

DVD Guide to "B-24 COMBAT MISSIONS 1943"

This footage is from the collection of Leslie Kelley Roane and was obtained from the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, MD through Bono Film & Video, Inc.

"B-24 Combat Missions" – NARA # 18 CS 643 - Reels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 were filmed from Pandaveswar Army Air Force Base in India during September of 1943. It was filmed by the 10th AAF Combat Camera Unit, APO #886. It shows the 10th Army Air Force, 7th Bombardment Group, 493rd and 9th Bomb Squadrons conducting bombing missions over enemy territory (mostly over Burma).

These notes/indexes were typed by Leslie Kelley Roane, niece of 1st Lt. John C. Kelley. Kelley was 10th AAF, 7th BG, 493rd BS stationed in Pandaveswar, India. Kelley left the U.S. assigned to Lt. Harold Goad's crew and flew with Goad until October of 1943. Kelley was sick and hospitalized on the day that Goad's crew was shot down on October 14, 1943. Kelley was quickly assigned to another crew and after flying only three missions together, he was shot down with Maj. Wesley Werner's crew on November 14, 1943 and obtained extensive burns in the crash. His crew was captured by Japanese and taken as POW's in Rangoon, Burma. He died on Dec 17, 1943 from the results of his burns and little to no medical care.

Please contact Leslie at lkroane@bellsouth.net if you have additions or correction to this index. She would like to identify as many men as possible in this footage. www.johnckelley.wordpress.com

Time markers may not be exact as it counters vary slightly from program to program.

18 CS 643 - Reel 1

00:00 B-24's landing
00:10 1st plane lands. (Possibly #42)
00:20 2nd plane lands. 3rd plane visible approaching in background.
00:30 3rd plane lands.
00:45 4th plane lands.
00:55 5th plane lands.
01:05 Shows 2 planes taxiing across runway. Can not make out tail numbers.
01:10 2nd plane
01:45 Shows 3 planes taxiing off to revetments.
01:52 B-24 backs into revetment. (Presumably not #26, no tail damage). Ground crew approaches plane.
02:10 "ROLL MISSING"
02:15 Close up of B-24, tail #26 with apparent Japanese ack ack damage to tail.
02:20 Medium shot of #26 with crew on ground. Cars and Jeeps in foreground.
02:25 Close up of tail damage.
02:35 Different close up of tail damage. Shirtless man walking across tail, between fins, of plane.
02:45 Large group of men below plane surveying damage and talking.
02:55 Changes view. Shows tail and man on top of plane.
03:05 Placard shown, but blurry. Possible date is 9/14/1943.
03:05 Waist gunner preparing gun, quick shot of 2nd gunner. Both unidentified.
03:10 Mid air flight of B-24. Can not read tail #.
03:20 Down shot of B-24 over ocean.
03:30 Aerial view of cultivated agricultural terrain. Plane tail # visible, but not legible.

DVD Guide to "B-24 COMBAT MISSIONS 1943"

- 03:40 Tail # visible but slightly blurred. Believed to be tail #42.
03:50 Bottom view of two B-24's with clouds in background.
03:55 "ROLL MISSING"
04:05 Various views of seven B-24 bombers
04:27 Views of B-24's from underneath with clouds overhead. Pretty.
04:53 Closer views of bombers.
04:55 Close up views of B-24's over clouds.
05:20 Shot from underneath wing of camera ship.
05:25 Long shot of B-24 in clouds flying over the Chin Hills en route to Sagaing mission.
05:30 Shots of peninsula and islands of enemy terrain.
05:51 End of Reel 1

18 CS 643 - Reel 2

- 00:00 "ROLL MISSING" loaded backwards!
00:01 Long shot of two B-24's over clouds
00:10 Pans left to show third B-24 and wing of camera ship. Notice distinctive paint job on tail.
00:20 Pans back to show original two planes.
00:25 Long shot of six B-24's over clouds, wing of camera ship in very top of screen.
00:38 Pans right to show three or more far away planes.
00:40 Long shot of single B-24. Jumpy.
00:55 "ROLL MISSING"
01:00 Jumpy & hazy but notice the small light colored Japanese Zero quickly flying around. See waist gun barrel sticking out of window.
01:13 Bullets seen leaving waist gun.
01:25 More bullets seen as waist gun is firing at Jap Zero.
01:35 Interior shot of some unidentified crew sitting in turret of plane talking. Poor footage, very dark and hazy.
01:41 Various views of three B-24's flying over cultivated area. Wing of camera ship at right. Tail # visible, but not legible.
01:50 Fly over train tracks, looks like Pandaveswar India air base. Possibly making an approach for landing.
01:55 Waist gun of B-24. Jumpy as if gun may be firing.
02:00 Clearer view of barrel of waist gun swinging.
02:05 Begins jumping again & catch quick glimpse of Jap Zero making a pass at camera ship. Camera is blocked for a few seconds.
02:12 View from other side of plane.
02:19 Jap Zero returns & bullets seen leaving waist gun of camera ship.
02:25 Camera view blocked again.
02:45 "ROLL MISSING"
02:46 Close up shots of flying crew arriving in covered truck.
02:50 Men exit back of truck carrying bags and jackets, walk towards B-24.
Listing identified men in order of exit:
1st – S/Sgt. Omar A. Austin

