

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 189

22 June 1944

Target: Railroad Marshalling Yard at Lille, France

Crews Dispatched: 26

Crews Lost: Lt. D.M. Fisher, 9 KIA, 1 EVD

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 45 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 500 lb G.P. M64 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: Group A - 26,000 ft; Group B - 25,800 ft

Ammo Fired: 0 rounds

Two Group formations of 13 aircraft took off to bomb the railroad marshalling yards at Lille, France. One B-17 returned early when it couldn't maintain sufficient airspeed to remain in formation: #42-37875 *Flying Bison*, 427BS (Lt. **Savage**).

The primary target at Lille was bombed and crews reported good results. Photos showed bomb bursts observed through clouds covering the assigned MPI. Twenty-four aircraft dropped 288 500-lb. G.P. M64 bombs from 26,000 and 25,800 feet. Fortress #43-37590 *Neva-The Silver Lady*, 358BS (Lt. J.P. **Watson**), was hit by flak and jettisoned bombs for an abortive sortie. The crew landed safely at High Hallden.

No enemy aircraft were spotted. Friendly support was poor with only a few P-38s seen. Meager to moderate flak was encountered at the target. Meager inaccurate flak was seen coming from the St. Pol area. Three aircraft sustained battle damage.



ORIGINAL DALE M. FISHER CREW - 360th BS

(crew assigned 360BS: 07 June 1944 - photo: 15 June 1944)

(Back L-R) 2Lt Carthel O. Gaskin (B), 2Lt Carl H. Felton, Jr (N),

2Lt Carlos H. Johns, Jr. (CP), 1Lt Dale M. Fisher (P)

(Front L-R) T/Sgt Robert H. Johnson (R), S/Sgt Victor P. Crandell (WG),

Sgt Walter F. Moore (TG), T/Sgt John M. King (E),

S/Sgt Robert M. Cooper (WG), S/Sgt Bernard E. McKeever (BT)

B-17G #42-31432 *Old Glory*, 360BS, piloted by 1Lt. Dale M. **Fisher**, flying the No. 3 position in the high Group fourth flight of the 41st CBW-B, received a direct hit by flak just after "bombs away." It hit back of the No. 3 engine, probably in the gasoline tank. *Old Glory* immediately burst into flames, spun off to the right and went down. It crashed at Tressen, France. One parachute was spotted. T/Sgt. Robert H. **Johnson** evaded capture. Lt. **Fisher**, 2Lt. Carlos H. **Johns**, Jr., 2Lt. Carl H. **Felton**, Jr., 2Lt. Cathel O. **Gaskin**, T/Sgt. John M. **King**, S/Sgt. Bernard E. **McKeever**, S/Sgt. Victor P. **Crandell**, S/Sgt. Robert M. **Cooper** were all killed in the crash. Lt. **Felton**, Lt. **Gaskin**, T/Sgt. **King**, S/Sgt. **McKeever** and S/Sgt. **Crandell** are buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium.

MISSION 21, Afternoon, June 22, 1944

from the book "25 Milk Runs" by Richard R. "Dick" Johnson

Having dropped our two, one ton bombs this morning in a feeble attempt to hit a Buzz Bomb site, our planes were loaded with twelve, 500 pound bombs for an attempt to bust a railroad marshalling yard at Lille, France. My diary reads: "Lille, France, Marshaling yards. We flew at 26,500 ft. and got only meager flak. Low group lost 3 planes. My 6th raid in 4 days. That French flak is meager but plenty hot."

Beiser and I were to fly Aircraft number 42-102432, "Tiny Angel," since our usual plane, "Buzz Blonde" was being flown by Lt. Savage. "Tiny Angel" would be shot down on the tragic raid of August 15th, with the loss of the pilot, 1st Lt. H.S. Cook, his engineer, Sgt. Slight, and a waist gunner, Sgt. Joyce.

We had a different bombardier again. He was 2nd Lt. G.A. Wellen, Jr. Our regular bombardier, Ed Cooper, was to fly with Lt. Savage in our old "Buzz Blonde," as was David Glass, our erstwhile waist gunner. Evidently the repairs after the Hamburg mission were not sufficient as the pool old "Buzz Blonde" couldn't get enough air speed to keep up, and had to abort. Lt. Langford was flying as a spare, and filled Lt. Savage's empty slot.

Beiser and I were assigned to position number 8 for this mission which made us leader of a three plane element in the low squadron of the high group. Our 427th commanding officer, Col. Snyder was leading this group, with our two newest crews flying positions number two and three. Lt. Wardowski was to the right of the leader and Lt. Roy to the left. Both of these crews had flown only four or five missions. It is ironic that they were listed alone on the same page of the manifest, and flew side by side on several missions. Yet they were to be lost on separate raids a few days from now.

