendry**, 2Lt. Bernard T. **McNamara**, 2Lt. Richard E. **Webster**, T/Sgt. Loran C. **Biddle**, S/Sgt. Alfred J. **Hargrave**, Sgt. Delbert E. **Guhr**, S/Sgt. Wilmer G. **Raesley** and S/Sgt. John J. **Doherty** were captured and taken prisoner.

#42-29571, *Charley Horse*, 358BS, piloted by 2Lt. William R. **Hartigan**, crashed near Mons, Belgium. The aircraft was on fire and in a spin when last seen. It later blew up. Some parachutes were spotted. T/Sgt. Robert L. **Ward** and S/Sgt. John W. **Lowther** avoided capture and made contact with the French underground. They were taken to Paris and were accompanied by an Underground member on a train trip to the Swiss border. Eleven days after landing in Belgium, they were in Switzerland. T/Sgt. **Ward** worked for the U.S. Embassy before being returned in September, 1944. Lts. **Hartigan** and **Douthett** also evaded capture and were returned to Molesworth on 10 December, 1943. 2Lt. Edward N. **Goddard**, 2Lt. Bernard F. **Dorsey**, T/Sgt. Clement **Resto**, S/Sgt. Val F. **Stoddard**, S/Sgt. James T. **Ince** and Sgt. Ralph M. **Moffett** were captured and taken prisoner. S/Sgt. Charles J. **Dove** was killed.

During the descent, Maj. **Shayler** was instructed to "rejoin" the formation by the Combat Wing leader. Maj. **Shayler** informed the leader that he was "descending according to operational instructions." The Wing leader replied that he "didn't give a damn" what Maj. **Shayler** was doing, he wanted him to rejoin the formation. Maj. **Shayler** disregarded the instructions and came home with the 384th Group.

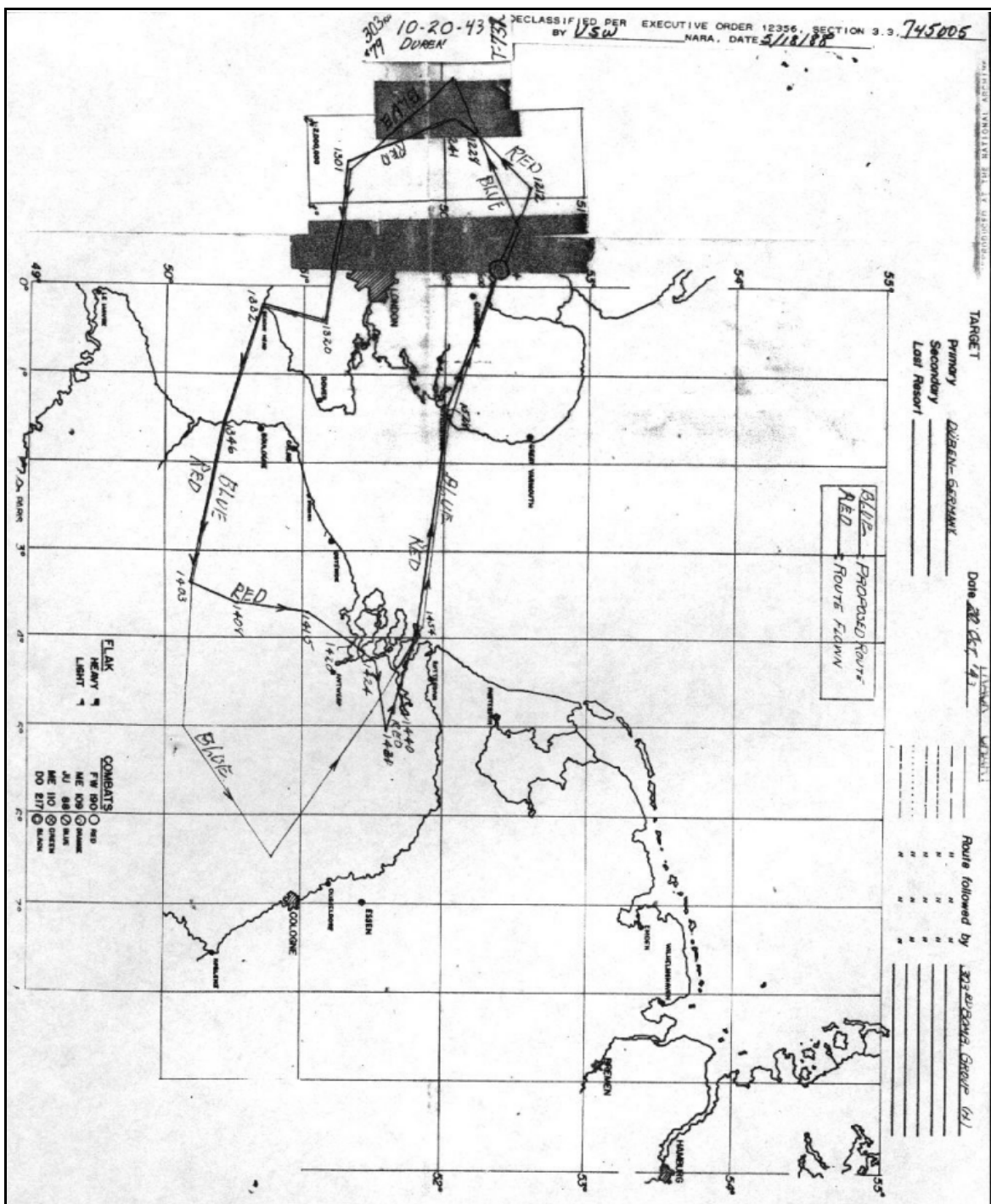
Maj. **Shayler** made the following report of the bomb run, following the loss of the two Group aircraft:

