

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 195

30 June 1944

Target: Airfields at LeCulot and Coxyde, Belgium

Crews Dispatched: 35

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 51 minutes

Bomb Load: 38 x 100 lb G.P. M30 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 25,700, 25,400, & 25,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 0 rounds

Thirty-six aircraft, including one borrowed from the 379BG, took off to attack the Culot Airdrome in Belgium. The 303rd BG(H) furnished three Groups forming the 41st CBW-B. The formation was led by Lt. Col. Richard H. **Cole**, CO 359BS.

Over the target there were 8/10 cumulus clouds with some breaks. No enemy aircraft were seen. Moderate to accurate flak was encountered at the target and on the edge of Brussels. Four aircraft had major and 18 minor battle damage. Friendly fighter support was good.

Twenty-four lead and low Group B-17s dropped 908 100-lb. G.P. M30 bombs from 25,700 feet and 25,400 feet with unobserved results. Eleven high Group Fortresses dropped 412 100-lb. G.P. bombs on the Coxyde, Belgium airfield as a target of opportunity. They could not bomb the primary target because of problems with their special Gee-H navigation equipment. All 303rd BG(H) aircraft returned to Molesworth with no casualties.

GEE-H (GH) NAVIGATION SYSTEM

The British developed beam radar for Navigation or blind bombing. An airborne transmitter interrogated two ground beacons to obtain a fix. It had good accuracy and was used by the 1st and 2nd divisions during 1944. Range was around 300 miles at 20,000 feet but it was susceptible to jamming. The MKII later version had an extended frequency range. It was operated by the Navigator with a Gee box fixed over the Navigator's desk in the nose of the B-17. Some times a GH-Navigator was used in addition to the regular Navigator in a very crowded nose compartment.

USING THE GEE-H NAVIGATION SYSTEM

by 303rd BG Pilot Jack Rencher

The GEE box system consisted of 3 radio stations, a master station and 2 slave stations. They did not tell you the direction from the station like a radio compass, but they told you the distance from the station, on a scope, by measuring the TIME it took the signal to get from the station to your aircraft. From one station then you could be anywhere on the circumference of a circle a specific distance from the station. When you got the exact distance from the 2nd slave station you had two circles that crossed in 2 separate places but the 2 crosses were maybe 100 miles more or less apart depending on how far you were away from the stations, so it was no problem to know which cross was your location.

The master station broadcast a signal. The 2 slave stations picked up the signal and rebroadcast it to your aircraft. By measuring the different times it took the signal to get from the master station to the 2 slave stations (a known distance) and compare it to the time it took that signal to get to your scope gave you the exact (with in just a very few feet) distance you were from the stations. The stations were apparently very easy to move as they could keep them close to the front lines after D-day so we could use them to bomb in the fog. They seemed to be as accurate as a visual bomb run. It was a two man job to use them. You could shoot a fix and tell where you were or you could set the coordinates in your scope and home to it. I have used it to land at Molesworth in fog so thick then when you got on the ground you could open the window and stick your head out and could not see the ground with a flashlight. You could tell if you were lined up in the center or left or right of the runway center with it. The Germans could jam it if we got very far behind their lines with it. After you were on the ground you could not use it to taxi.



LAWRENCE C. THOMPSON CREW - 359th BS

(photo: 18 May 1944)

(Back L-R) Capt Lawrence C. Thompson (P), 1Lt Richard O. Johnson (CP), F/O Warren I. Young (N),
2Lt William J. Champ (B) – (Front L-R) T/Sgt Charles G. Hammons (E), S/Sgt Jack A Lemley (WG),
S/Sgt Armin C. Held (TG), S/Sgt Kenneth R. Stephan (BT), S/Sgt Delos H. Hamann (R), S/Sgt Lars Christensen (WG)

