



Sachtleben Crew 607



Back row, left to right...

- Gerald Hirschman, navigator
- Raymond Sachtleben, pilot
- Wallace Krueger, bombardier

Front row, left to right...

- Oliver Brown, gunner
- Harry Wensel, gunner
- William Laslo, radio operator
- Howard Schwegel, gunner
- Clarence Grimm, engineer

Sachtleben Crew 607 Summary

The Sachtleben Crew 607 was one of the original crews for the 492nd BG that trained in Alamogordo, New Mexico. They came up as Crew 1065 from the 32nd CCT at Davis-Monthan Air Field in Tucson, Arizona. Their crew remained intact with no personnel changes. They were assigned to the 856th BS, designated as Crew 607.

Lt Raymond Sachtleben signed out for B-24J, 44-40146. In April 1944, they flew their assigned aircraft to North Pickenham, England, via the southern route. Lt Kehoe, the 856th Assistant Squadron Operations Officer, flew with them to England sitting in the co-pilot chair. Lt Mueller, the co-pilot went over on the Queen Elizabeth as commander of the other 856th crewmen taking the boat. Sgt DeBrular also took the boat to make room Lt Warner.

Letters written home by Howard Schwegel verifies that this crew's assigned plane was named SUGAR-N-SPICE. Because this plane was used later by the Pitsenbarger Crew, its name is often confused for being LUCKY STRIKE. See footnotes.

By our count Lt Sachtleben flew as the aircraft commander for crew 607 for a total of 9 missions. We can't be positive if there were any personnel changes on some of their missions. It is always possible that their bombardier might had missed a couple of the pathfinder-led missions.

More Info

Photos



[Widerview of Crew photo](#)

Training



[Sachtleben CCT 1065](#)

Stories



[Firefighter Ted Bunalski](#)

Aircraft



[44-40146 SUGAR-N-SPICE](#)

On 4 Jun 44, as they took off for a bombing raid to Avord, France, the plane stalled and spun out of control near Garveston, England. All 10 on board were killed in the crash.

We found on another website a brief account of the Sachtleben crash dealing with the two firefighters who were killed when a bomb exploded while responding to the accident. We put together an edited, condensed version of their account under the Stories link to the right. Or you may go to the original source by clicking on the Camden County weblink on the right.

According a google search, the correct pronunciation of *Sachtlebenis* "SACK-lay-ben" (in case you were wondering).

[44-40067
BIG FAT MAMA](#)

[42-110152
LADY WILL](#)

[44-40150
RUPTURED DUCK](#)

[42-95160](#)

Web Links 

[Camden County
WWII War Dead](#) 

[Garveston,
England
June 4th Memorial](#) 

Missions 

Links to missions flown by the Sachtleben Crew 607 are below in their Mission Record

**Original Roster for
Sachtleben Crew 607**



Position / MOS	Name	Rank	Serial #	Notes
Pilot MOS 1024	Sachtleben, Raymond J	2nd Lt	O-811444	Promoted 1st Lt KIA, 4 Jun 44
Co-Pilot MOS 1024	Mueller, Vernon D	2nd Lt	O-814917	Arrived to the UK via the Queen Elizabeth KIA, 4 Jun 44
Navigator MOS 1034	Hirschman, Gerald E	2nd Lt	O-699931	KIA, 4 Jun 44
Bombardier MOS 1035	Krueger, Wallace	F/O	T-123129	KIA, 4 Jun 44
Engineer MOS 748	Grimm, Clarence W	S/Sgt	36802488	Promoted T/Sgt KIA, 4 Jun 44 Buried at Cambridge, E-5-63
Radio Operator MOS 757	Laslo, William E	Sgt	34600810	KIA, 4 Jun 44
Gunner MOS 611	Schwegel, Howard J	Sgt	35120394	Promoted S/Sgt KIA, 4 Jun 44 Buried at Cambridge, F-1-13
Gunner MOS 748	Wensel, Harry L	Sgt	12031247	Promoted S/Sgt KIA, 4 Jun 44 Buried at Cambridge, F-2-38

Gunner MOS 612	Brown, Oliver W	Sgt	13100808	Promoted S/Sgt KIA, 4 Jun 44
Gunner MOS 748	DeBrular, Edward P	Sgt	15547122	Arrived to the UK via the Queen Elizabeth Promoted S/Sgt KIA, 4 Jun 44 Buried at Cambridge, E-5-83
Others Who Flew with Sachtleben Crew 607				
Co-Pilot MOS 2161	Kehoe, Nicholas B	1st Lt	O-659380	856th Assistant Operations Officer Flew to England with the crew



**Sachtleben Crew 607
492nd BG Mission Record
856th Bomb Squadron**

Crew Mission Number	Group Mission Number	Group Mission Date	Aircraft Serial Number	Primary Target	Mission Notes
01	➔ 01	11 May 44	44-40146	Mulhouse, France	Target: Marshalling yard
02	➔ 03	13 May 44		Tutow, Germany	Target: Airfield
03	➔ 05	19 May 44	44-40146	Brunswick, Germany	Target: Marshalling yard
04	➔ 07	23 May 44		Avord, France	Target: Airfield
05	➔ 10	27 May 44	44-40146	Saarbrücken, Germany	Target: Marshalling yard
06	➔ 12	29 May 44	44-40067	Politz, Germany	Target: Oil refinery
07	➔ 14	31 May 44	42-110152	Brussels, Belgium	Target: Marshalling yard
08	➔ 15	02 Jun 44	44-40150	Burck-sur-Mer, France	Target: Target: Airfield
09	➔ 16	04 Jun 44	42-95160	Avord, France	Target: Airfield Lost: crashed after takeoff, 10 KIA