I called on VHF to the Combat Wing leader for instructions and received no reply. I fell into position in Combat Wing formation and followed the lead Group. Without warning, the lead ship fired a red flare and announced over VHF, "Turning on IP." I took interval and instructed my bombardier [2Lt. Fred **Clark**] to look for the target. We could not determine whether the target was going to be Weensdrecht or Gilze-Rijen. My bombardier picked up the airdrome at Gilze-Rijen and we started to make a bomb run on it. The lead Group fired a red flare and dropped a phosphorus bomb before the bomb release line, but I was unable to see any other bombs drop from the lead Group. My bombardier asked if he should drop his bombs and I instructed him not to, unless he was sure it was the target. We did not drop our bombs. The formation made a left turn, we fell in behind the 379th and began descent at 170 IAS and 500 FPM. The lead Group pulled away from us during the let-down and we returned home practically abreast of the 384th Group without difficulty, with the 379th Group out ahead.

In spite of the loss of two aircraft, fighter support was reported as excellent. Anti-aircraft gunfire was very meager, with only scattered bursts along the route. During interrogation, the disappointed crews weren't a bit bashful in the crew comment complaints. Several crews complained about the lack of Combat Wing leadership and wanted to know why the bombs weren't dropped. Three crews wanted sandwiches at interrogation. One griped about the "no good" orange chocolate bars. Another said two men in his crew got sick from the "greasy French toast and bacon that they had for breakfast," and went on to say that the sandwiches today were very good. Others wanted more P-38 fighters.

Crew Reports of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

Lt. Hillard C. Alloway (257)	ME-109	No Claim
S/Sgt. Robert G. Yarian (795)	FW-190	Destroyed
1Lt. John W. Hull (131)	ME-109	Damaged
S/Sgt. Albert C. Santella (306)	ME-109	Destroyed
T/Sgt. Bill J. Addison (483)	ME-109	Probable



Route Map



Alley Oop #42-5854 (360BS) PU-C

41st CBW Low (360BS) - Pilot 1Lt L.E. Jokerst / CoPilot Maj W.K. Shayler

1Lt Leonard E. Jokerst (P), Maj Walter K. Shayler (CP),
 1Lt James B. Noland (N), 1Lt Lawrence E. Effinger (N),
 1Lt Fred T. Clark (B), 1Lt Wesley V. Huguenin (TG-O)