SOUND CLIP

This is a recording made on a 78 rpm record by Kenneth R. Stephan in 1942. These discs were the type that servicemen and families used to send audio messages to each other. This clip was from the base in Kearny, Nebraska. It begins, "Hi Mom and Dad, this is your little son Kenny." On this sound clip you'll hear Kenneth Stephan introduce two of his crew members that were with him at the time. One was the tail gunner Armin C. Held, who is named on the recording. The second was the assistant engineer, but he is not named. You will hear one of the crew refer to "Stephan" as "Steven." This is a common occurrence for the Stephan family. This clip is courtesy of Greg Stephan, son of Kenneth R. Stephan.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Cole</u> 291 GH		
		<u>Arnold</u> 483	<u>Reed</u> 272	
	<u>Moser</u> 058		<u>Thompson</u> 496	
<u>Eldridge</u> 076		<u>Crozier</u> 960	<u>Lehmann</u> 905	<u>Stark</u> 006
	<u>Moreman</u> 183		_____	
<u>Carney</u> 206		<u>Callahan</u> 830	_____	_____
	_____		_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Mackin-McNamara</u> 574 GH		
		<u>Davis</u> 085	<u>Johnson</u> 949	
	<u>Latshaw</u> 086		<u>Brown</u> 893	
<u>Markos</u> 583		<u>McConnell</u> 838	<u>Nafius</u> 196	<u>McMillan</u> 853
	<u>Bailie</u> 739		_____	
<u>Lee</u> 224		<u>Miller</u> 590	_____	_____
	_____		_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

Mitchell-Dubell
#42-32000 GH

		<u>Bliss</u> 060	<u>Hamilton</u> 875	
	<u>Wallace</u> 432			<u>Wilson</u> 860
<u>Cook</u> 595		<u>Newton</u> 423	<u>Bartholomew</u> 187	<u>Long</u> 124
	<u>Flick</u> 411		_____	_____
<u>Gallagher</u> 027	_____	<u>Means</u> 885	_____	_____

June 1944 - A Tale of Two Brothers in the 427th BS (H)



Hank and Bill Means

The two Means brothers were reunited at Molesworth in June 1944. Both were members of the 427BS (H). 1Lt Wilford T. **Means** was assigned to the 427BS as a Pilot on 29 May 1944 after a trip overseas on the *Queen Mary*. He completed his 35 missions on 13 August 1944 and returned home.

S/Sgt Henry H. **Means**, Jr. a waist gunner on the Lt John C. **Griggs**, Jr. Crew, was also assigned to the 427BS on 30 June 1944. After flying to Molesworth in B-17G #44-6166 *The Red*, he immediately checked with Operations and was

told that his brother was on a mission but would be back soon. He finished his 35 missions on 4 December 1944. The brothers lived about a hundred yards apart during the months that they both were assigned to the 427BS (H).

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Davis, William C., 1Lt
 CP Graham, Edward, Jr., 2Lt
 NAV Alderson, Raleigh L., 2Lt
 TT Roseland, Ralph A., Sgt
 ENG Manning, Robert L., Sgt
 RO Sandler, David L., Sgt
 BT Clarke, Kenneth, Sgt
 TG Hiland, Robert L., Sgt
 WG Rogers, Joseph S., Sgt

B-17G #44-6086 My Blonde Baby

P Latshaw, William E., 1Lt
 CP Kirkland, Robert A., F/O
 NAV Ivy, Wallis S., 2Lt
 BOM Doan, Curtis E., 2Lt
 ENG Pickens, Donald E., S/Sgt
 RO Tidwell, Andrew W., S/Sgt
 TG Hedrick, Warren L., Sgt
 BT Ginn, William E., Sgt
 LWG Miller, Horace J., Sgt

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

P Stark, Donald D., 2Lt
 CP Conley, George L., 2Lt
 NAV Hamm, Willard A., 2Lt
 NG 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 #43-37590 Neva-The Silver Lady

P Miller, Campbell, 2Lt
 CP Helms, John R., 2Lt
 NAV Ney, Russell L., F/O
 BOM Severson, Jack O., Sgt
 ENG Rodgers, John E., S/Sgt
 WG Wagner, William H., Sgt
 RO Kustic, Mark S., S/Sgt
 BT Lappo, Teddy, Sgt
 TG Mikola, Robert, Sgt