DVD Guide to “B-24 COMBAT MISSIONS 1943”

- 2nd – S/Sgt. Frank A. Chiarello
3rd – Sgt. Frank A. Peters
4th – T/Sgt. Robert W. Witte
5th – Lt. Earl W. Healzer
6th – S/Sgt. George Marshall
7th – Lt. Harold W. Goad
8th – Lt. Peacock – Exiting left side door
9th – Lt. John C. Kelley – Exiting right side door
- 02:56 Testing of tail flaps & fins of B-24 #42
- 03:12 Medium shot of crew looking over a map on the ground & planning mission. Lt. Peacock explains course to crew. Notice American flags on back of leather jackets. Truck seen in background.
- 03:15 Close up of crew. Identified from left to right:
S/Sgt. Witte (standing), Lt. Healzer co-pilot (blonde with glasses), Lt. Peacock navigator (looking down with ball cap on), Lt. Kelley bombardier (with cigar in mouth & leather cap), Lt. Goad pilot (smoking pipe), & T/Sgt. Austin engineer (on far right)
- 03:25 Jumpy shot of nose of plane
- 03:34 Jumpy shot of instrument panel and wheel of B-24. Poor quality.
- 03:37 Close up shot of pilot at controls eating sandwich. This pilot has not been identified, but is not Lt. Harold Goad.
- 03:50 Close up shot of co-pilot at controls. Also not identified, but is not Lt. Healzer.
- 03:57 Close up of bombardier at his station. Also not identified, but is not Lt. Kelley.
- 04:12 B-24 in revetment with ground crew walking around.
- 04:19 Engines start & props begin to turn, one by one.
- 04:31 Changes to view of a different plane, #42 in its revetment. Ground crew and scaffolding present. Ground crew manually turning props.
- 05:03 Truck arrives on right. Nine of crew exit truck and walk to B-24. Believed to be Goad’s crew. Healzer’s blond hair (5th man to exit) and Goad (7th man to exit) are both recognizable.
- 05:25 Crew enters plane from various locations.
- 05:34 Tail of B-24 and tail turret guns are tested. Crew man unidentified.
- 05:58 Interior view of tail gunner entering tail turret compartment.
- 06:15 B-24 drops six bombs on Bassein. Camera follows bombs but cannot see impact.
- 06:33 B-25 on airfield with crew standing nearby, talking.
- 06:51 Crew standing under plane examining areas of plane.
- 06:58 One of crew sitting on ground writing notes.
- 07:05 Two Lts. talking beside plane.
- 07:15 “ROLL MISSING”
- 07:15 End of Reel 2**

18 CS 643 - Reel 3

- 00:10 Long shot of B-24’s. Look like specks against heavy clouds. Wing of camera ship in foreground.

DVD Guide to "B-24 COMBAT MISSIONS 1943"

- 00:14 Five B-24's. Hazy.
- 00:23 Four B-24's over clouds over cultivated terrain. Bassein Jetties.
- 00:25 Faintly see bombs drop from 3 planes.
- 00:30 Pans down to see river and bombs hitting targets to left of screen. Can see water geysers. Very jumpy.
- 00:45 Puffs of smoke rise from targets.
- 01:15 Six B-24's over water. Individual shots of several planes.
- 01:34 Very jumpy & then dark.
- 01:45 Natives standing around wreckage of B-24 on grassy field. Hazy & jumpy.
- 01:55 Black screen.
- 02:20 "ROLL MISSING"
- 02:30 Six B-24's over wing of camera ship over flat terrain.
- 02:44 Clouds over terrain.
- 02:53 B-24 on airstrip. Dark & hazy. Crew walking around.
- 03:50 B-24 taxis on runway. Tail # 29734.
- 04:10 B-24 drops six bombs away. Pans down to see target but is jumpy. Do not see bombs make contact.
- 04:24 Several shots of two B-24's over target area. Other ships flying below.
- 04:49 Single B-24
- 05:00 "ROLL MISSING"
- 05:19 Midshot of B-24 from underneath with bomb bay doors open.
- 05:25 Tail turret guns fire. Notice flashes of light.
- 05:30 Six bombs away. Pans to target.
- 05:54 Close up of three crew men in gun turret having lunch of sandwiches, talking and laughing. Two share a drink from a jug. One peels an orange. Man on right is identified as 1st Lt. John C. Kelley, he wears a fur lined cap & full leather suit. Other two men are not yet identified. One on left wears earphones.
- 06:15 Blank screen
- 06:30 Single B-24 over target area.
- 06:44 Three B-24's over same enemy terrain.
- 06:50 Natives planting grass on airstrip to prevent dust. Pans to right to show single engine plane then B-24's parked. Some natives use pick axes.
- 07:12 Close up of native child with ring in nose at work on grass.
- 07:20 Several scenes of target area terrain.
- 07:30 Faint glimpse of bombs dropping on bridge.
- 07:38 See explosions on bridge area & smoke rising.
- 08:08 Several shots of single B-24 with clouds below.
- 08:33 "ROLL MISSING"
- 08:44 End of Reel 3**

18 CS 643 - Reel 4

- 00:09 Six bombs falling on Rangoon Harbor.

