

Crew of Paul F. Bailey, 306th Bomb Group, 367th Squadron

Reported to Thurleigh 20 June 1944; MIA 12 September 1944 (Ruhland mission)

Pilot Paul F. Bailey

Copilot Rudolph M. 'Max' Babel

Bombardier Robert J. Vickers

Navigator William J. McKenna Jr. [replaced by Richard M. Rodenberger, KIA 12 Sep'44]

Engineer/top turret gunner Leroy H. Hollenberg

Radio operator Tom F. Chandler

Ball turret gunner Harold J. Boland

Waist gunner Thomas C. Dunford [replaced by J. A. Durns before 12 Sep'44 downing]

Tailgunner Sgt George L. Hargis [replaced by Leo Zych before 12 Sep'44 downing]



Note: In above photo's label, two names for the front row were reversed; actually shown in center is Copilot Rudolph ('Max') Babel; and pictured on the right end is radio operator Thomas Chandler, wearing his radio earphones.

The crew was downed in the Ruhland mission on 12 Sep 1944. In Russell Strong's book, *First Over Germany – A History of the 306th Bombardment Group, Revised Edition*, on page 276: "All of the crew except copilot Babel & navigator Rodenberger were rather quickly captured. Rodenberger was later reported as killed in action. Babel hid out and was not captured for an extended period of time." Radio operator Tom Chandler's left arm was broken both above and below the elbow; it was amputated after he returned to the States. Though ball turret gunner Harold Boland was wounded in the face and head, nevertheless, he and waist gunner J. A. Durns claimed two 'probables' among the attacking enemy planes. Durns helped Chandler get his chute on and properly fastened as the bailout bell rang. [NOTE: Missing Air Crew Report 8827, the eighth MACR of that day, 12 Sep 1944, for the crew's B-17, #42-31065, will be the 306th BG's "12 September 1944 MACR #8".]



Bombardier Robert J. Vickers and William J. McKenna Jr. atop B-17 # 42-37840



Bombardier Robert J. Vickers and Pilot Paul F. Bailey



William J. McKenna Copilot



Robert J. Vickers, Bombardier

Vickers' list: two pages of his Missions, as he recorded them:

MISSIONS. Completed.	
JUNE 24, BREMEN	GERMANY oil yards
JUNE 25, JOIGNEY	FRANCE RR Bridge
JUNE 28, LAON	FRANCE Athiers Airbase
JULY 7, LIEPZIG	GERMANY B.P. 109 Assembly
JULY 8, AMIENS	FRANCE RR Bridge
JULY 9, SAUMUR	FRANCE RR Bridge
JULY 13, MUNICH	GERMANY Airplane factory
JULY 18, PEDEMUNDE	GERMANY Buzz Bomb EXP.
JULY 19, AUGSBURG	GERMANY Airport Hangar
JULY 20, KOTHAN	GERMANY Engine Sub Depot
JULY 21, EBESBACH	GERMANY Ball Bearing factory
JULY 24, ST. LO	8 mi East FRANCE German front line
JULY 25, ST. LO	" " " "
JULY 28, MERSEBURG	FRANCE Synthetic oil plant
JULY 31, MUNICH	GERMANY MARSHLING yds.

Aug 6, Brandenberg ^{Germany} Jet Sub Depot
 Aug 7, Bordeaux ^{FRANCE} oil Tanks.
 Aug 8, VIERE. German front line ^{FRANCE}
 Aug 12, Paris-18mi. EAST Landing St. ^{FRANCE}
 Aug 13, ^{10mi S.} ROUEN Retreating GERMANs
 Aug 14, Stuttgart Engine Jet Shop ^{GERMANY}
 Aug 16, Leipzig oil storage tanks ^{GERMANY}
 Aug 24, MERSEBURG Synthic oil. Pt. ^{GERMANY}
 Aug 26, ~~RAHR~~ VALLEY " ^{GERMANY}
 Aug 27, WILSENHAVEN PFF. TOWN ^{GERMANY}
 Aug 30 Kiel Germany HARBOR
 Sept 3 Ludwigs haven Germany
 Sept 12 Ruhland Germany
 Shot Down oil refinery

After downing, Vickers was POW at Stalag Luft 1 (Barth-Vogelsang Prussia). His POW roommates included other 306th BG pilots: Clayton Nattier and Charles Wegener.