B-17G #42-97949 (No Name)

P Johnson, Harlan J., 1Lt
 CP Wright, Charles E., 2Lt
 NAV Hamilton, Bruce B., 2Lt
 BOM Morris, Warren B., 2Lt
 ENG Braun, Duane M., S/Sgt
 RO Downs, Reginald, S/Sgt
 TG Buddingh, Frederick, Sgt
 BT George, William R., Sgt
 WG Stidham, Robert L., Sgt

B-17G #42-31739 Pugnacious Peter

P Bailie, Homer P., 1Lt
 CP Petersen, John N., 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 Munn, Charles F., Sgt
 TG Naylor, Richard G., 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 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 - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-31583 *Clover Leaf*

P	Markos, Costa, F/O
CP	Miller, Cecil M., F/O
NAV	Cooper, Saul A., F/O
BOM	Bohannon, Jackson R., 2Lt
ENG	Sheets, Earl W., S/Sgt
WG	Robertson, William W., Sgt
RO	Wilson, William H., S/Sgt
TG	Zweck, William A., Sgt
BT	Pierce, James M., Sgt

B-17G #42-31224 *Hell in the Heavens*

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 #43-37838 *Fearless Fosdick*

P	McConnell, John, 2Lt
CP	Thomas, Charles E., 2Lt
NAV	Atwood, Thomas M., 2Lt
BOM	Bennett, Robert W., 2Lt
ENG	Johnson, Jack M., S/Sgt
WG	Schneider, Lawrence J., Sgt
RO	Rego, Charles J., S/Sgt
BT	Messerich, Jerome R., Sgt
WG	Krebs, Henry R., Sgt

B-17G #42-31574 - GH *Ole George*

P	Mackin, George T., Maj
CP	McNamara, James F., Capt
NAV	Mikulich, Louis F., 1Lt
NAV	Claeys, Ronald, 2Lt
BOM	Ledbetter, Lamar E., 2Lt
ENG	Wright, Gene D., S/Sgt
RWG	Stafford, Sheldon A., S/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Archie E., S/Sgt
BT	Vanderhoff, Grant W., Sgt
TG	Gamon, Edward J., S/Sgt
LWG	Stone, Robert L., Jr., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Eldridge, Truman K., 2Lt
CP Sheehan, Daniel J., Jr., 2Lt
NAV Durkin, James A., 2Lt
BOM Campbell, Sanders H., 2Lt
ENG Barnes, Frederick E., S/Sgt
RO Rowlett, Samuel A., S/Sgt
BT Strong, Ralph T., Cpl
TG Panos, Andrew T., Cpl
WG Wesley, LaFon, Sgt

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P Callahan, Edward F., 1Lt
CP Paton, Wallace L., 2Lt
NAV Andreason, Rolf W., 1Lt
BOM Campbell, Frank P., 2Lt
ENG Schlottman, Jerome D., T/Sgt
RO McLaughlin, William C., T/Sgt
BT McIntyre, Harold W., S/Sgt
TG Pohlman, Wilbert P., S/Sgt
WG Brewer, Ray, S/Sgt

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

P Crozier, Harry J., 2Lt
CP Mowrey, Paul M., 2Lt
NAV Kennedy, Clyde R., 2Lt
TOG 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 #42-102496 *Special Delivery*

P Thompson, Lawrence C., Capt
CP Johnson, Richard O., 2Lt
NAV Young, Warren I., F/O
BOM Champ, William J., 2Lt
ENG Hammons, Charles G., S/Sgt
RO Hamann, Delos, H., S/Sgt
BT Stephan, Kenneth R., S/Sgt
WG Lemley, Jack A., S/Sgt
TG Christensen, Lars, S/Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Moser, Clinton A., 1Lt
CP	Brabant, Patrick H., 2Lt
NAV	Bates, Robert L., 1Lt
BOM	Rawlings, Loren F., 2Lt
ENG	Duffey, Willis A., S/Sgt
RO	Zionkoski, John T., T/Sgt
BT	Parrish, Vernon, Sgt
TG	Seelock, Joseph J., Sgt
WG	Mays, Pearl E., T/Sgt