T/Sgt Alphonse B. Serwa (E), T/Sgt Leroy Cline (R),
 S/Sgt Norman A. Hemmings (BT), S/Sgt W.A. Stephen (RWG),
 S/Sgt G.W. Wilson (LWG), S/Sgt Nellins P.S. Egge (PHO)

(crewmen are not in order)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

Jokerst-Shayler
854

Fyler **Bergeron**
483 930

Heller
054

Humphreys **Woddrop**
823 131

Gamble **Manning**
562 306

Hartigan **Campbell** **Quinn** **Grant**
571 524 605 565

Wise **Mackin**
264 257

McClellan **Hendry** **Reeder** **Hanselman**
795 629 177 894

Hullar
498

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 - Togglier 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 #42-5264 *Yankee Doodle Dandy*

P	Wise, Calder L., 2Lt
CP	Fort, William C., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Nothstein, John P., 2Lt
BOM	Spencer, Charles W., 2Lt
ENG	Mullins, Grover C., S/Sgt
RWG	Pleasant, James H., S/Sgt
RO	Supple, James C., S/Sgt
BT	Zeitner, Howard H., Sgt
TG	Sutton, Bernard J., Sgt
LWG	Viszneki, John G., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)	

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

P	Gamble, Donald, 1Lt
CP	Kyse, Walter R., 2Lt
NAV	McSween, William D., 2Lt
BOM	Coburn, Ralph F., 2Lt
ENG	Wagner, Clyde E., T/Sgt
RWG	Vaughn, Norville, S/Sgt
RO	Bland, Hugh N., T/Sgt
BT	Scharch, Richard G., S/Sgt
TG	Gilbert, Bill A., S/Sgt
LWG	Schmeltzer, Charles S., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)	

B-17F #41-24629 (*No Name*) CR-L

P	Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt	POW
CP	Harper, William B., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Webster, Richard E., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Biddle, Loran C., T/Sgt	POW
TG	Doherty, John J., S/Sgt	POW
RO	Brown, James J., T/Sgt	KIA
BT	Hargrave, Alfred J., Sgt	POW
RWG	Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt	POW
LWG	Guhr, Delbert E., Sgt	POW

B-17F #42-29571 *Charley Horse* CR-L

P	Hartigan, William R., 2Lt	EVD
CP	Goddard, Edward N., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Douthett, Lorin F., 2Lt	EVD
BOM	Dorsey, Bernard F., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Resto, Clement, T/Sgt	POW
RWG	Lowther, John W., S/Sgt	EVD
RO	Ward, Robert L., T/Sgt	EVD
LWG	Dove, Charles J., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Stoddard, Val F., S/Sgt	POW
TG	Ince, James T., S/Sgt	POW
PHO	Moffett, Ralph M., Sgt	POW

B-17F #42-29524 *Meat Hound*

P	Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt
CP	Riddick, McDonald L., 2Lt
NAV	Halliburton, J.B. Lewis, 2Lt
NG	Fee, George H., Sgt
ENG	Backiel, Stanley J., T/Sgt
RWG	Wisniewski, Alexander, S/Sgt
RO	McGuire, Robert J., S/Sgt
BT	Brooks, John W., Sgt
TG	Cassidy, Edward J., S/Sgt
LWG	Hoy, James F., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)	

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Quinn, Thomas J., F/O
 CP Eisenhower, William E., F/O
 NAV Howlett, Oscar D., 2Lt
 BOM Van Zandt, Roland, 2Lt
 ENG Holper, Ralph M., T/Sgt
 RWG Kalafut, Joe J., S/Sgt
 RO Vieira, Joseph, T/Sgt
 BT Bergman, Harvey F., S/Sgt
 LWG Reynolds, James B., S/Sgt
 TG Pelkey, Elwood R., S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

P Grant, Ambrose G., 2Lt
 CP Hall, Franklin C., 2Lt
 NAV Berger, James F., 2Lt
 BOM Blackburn, Marion D., 2Lt
 ENG Jaouen, Robert F., T/Sgt
 TT Newman, John F., S/Sgt
 RO Sexton, Edward J., T/Sgt
 BT Anderson, Francis D., S/Sgt
 LWG Hauer, Joseph J., Sgt
 TG Petrosky, Chester, S/Sgt
 PHO Luman, Morton, T/Sgt