Just after bombs away, the airplane in the eleventh position of the 360th squadron, flying in the high group, was hit by flak in the right wing behind the number three engine, causing a gasoline explosion. Only one parachute was seen to come from the stricken plane. This was the radio operator, Tech Sgt. R.H. Johnson, who was able to evade capture and was returned to American control. All the rest of the crew were killed.

My diary was wrong about the loss of three planes, as the other two were later returned. One that I thought had been shot down was actually hit by flak before the target. He jettisoned his bombs and returned to England, making an emergency landing at High Halden. The other aircraft that I saw go down was from another wing in our First Bombardment Division.

Beiser and I had taken off at four minutes before four in the afternoon, and landed at eight thirty-nine, for a flight of four hours and forty-four minutes. We were over enemy territory exactly one hour.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Jones-Snyder</u> 311		
		<u>Roy</u> 200	<u>Wardowski</u> 027	
	<u>Beiser</u> 2432			<u>Carpenter</u> 781
<u>Savage</u> 875		<u>Flick</u> 051	<u>Crozier</u> 496	<u>Reed</u> 076
	<u>Arnold</u> 483			<u>Langford</u> Spare - 405
<u>Moreman</u> 537		<u>Carney</u> 960	_____	_____
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One (1) aircraft aborted this mission: Lt. Savage in 7875

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Mackin-Benham</u> 945		
		<u>Lee</u> 739	<u>Davis</u> 085	
	<u>Watson</u> 590			<u>Spindler</u> 805
<u>Stark</u> 006		<u>Bailie</u> 622	<u>Wilson</u> 055	<u>S. Fisher</u> 340
	<u>D. Fisher</u> 1432			<u>Bartholomew</u> 861
<u>Vitale</u> 654		<u>Farthing</u> 086	_____	_____
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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #44-6006 (No Name)

P Stark, Donald D., 2Lt
 CP Conley, George L., 2Lt
 NAV Hamm, Willard A., 2Lt
 BOM Nelson, Richard G., 2Lt
 ENG Batten, Delmer G., S/Sgt
 RO Steinhagen, Joseph R., S/Sgt
 TG Morrow, James C., Sgt
 BT Richkind, Max, Sgt
 WG Eggink, James H., Sgt

B-17G #42-97085 (No Name)

P Davis, William C., 2Lt
 CP Graham, Edward, Jr., 2Lt
 NAV Alderson, Raleigh L., 2Lt
 NG Stone, Robert L., S/Sgt
 ENG Roseland, Ralph A., Sgt
 RO Sandler, David L., S/Sgt
 BT Clarke, Kenneth, Sgt
 TG Hiland, Robert L., Sgt
 WG Rogers, Joseph S., Sgt

B-17G #43-37590 Neva-The Silver Lady

P Watson, John P., 1Lt
 CP Neely, Glenn H., 2Lt
 NAV Claeys, Ronald, 2Lt
 TOG Borg, John E., 2Lt
 ENG Kapes, Paul J., S/Sgt
 RO White, John H., S/Sgt
 TT Hollifield, Robert G., Sgt
 BT Goldfarb, Wallace, Sgt
 TG Byerly, William C., S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-97622 Paper Dollie

P Bailie, Homer P., 2Lt
 CP Markos, Costa, F/O
 NAV Waterland, Edward L., 2Lt
 BOM Barkin, Herbert L., 2Lt
 ENG Ham, William J., S/Sgt
 TT Martinez, Gregorio, Sgt
 RO Sawyer, Robert B., S/Sgt
 BT Oss, Frank E., Sgt
 TG Naylor, Richard G., Sgt

B-17G #42-31739 Pugnacious Peter

P Lee, Gareth G., 2Lt
 CP Bowman, William E., F/O
 NAV Sweig, Morris, 2Lt
 BOM Townsend, Charles D., 2Lt
 ENG Leimgruebler, Victor H., S/Sgt
 WG Olive, Martin, Sgt
 RO Adkinson, James E., S/Sgt
 TG Newman, Gerald D., Sgt
 BT Grundon, Joseph D., Sgt

B-17G #42-102945 Sweet Pea

P Mackin, George T., Maj
 CP Benham, Philip O., 1Lt
 NAV Krouskup, Wayne E., 2Lt
 NAV Coe, Charles F., 2Lt
 BOM Wilson, Claud, 1Lt
 ENG Van Drunen, Cornellius, S/Sgt
 RO Downs, Reginald, S/Sgt
 BT Hill, Reginald L., Sgt
 LWG Dellinger, Lenoir E., Sgt
 RWG Bonenberger, Robert E., Sgt

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
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359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-37537 *Queen of Hearts*