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

P	Arnold, William J., 1Lt
CP	Judy, Ira J., 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 #42-31183 *Bad Penny*

P	Moreman, Robert, 2Lt
CP	Quiggle, Robert D., 2Lt
NAV	Nielsen, Carl V., 2Lt
TOG	Cappucci, Joseph R., 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 P., Sgt

B-17G #42-97272 *Duchess' Daughter*

P	Reed, John W., 2Lt
CP	Altman, Maurice C, 2Lt
NAV	O'Neill, Owen H., 2Lt
TOG	Meier, Wayne E., S/Sgt
ENG	Colley, Smith K., S/Sgt
WG	Hinson, Archie H., Sgt
RO	Rose, William A., Cpl
BT	Wernet, Charles, Pvt
TG	Francheshini, James V., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-107206 *Old Black Magic*

P	Carney, Walter J., 2Lt
CP	Hickey, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Taylor, Albert R., 2Lt
TOG	Arendt, John L., S/Sgt
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 #42-97291 - GH *Myasis Dragon*

P	Cole, Richard H., LtCol
CP	London, Walter H., 2Lt
NAV	Hogan, Paul G., 1Lt
NAV	Peterson, Thomas W., 2Lt (379th)
BOM	Nance, George H., 1Lt
ENG	Johnson, Kenneth V., T/Sgt
RO	Kennedy, Herbert W., T/Sgt
BT	Guzman, Abel G., S/Sgt
TG	Parker, John W., 2Lt
WG	Abernathy, Fay W., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97860 (No Name)

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

B-17G #42-97853 Lucky Linda

P	McMillan, Murdock B., 1Lt
CP	Doughty, Gordon R., 2Lt
NAV	Shaw, Marvin E., 2Lt
BOM	Rice, Charles G., Jr., Sgt
ENG	Herr, Allen H., Sgt
RO	Tibbetts, Arthur P., T/Sgt
BT	Karp, Harold, S/Sgt
TG	Cain, Leroy H., S/Sgt
WG	Cox, James D., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97893 Minnie the Moocher

P	Brown, Leonard M., 1Lt
CP	Caldwell, Frederick J., 2Lt
NAV	Roche, William J., 2Lt
BOM	Proud, Rexford I., 1Lt
ENG	Jamison, Charles A., T/Sgt
RO	Libert, Irving, T/Sgt
BT	LaFranchi, Alfred D., S/Sgt
TG	Johnson, Francis D., S/Sgt
WG	Enget, Obert L., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-107196 Temptress

P	Nafius, Verner H., 1Lt
CP	Smith, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV	George, Sidney L., 2Lt
BOM	Cummins, James E., 2Lt
ENG	Ellis, Richard R., S/Sgt
RO	Birkenholz, Irving, S/Sgt
BT	McGinley, James E., Sgt
TG	Jinkens, Billy B., Sgt
WG	Rydquist, Roy K., Sgt

B-17G #44-6124 (No Name)

P	Long, Paul H., 1Lt
CP	Cohl, Jules R., 2Lt
NAV	Vell, Ona L., 2Lt
BOM	Lovett, William F., S/Sgt
ENG	Mours, John D., T/Sgt
RO	Habich, Arthur L., T/Sgt
BT	Flammia, Joseph E., S/Sgt
TG	Olson, Keith R., S/Sgt
WG	Abbott, Wesley C., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97187 Miss Umbriago

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

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Wallace, Walstein W., 2Lt
CP	Ferguson, Gilbert L., 2Lt
NAV	Pero, Aloyius R., 2Lt
BOM	Coughlin, George A., 2Lt
TT	Duerr, William P., Sgt
BT	Longo, Angelo L., Sgt
RO	Kosher, Albert J., Sgt
TG	Thompson, Frederick A., S/Sgt
WG	Dimowitz, Morris, S/Sgt