DVD Guide to "B-24 COMBAT MISSIONS 1943"

- 00:33 Camera pans around to find bomb destination. Bomb puffs & smoke over populated area. Appears to land between Rangoon Central Jail & the Shwedogon Pagoda (based on 1945 map of city).
- 00:40 More bombs fall, pans to river & shows water geysers beside ships in Rangoon Harbor.
- 01:08 Two sets of six bombs dropped over land, clearly see smoke and debris clouds rise.
- 01:28 Several shots of B-24's taxiing on runway for takeoff.
- 02:30 Mid air shots of several B-24's and clouds.
- 02:50 More scenes of B-24. Gun barrel visible.
- 03:22 View of six B-24's from below.
- 03:43 Various long shots of the six B-24's.
- 03:56 Close up of B-24 on airstrip. Engines warm up.
- 04:10 B-24 #32 taxis down the runway and takes off.
- 04:21 Dark scene. Tiny specks of light visible as B-24's come in for night landing & taxi down runway. Moon visible as it pans to follow plane.
- 04:47 Several B-24's shown parked on airstrip. One taxis slowly.
- 05:15 Plane taxis to runway.
- 05:35 Parked B-24's at Pandaveswar India.
- 06:00 B-24 taxis to left.
- 06:19 End of Reel 4**

18 CS 643 - Reel 5

- 00:00 9/16/1943
- 00:07 Bent prop of B-24 on ground. Puddles nearby.
- 00:10 Pans to B-24 being serviced on wet airstrip. Repairs to wing & outer engine.
- 00:15 Blank black screen. Continues until 00:55.
- 01:00 Seven B-24's shown like specks under the wing of camera ship. Hazy.
- 01:10 Various aerial views of river & enemy terrain. Jumpy and dark portions.
- 02:00 B-24's from under fin of camera ship.
- 02:08 Bombs away on river and harbor area. Water geysers visible.
- 02:25 Bridge across river. Mesa Bridge. Jumpy.
- 02:35 B-24 taxiing on runway. Several B-24's parked in background.
- 02:37 B-24 in flight.
- 02:50 Scenic view of daylight breaking through clouds. B-24's look like dots against clouds.
- 03:00 Seven B-24's look like tiny specks in sky. Hazy.
- 03:13 Various aerial views of enemy terrain.
- 04:00 Seven B-24's over ocean and flat terrain.
- 04:50 Close up of B-24 from underneath.
- 04:58 View of water.
- 05:02 Views of cultivated & populated enemy terrain.
- 05:13 Six bombs dropped, camera tries to follow, but clouds block view.
- 05:45 Close up of navigator in B-24 with earphones in front of instrument panel. Writes in book & uses hand phone. Unidentified but may possibly be Lt. Peacock from Goad's crew.

DVD Guide to "B-24 COMBAT MISSIONS 1943"

- 06:08 Close up of pilot Lt. Harold Goad at controls. Notice the American flag & 10th AAF patch on his leather jacket.
- 06:18 Close up of co-pilot Lt. Earl Healzer at controls. Notice the CBI patch on his arm.
- 06:28 Crew man recording in book. Unidentified, but presumably part of Goad's crew.
- 06:44 Aerial view of enemy bridge. Lighthouse visible at point.
- 07:00 Four bombs fall on enemy airfield. Thanbyuzayant mission. Very wet terrain.
- 07:27 9/23/1943. "GI DOUGHNUTS" Enlisted men prepare dough to make doughnuts. More footage like this may be found in 18 CS 641 Reel 3.
- 08:18 End of Reel 5**

18 CS 643 - Reel 6

- 00:10 B-24 dropping 3 bombs.
- 00:15 Camera pans below.
- 00:22 Two, then three B-24's flying over clouds.
- 00:35 Single B-24 flying over shore & sea.
- 00:43 Back to views of two-three B-24's over clouds & rivers.
- 01:00 Tilted ground level view of grassy area.
- 01:05 Camera stabilizes over grassy area & large explosion on left of screen. Pans up to follow black smoke.
- 01:20 Two-three men in suntan suits on grassy field unwinding reel preparing to lay mines.
- 01:38 Three men carrying reel near hole & walk away.
- 01:50 Closer view of hole.
- 01:52 Black screen continues until 02:40
- 02:42 "B-MISSION" 9/19/1943
- 02:43 Four B-24's over clouds
- 02:51 Split second shot of man smoking, wearing ring.
- 02:55 Various overhead views of B-24's over trees.
- 03:24 Long shots of B-24's over clouds. Mountains visible in background.
- 03:41 End of Reel 6**