P Moreman, Robert, 2Lt
 CP Quiggle, Robert D., 2Lt
 NAV Nielsen, Carl V., 2Lt
 TOG Bumgarner, Donald, T/Sgt
 ENG Genovese, Elic V., S/Sgt
 RO Barnts, Warren E., S/Sgt
 WG Alexander, Ray, Sgt
 TG Smith, Richard L., Sgt
 BT Leonard, Joseph F., Sgt

B-17G #42-102496 *Special Delivery*

P Crozier, Harry J., 2Lt
 CP Mowrey, Paul M., 2Lt
 NAV Kennedy, Clyde R
 BOM McCoy, Charles W., 2Lt
 ENG Passenant, Robert J., S/Sgt
 RO Hoyt, Robert B., S/Sgt
 BT Jara, Felix M., Sgt
 TG Stumpff, George W., Sgt
 RWG Butcher, Robert C., Sgt

B-17G #44-6076 *Liberty Run*

P Reed, John W., 2Lt
 CP Altman, Maurice C., 2Lt
 NAV O'Neill, Owen H., 2Lt
 TOG Meier, Wayne E., S/Sgt
 ENG Danford, Emmett J., S/Sgt
 WG Colley, Smith K., S/Sgt
 RO Connors, Joseph Q., T/Sgt
 BT Richard, Vernon, S/Sgt
 TG Butler, Ashley A., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-102960 (No Name)

P Carney, Walter J., 2Lt
 CP Rickey, James A., 2Lt
 NAV Taylor, Albert R., 2Lt
 TOG Cooney, Thomas E., 2Lt
 ENG Turner, Harold L., S/Sgt
 RO Foster, Albert A., S/Sgt
 BT Kayrallah, Emil, Sgt
 TG Howe, Clarence E., Sgt
 WG Encinas, William, Sgt

B-17G #42-31483 *Bonnie B*

P Arnold, William J., 2Lt
 CP London, Walter H., Jr., 2Lt
 NAV Claster, Stanley M., 2Lt
 BOM Callahan, Ellsworth D., 2Lt
 ENG Williams, Robert M., S/Sgt
 RO Moreira, Joseph A., S/Sgt
 BT McClure, James D., Sgt
 TG Surrell, John M., Sgt
 WG Lichtenwalter, Ralph W., Sgt

B-17G #42-31405 *Wallaroo MK II*

P Langford, Allen W., 2Lt
 CP Zimmerman, Paul E., F/O
 NAV Heatherly, Philip P., 2Lt
 TOG Arendt, John L., S/Sgt
 ENG O'Leary, Daniel R., Sgt
 RO Whisman, Chester C., S/Sgt
 BT Gray, William W., Sgt
 TG Mulstein, John E., Jr., Sgt
 WG Munn, Edwin C., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97781 *The '8' Ball MK III*

P Carpenter, Arthur G., 2Lt
 CP Whitaker, Joseph C., 2Lt
 NAV Reid, George E., F/O
 BOM Day, Dean K., 2Lt
 ENG Pordham, Jack F., S/Sgt
 RO Bortolotti, Barney J., S/Sgt
 BT Welch, John R., S/Sgt
 TG Nichols, Dalbee, Sgt
 WG Vanlandingham, John C., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31432 *Old Glory* CR-L

P	Fisher, Dale M., 1Lt	KIA
CP	Johns, Carlos H., Jr., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Felton, Carl H., 2Lt	KIA
BOM	Gaskin, Carthel O., 2Lt	KIA
ENG	King, John M., S/Sgt	KIA
RO	Johnson, Robert H., S/Sgt	EVD
BT	McKeever, Bernard E., Sgt	KIA
WG	Cooper, Robert M., Sgt	KIA
TG	Crandell, Victor P., Sgt	KIA

B-17G #43-37654 (No Name)

P	Vitale, Hector F., 2Lt
CP	Boyle, Leo J., F/O
NAV	Hardwick, Jack C., 2Lt
BOM	Cassidy, Charles F., 2Lt
ENG	Reale, Joseph C., Sgt
RO	Miller, Hilary C., S/Sgt
BT	Thomas, Hal B., Sgt
TG	Younger, Andrew H., Sgt
WG	Nordberg, Francis E., Sgt

B-17G #42-31340 *Miss Liberty*

P	Fisher, Stanley L., 2Lt
CP	Cohl, Jules R., 2Lt
NAV	Cotner, Nyle E., 2Lt
BOM	McDevitt, Theodore D., 2Lt
ENG	Bachman, Clifford D., T/Sgt
RO	Smith, Benjamin H., T/Sgt
BT	Kepics, George, S/Sgt
WG	O'Hearn, Robert J., S/Sgt
TG	Cogdell, Clarence L., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-6086 *My Blonde Baby*