B-17G #42-39885 *Sweet Rose O'Grady*

P	Means, Wilford T., 2Lt
CP	Luther, Joseph P., 2Lt
NAV	Parker, Joseph B., 2Lt
BOM	Keese, Thomas R., 2Lt
TT	Payne, Joseph E., S/Sgt
BT	Miller, Robert L., Sgt
RO	May, J.H., S/Sgt
TG	Turner, James W., Sgt
WG	Sileo, J.J., Sgt

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

P	Hamilton, Max B., 2Lt
CP	Newman, Vernon V., 2Lt
NAV	Scholz, Charles F., 2Lt
BOM	Ziesche, Charles W., 2Lt
TT	Barnes, Charlie, S/Sgt
BT	Paterson, Richard E., Sgt
RO	Jervis, J.R., S/Sgt
TG	Coleman, Warren M., Sgt
WG	Butler, Edward B., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-102411 *Miss Lace*

P	Flick, Chester E., 2Lt
CP	Morrow, John E., 2Lt
NAV	Gepner, Isadore, 2Lt
BOM	Isaac, Kenneth W., 2Lt
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 #42-97905 (*No Name*)

P	Lehmann, Elroy C., 2Lt
CP	Heil, Lee C., 2Lt
NAV	Cooper, Edward G., 2Lt
BOM	Dombrowski, Alexander, 2Lt
TT	Sydor, Joseph, S/Sgt
BT	Koon, Bennie, Sgt
RO	King, Earl J., S/Sgt
TG	Baker, Russell W., Sgt
WG	Garlick, Darrell L., Sgt

B-17G #42-32000 - GH (379BG)

P	Mitchell, Fred E., 1Lt
CP	Dubell, Richard P., Capt
NAV	Randall, Everett Z., 1Lt
NAV	Curley, Walter A., 1Lt
BOM	Wallen, George A., Jr., 1Lt
TT	Cavagnol, Joseph J., T/Sgt
BT	Landa, Hyman J., S/Sgt
RO	Parr, Joe A., T/Sgt
WG	Byers, William R., S/Sgt
TG	Carpenter, Robert R., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-102595 *Little Tush*

P	Cook, J.S., 2Lt
CP	Schwolow, John C., 2Lt
NAV	Page, Ralph E., 2Lt
BOM	Warmuth, Werner G., 2Lt
TT	Slight, Joseph L., S/Sgt
BT	Eaglehouse, Robert F., Sgt
RO	Howell, Forrest W., S/Sgt
TG	Smalley, John L., Sgt
WG	Fisher, Clifford J., Sgt

B-17G #42-31060 *Poque Ma Hone*

P	Bliss, Robert P., 2Lt
CP	Keating, Donald W., 2Lt
NAV	Pandy, Bert J., 2Lt
BOM	Smoleroff, Theodore L., 2Lt
TT	Shumar, Carl K., Sgt
BT	Eakins, Charles A, Jr., Sgt
RO	Herman, Benjamin, Sgt
TG	Plesinger, Michael J., Sgt
WG	Shimanek, William D., Sgt

B-17G #42-31423 *Jigger Rooche*

P	Newton, John A., 2Lt
CP	Mowatt, Frank G., 2Lt
NAV	Lange, George L., 2Lt
ENG	Drew, William F., 2Lt
TT	Turner, Leonard A., S/Sgt
BT	Bricker, Albert W., Sgt
RO	O'Leary, James A., S/Sgt
TG	Hobgood, John F., Sgt
WG	Reeves, James E., Sgt

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

P	Gallagher, John W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Bitel, Peter, 2Lt
NAV	Hibbard, Troy W., 2Lt
BOM	Tow, Weyman J., 2Lt
TT	Lynn, William V., S/Sgt
BT	Kail, Nicholas F., S/Sgt
RO	Glass, David, S/Sgt
TG	Jacques, Warren, S/Sgt
WG	Soltero, John, S/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)