

42-5866, The Jolly Roger
Lost on Mission 10 to Regensburg

Bruno Gallerani in 42-5866, *The Jolly Roger*, with the Sommers Crew was able to kick the escape hatch open, push the wounded bombardier out and bail out himself. After *The Jolly Roger* crashed he said, "When I landed, I had all my winter clothes on and when I took them off, the local people took them and ran off. Two German planes flew by and dipped their wings, but didn't shoot." Bruno hid in the woods until the next day when he met a villager who told him that the Germans had his clothes and were getting Bloodhounds. He then ran through a cow pasture, deliberately stepping in cow paddies to throw off his scent. Those first few days he would hide by day in haystacks and travel south by night. He continued, "People would look at you but not bother you." Seven days later a farmer put him in touch with the underground, known in that area as "the White Brigade." They took Bruno from town to town by night until he got to Antwerp. Leery of German infiltrators, one told him, "You know on that last trip one guy behind you had a gun aimed at your head all the way!" In Antwerp he was taken to a third floor room, yet the Gestapo HQ was on the ground floor! They didn't tell him this until after he left. He said Nazis were all over the place. From Brussels he was put on a train to Paris. He was handed a newspaper and told to put his nose in it. Not speaking the language and not knowing how to act either Belgian or French led to sticky hours of travel beside German soldiers. As he arrived in Paris he was met by two underground agents and as he was walking two Gestapo men headed straight for him. He looked about but the two underground agents had disappeared! He just kept on walking, but the Gestapo grabbed another guy, and as he continued, his escorts showed up again. Bruno bicycled south toward Spain. When stopped by French police he feigned being deaf and mute, just gave them papers the underground gave him. They read them, gave them back with a "Merci Monsieur," and allowed him to continue. He eventually crossed the Pyrenees into Spain and on to London. Bruno was sent back to Las Vegas in the U.S. until his discharge after the war. Once a flyer had escaped, he was not allowed to fly again, as he knew too much about the underground to risk a possible second capture.