

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 137A

19 April 1944

Target: Air-Sea Rescue Mission

Crews Dispatched: 6

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 20 minutes

Search Altitude: 300 ft above sea level

Five B-17s, led by Maj. Walter K. **Shayler** in #42-102432 (*No Name*), 427BS-U, flew an air-sea rescue mission over the North Sea. Capt. Charles D. **McQuaid** (360BS), Lt. John **Faustini** (HQ), 2Lt. Arnold **Bregman** (427BS) and Pvt. John E. **Urban** (HQ) flew as observers. A sixth B-17 from the 384BG at Grafton-Underwood accompanied the five 303rd BG(H) aircraft. The aircraft departed Molesworth at 0720 hours and spent two hours thoroughly searching the assigned area at an altitude of 300 feet above sea level.

Three aircraft covered the area:

53E 33'N - 03E 00'E; 53E 45'N - 03E 50'E

53E 45'N - 03E 00'E; 53E 33'N - 03E 50'E

The remaining three aircraft covered the area:

53E 44'N - 03E 30'E; 53E 56'N - 04E 20'E

53E 56'N - 03E 30'E; 53E 44'N - 04E 20'E



Gibson Girl

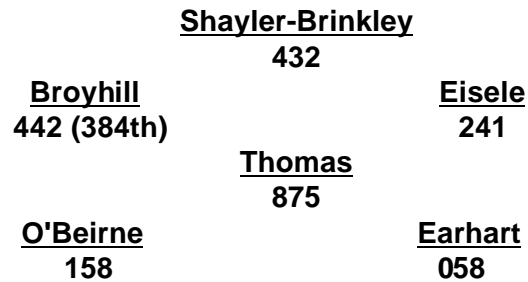
Emergency radio transmitter for use if crew crash-lands or ditches at sea

Weather and visibility were good. Wind direction was 200 degrees East magnetic and velocity was 15 knots per hour. There were 2/10th low clouds with bases at 500 feet. The condition of the sea was calm.

The aircraft crossed the coast out near Cromer at 0800 hours and arrived at the search area at 0829 hours. A tail wheel presumed to be from a Halifax or Lancaster, as it was not as large as that used on a B-17, was seen floating at 53E 42'N - 03E 24'E. Gee fix at 0855. A float for a "Gibson Girl" was sighted at 53E 36'N - 03E 48'E in a smooth sea.

A distress call was heard at 0932 hours and again at 0940 hours from 54E 15'N;07E 45'E. No enemy activity was observed. There were no other observations. Aircraft crossed the coast in at King's Cliff at 1108 hours and returned to base at 1140 hours.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Crew Lists

B-17F #42-3158 *Max*

P	O'Beirne, Nelson B., 2Lt
CP	Duffield, Richard B., 2Lt
NAV	Shipp, Gene K., 2Lt
BOM	Nebhut, Kenneth E., S/Sgt
ENG	Henselman, Miles A., S/Sgt
RO	Blumberg, Marvin R., S/Sgt
BT	Faraone, Sam S., Sgt
TG	Studt, Allo L., Sgt
RWG	Rogers, Winford E., Sgt
LWG	Cammack, Francis C., Sgt
OBS	Urban, John E., Pvt

B-17G #42-102432 *Tiny Angel*

P	Shayler, Walter K., Maj
CP	Brinkley, Pharis C., Capt
NAV	Carroll, George M., 1Lt
BOM	Clark, Fred T., 1Lt
ENG	Worthington, Arthur J., T/Sgt
RO	Snyder, Richard N., S/Sgt
BT	Reid, Harold C., S/Sgt
TG	Rein, William E., S/Sgt
RWG	Logan, Frank C., S/Sgt
LWG	Lance, Guy A., S/Sgt
OBS	Faustini, John, 1Lt

B-17G #42-31241 *Spirit of Wanette*

P	Eisele, Roy, 1Lt
CP	Girard, Louis F., 2Lt
NAV	Schenker, Murray, 2Lt
BOM	Huddleston, D.O., Sgt
ENG	Cowley, Louis M., S/Sgt
RWG	Bell, Richard L., Sgt
RO	Millard, Ralph, S/Sgt
LWG	Friedman, Szymon A., S/Sgt
BT	Longoria, Efrain, Sgt
TG	Vallee, Edward J., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-39875 *Buzz Blonde*

P	Thomas, Earl N., 1Lt
CP	Miller, Edgar C., 2Lt
NAV	Walenta, Clarence V., 1Lt
BOM	Scott, Harold L., 1Lt
ENG	Mason, John W., T/Sgt
RWG	Flenniken, William, S/Sgt
RO	DeWitte, Victor W., S/Sgt
TG	Harvey, Roy D., S/Sgt
BT	Johnston, Harold A., Sgt
LWG	Books, Carl O., Sgt
OBS	McQuaid, Charles D., Capt
OBS	Bregman, Arnold, 2Lt

B-17G #42-97058 *Scorchy II*

P	Earhart, Amon E., 1Lt
CP	Evans, Earnest N., 2Lt
NAV	Ross, Lawrence D., 2Lt
BOM	Cottrell, John W., 1Lt
ENG	Huston, William J., T/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Ralph T., T/Sgt
BT	Lanier, Lee, Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Laurinitis, Anthony, S/Sgt
RWG	Henson, Mace, S/Sgt