

B-17 Nickname ..... "BTO IN THE ETO"  
 Squadron ..... 613th.  
 Code Letters ..... IN-  
 Serial Number ..... 42-102647

Crew .....	Lt.	F.H. Windham		Pilot
	Lt.	D.P. Ferguson	K.I.A.	Co-pilot
	Lt.	C.T. Floto Jr.		Navigator
	Lt.	A.J. Melito		Bombardier
	S/Sgt.	D.B. Johnson	K.I.A.	Radio
	S/Sgt.	R.W. Rittmair		Eng/Top T.
	S/Sgt.	L.A. Mihalich	K.I.A.	Ball Turret
	Sgt.	J.G. Garcia	K.I.A.	Waist Gunner
	Sgt.	C.E. Ireland		Waist Gunner
	S/Sgt.	F.O. Miller	K.I.A.	Tail Gunner

#### Missions:

Unknown.

#### Notes:

This Fortress was lost on 28th. May, 1944, on the mission to Dessau.

They were on the second run over the target and near the I.P. when they were hit by a flak burst, which knocked out No. 3 engine and killed the co-pilot, Lt. D.P. Ferguson.

Two single-engined enemy fighters then made alternate passes at the plane until it pulled out of the formation and dropped about 3,000 feet below them.

Within a few minutes S/Sgt. Johnson, S/Sgt. Mihalich, S/Sgt. Miller and Sgt. Garcia were either dead or very seriously injured, and, with the oxygen system knocked out, the rest of the crew were suffering from annoxia and were only semi-conscious.

Lt. Windham gave the order to bail out but only half of the crew were able to make it to the escape hatches, and five of them went down with the ship. It crashed at Niemeck, 12 km west of Treunbrietzeu, at 1405 hrs, and the Luftwaffe reported it as 99% damaged.

The five crew members that died were buried on the following day at the Niemeck Cemetery.

The other members of the crew were all captured by the following day of the crash. Lt. Melito was caught on the Belzig-Borne railway; S/Sgt. Rittmaier was captured at Bergholz, 6 km south of Belzig; Lt. Floto was taken prisoner at Raedigke; Sgt. Ireland made it as far as the forest at Wisenburg, and Lt. Windham was taken with Lt. Floto.

BIOGRAPHY OF MAJOR GENERAL ALLISON C. BROOKS, U.S.A.F.  
 RETIRED 1ST. JULY 1971.

General Brooks was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on June 26, 1917. He attended high school in Pasadena, Calif., and earned his bachelor of science degree from the University of California, Berkeley, Calif., in 1938. He enlisted a year later as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps and was graduated from Kelly Field in 1940 with a commission as second Lieutenant and his pilot wings.

His first assignment after graduation was as an instructor with the Air Training Command at Randolph Field, Tex. In 1943 he went overseas to the European Theater of Operations as operations officer of the 401st. Bombardment Group (Heavy). In July 1944 he was assigned as executive officer and later as Commander of the 1st. Air Division Fighter Scouting Force which flew P-51 aircraft. During World War II he flew 65 combat missions for a total of 310 hours in the B-17 and P-51 aircraft. He participated in the campaigns of Air Offensive Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; and Central Europe.

General Brooks was a graduate of the Air Command and Staff School and has served as an instructor in air operations at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. In 1951 he returned to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., as a student in the Air War College.

General Brooks has been assigned to various units of the Military Airlift Command since June 1952 with the exception of a one-year tour of duty from January 1964 to March 1965, in Southeast Asia as Deputy Commander, 2nd Air Division.

In June 1952 he was assigned as operations staff officer, 1300th Air Base Wing, at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. He was assigned duties as Deputy Commander, 1602nd Air Transport Wing, Furstenfeldbruck Air Base, Germany, in September 1952. In July 1955 he assumed command of the 1602nd Air Transport Wing.

He returned to the United States in September 1955 and was assigned to Headquarters Military Airlift Command, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., as Chief, Manpower and Organisation, and in June 1957, he assumed duties as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. In August 1960 General Brooks was reassigned as Commander, 62nd Troop Carrier Wing, McChord Air Force Base, Wash. In January 1964 he went to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, as Deputy Commander, 2nd Air Division. During his tour of duty in Southeast Asia, he flew 31 missions in combat support operations.

In March 1965 he assumed command of the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service (MAC) with headquarters at Orlando Air Force Base, Fla. The headquarters was transferred to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., in 1968.

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General Brooks assumed duty as Deputy Director for Inspection Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defence (Administration), Washington, D.C., in April 1970.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with eight oak leaf clusters, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and French Croix de Guerre. He was a command pilot.