B-17F #42-29894 *Baltimore Bounce*

P Hanselman, Charles F., 2Lt
 CP Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt
 NAV Ramsey, Elijah W., Jr., 2Lt
 BOM Livermore, William D., 2Lt
 ENG Fouss, Howard E., T/Sgt
 TT Laubert, Robert J., S/Sgt
 RO Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt
 RWG Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt
 BT Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt
 TG Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt
 PHO Mahaffey, William D., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-5306 *(No Name)*

P Manning, John P., 1Lt
 CP Blossom, George H., 2Lt
 NAV Antman, Jack, 2Lt
 BOM Schreidell, Matthew, 2Lt
 ENG Keesling, George R., T/Sgt
 TG Jennings, Harley F., S/Sgt
 RO Fitzsimmons, Kenneth P., T/Sgt
 RWG Santella, Albert C., S/Sgt
 BT Mace, LeRoy L., S/Sgt
 LWG McKenna, Robert I., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-5177 *Fast Worker MK II*

P Reeder, D.M., 1Lt
 CP McLean, Ralph C., 2Lt
 NAV Salk, Harvey M., 2Lt
 BOM Vermillion, Earl E., 2Lt
 ENG Herod, Henry W., T/Sgt
 LWG Hayes, John J., S/Sgt
 RO Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt
 RWG Hull, Kenneth W., S/Sgt
 BT Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt
 TG Swan, Henry, S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-5257 *Miss Bea Haven*

P Mackin, George T., Capt
 CP Brown, Malcolm E., 2Lt
 NAV Alloway, Hillard C., 2Lt
 BOM Marlatt, Ray G., 2Lt
 ENG Wright, Malcolm, S/Sgt
 TT Manchester, Robert E., Sgt
 RO Cirello, Ralph T., T/Sgt
 LWG Boling, Shuble A., S/Sgt
 BT Montgomery, Robert E., S/Sgt
 TG Boggs, Calvin E., S/Sgt
 PHO Hunter, Robert G., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-5054 *Belle of San Joaquin*

P Heller, William C., Lt
CP Coppom, John F., Lt
NAV Zwyer, James P., Lt
BOM DeSousa, John, Jr., Lt
ENG Huston, William J., T/Sgt
RWG Payne, George S., S/Sgt
RO Spoerri, Felix, T/Sgt
LWG Lanier, Leo, Jr., S/Sgt
BT Schultz, Melvin E., S/Sgt
TG Laurinitis, Anthony, S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-5483 *Red Ass*

P Fyler, Carl J., 1Lt
CP Ward, Robert C., Lt
NAV Molnar, George, Lt
BOM Gibson, Steve M., Lt
ENG Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt
RWG Fisher, George C., S/Sgt
RO Kistulentz, Paul, T/Sgt
BT Ford, Ray D., S/Sgt
TG Sawicki, Joseph R., S/Sgt
LWG Stachowiak, Martin G., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-29930 *Miss Patricia*

P Bergeron, Willard H., Lt
CP DeWall, Hershel R., Lt
NAV Davis, Darius R., Lt
BOM DeFeis, Robert N., Lt
ENG Levin, Meyer, T/Sgt
RWG Oxendine, Simeon, S/Sgt
RO Crowder, Gayther B., T/Sgt
BT Deffinger, John P., S/Sgt
LWG Appleton, Vernon R., S/Sgt
TG Pierson, Lawrence C., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-5854 *Alley Oop*

P Jokerst, Leonard E., Lt
CP Shayler, Walter K., Maj
NAV Noland, James B., Lt
NAV Effinger, Lawrence E., Lt
BOM Clark, Fred T., Lt
ENG Serwa, Alphonse B., T/Sgt
RWG Stephens, William H., S/Sgt
RO Cline, Leroy, T/Sgt
BT Hemmings, Norman A., S/Sgt
LWG Wilson, George W., S/Sgt
TG Huguenin, Wesley V., Lt
PHO Egge, Nellings P.S., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-29498 *Dark Horse*