P	Farthing, Harold C., F/O
CP	Page, Frank N., F/O
NAV	George, James P., 2Lt
BOM	Carson, John D., F/O
ENG	Sweetie, William M., S/Sgt
RO	Postles, Francis W., S/Sgt
BT	Viles, Ernest A., Sgt
TG	Melnyk, Joseph, Sgt
WG	Greig, Leonard C., Jr., Sgt

B-17G #42-97861 *Iza Vailable III*

P	Bartholomew, Dale E., 1Lt
CP	Ross, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Blume, William H., III, 2Lt
BOM	Andreason, Joseph G., 2Lt
ENG	Litwiller, Harold D., S/Sgt
RO	Allard, Charles G., S/Sgt
BT	Smith, Victor H., S/Sgt
TG	Blackwell, Haywood E., Jr., Sgt
WG	DeBartolo, Albert L., Sgt

B-17G #42-97805 (No Name)

P	Spindler, Benjamin L., 1Lt
CP	Doughty, Gordon R., 2Lt
NAV	Caffrey, James J., F/O
BOM	Proud, Rexford I., 2Lt
ENG	Pfeffer, William W., T/Sgt
RO	Uhl, Willard H., T/Sgt
BT	McKinnon, Neil W., S/Sgt
TG	Petrie, Joe D., S/Sgt
WG	Fambry, Lewis F., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31055 *Aloha*

P	Wilson, William M., 2Lt
CP	Howard, Victor L., 2Lt
NAV	Blumenthal, Robert, 2Lt
BOM	Benford, Jack H., 2Lt
ENG	Kuczewski, William J., T/Sgt
RO	Means, Robert D., S/Sgt
BT	Case, Donald G., Sgt
TG	Sauer, George N., Sgt
WG	Sabuda, Emil S., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Beiser, Theodore R., 2Lt
CP	Johnson, Richard R., 2Lt
NAV	Gepner, Isadore, 2Lt
BOM	Wallen, George A., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Buchanan, Lonnie J., T/Sgt
BT	Latta, Charles W., Sgt
RO	Gorchesky, Benny J., S/Sgt
TG	Brackey, Carroll H., Sgt
LWG	Haines, James W., Sgt

B-17G #42-31200 *Old Crow*

P	Roy, Arnold K., 2Lt
CP	Quint, Ralph E., 2Lt
NAV	O'Brien, William P., 2Lt
BOM	Weiss, Leonard E., 1Lt
TT	Noah, Norbert O., Sgt
BT	Black, Leslie K., Sgt
RO	Johnson, George N., Sgt
TG	Kahnert, Olaf F., Jr., Sgt
WG	Cook, Leonard C., Sgt

B-17G #42-37875 *Flying Bison*

P	Savage, Gilbert T., 1Lt
CP	Keating, Donald W., 2Lt
NAV	Cooper, Edward G., 2Lt
TOG	Johnson, Otto D., Sgt
TT	Jefferson, Arthur G., S/Sgt
BT	Holt, Richard R., S/Sgt
RO	Glass, David, S/Sgt
TG	Stover, Edward J., S/Sgt
WG	Layton, Wilber A., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17G #42-38051 *My Yorkshire Dream*

P	Flick, Chester E., 2Lt
CP	McCall, Robert S., 2Lt
NAV	Whitman, John H., 2Lt
WG	Donnelly, James F., S/Sgt
BT	Forry, Harvey W., S/Sgt
RO	Abeyta, J. Charles, S/Sgt
TT	Eberly, Charles P., S/Sgt
TG	Brock, Charley F., Sgt
WG	Wilson, Robert J., Sgt

B-17G #42-32027 *Betty Jane*

P	Wardowski, Stanley, 2Lt
CP	Hainlin, Neal E., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Birnbaum, Warren G., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Eisel, Charles F., 2Lt
ENG	Kowatch, Raymond J., Sgt
BT	Paterson, Richard E., Sgt
RO	Willard, Albert, S/Sgt
TG	Wagner, Donald G., Sgt
WG	Snedde, John I., Sgt

B-17G #42-97311 *Shoo Shoo Baby*

P	Jones, Wilbur H., 1Lt
CP	Snyder, Edgar E., Jr., Maj
NAV	Curley, Walter A., 2Lt
NAV	Olsen, Kenneth L., 1Lt
BOM	Orvis, George T., Jr., Capt
TT	Duerr, William P., Sgt
BT	Calnon, Frederick N., S/Sgt
RO	Kosher, Albert J., Sgt
TG	Newman, Vernon V., 2Lt
WG	Dimowitz, Morris, S/Sgt