P	Hullar, Robert J., Lt
CP	Klint, Wilbur, Lt
NAV	Brown, Elmer L., Lt
BOM	Harmes, D.D., Sgt
ENG	Rice, Dale W., S/Sgt
RWG	Marson, Charles H., S/Sgt
RO	Hoyt, George F., S/Sgt
BT	Sampson, Norman A., S/Sgt
TG	Miller, Merlin D., S/Sgt
LWG	Fullem, Charles, S/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-29823 (*No Name*)

P	Humphreys, Fred C., Lt
CP	Clemons, James H., Lt
NAV	Culpin, John J., Jr., Lt
BOM	Orvis, George T., Jr., Lt
ENG	Janisch, Ferdinand J., T/Sgt
LWG	Beach, Russell F., S/Sgt
RO	Woods, Arthur H., T/Sgt
BT	Ross, Madison H., S/Sgt
RWG	Dare, Melvin M., S/Sgt
TG	O'Neill, Austin J., S/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-3131 *Flak Wolf*

P	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
CP	Henderson, Grover C., Lt
NAV	Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM	Hull, John W., Lt
ENG	Watts, William A., S/Sgt
BT	Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt
RO	Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
LWG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt
TG	Valis, William, S/Sgt
RWG	Priestly, Van B., S/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-29795 *Flying Bitch*

P	McClellan, George S., Jr., Lt
CP	Greenwood, Ernest G., Lt
NAV	Kaliher, John C., Lt
BOM	Cornish, Merlin L., Lt
ENG	Tempesta, David, T/Sgt
RWG	Chiles, Alfred B., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Callihan, George A., T/Sgt
BT	Yarian, Robert G., S/Sgt
LWG	Heaton, Barnell S., Sgt
TG	Dugan, Charles E., S/Sgt
PHO	Gervais, Joseph R., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

23 OCTOBER 1943 - NIGHT LOCAL TRAINING MISSION

Miss Patricia, #42-29930 360BS, was on a night local training mission. It crashed shortly after take-off at Keyston, cause unknown. All eight crewmen were killed. 2Lt. T.M. **Jackson**, Cpl Samuel B. Morse and Sgt. R.L. **Long** are buried at Cambridge, England. The crash site was being excavated in 1990 by Robin and Sue **Beeby** of Kettering.

B-17F #42-29930 *Miss Patricia* CR-L

P	Jokerst, Leonard E., Lt	KIS
CP	Jackson, Theodore M., Lt	KIS
ENG	Stephen, William H., S/Sgt	KIS
RO	Morse, Samuel B., Cpl	KIS
PHO	Chuhuran, Erven A., Sgt	KIS
GUN	Long, Ralph L., Sgt	KIS
GUN	Sherman, Homer R., Sgt	KIS
PAS	Morgan, Richard V., Pvt	KIS

24 OCTOBER 1943 - AIR-SEA RESCUE MISSION

Ten Group aircraft took off between 0911 and 0916 on a low-level air-sea rescue mission. The crafts were in the air for approximately 6 1/2 hours. The search was uneventful--a parachute was observed on the water, a smoke bomb was seen near an Air-Sea Rescue float and an unmanned small raft with flag was spotted. The search was conducted at altitudes ranging from 300 to 800 feet.

30 OCTOBER 1943 - RECALLED MISSION

Target: Gelsenkirchen, Germany (PFF Mission)

The lead aircraft was a 482BG Pathfinder (PFF) B-17. The 303rd BG(H) was leading the 41st Combat Wing. A recall message was received about two hours after take-off. All 303rd BG(H) aircraft returned to Molesworth.

END OF OCTOBER AIRCRAFT AND CREW STATUS:

B-17F & B-17G

Assigned: 35 On Hand: 35 Operational: 31

26 of the B-17Fs were outfitted with Glide Bomb equipment.

Non-operational: B-17E, DB-7B, Oxford, L-4B

Crews combat ready: 22