

## 303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 2

18 November 1942

Target: U-Boat Pens, St. Nazaire, France

Crews Dispatched: 21

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 36 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lbs H.E. M43 bombs

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 1 Destroyed, 4 Probables, 3 Damaged

Ammo Fired: 12,138 rounds

Bombing Altitude: 19,400 feet

**F**or the Group's second mission, orders were received to bomb La Pallice, France. This order was changed during the early morning, but the message was not delivered to the proper persons until after the briefing. This was too late to change targets and still send well-informed crews on combat missions. Wing Headquarters was contacted and permission was given to proceed with the first order.



Col James D. Wallace

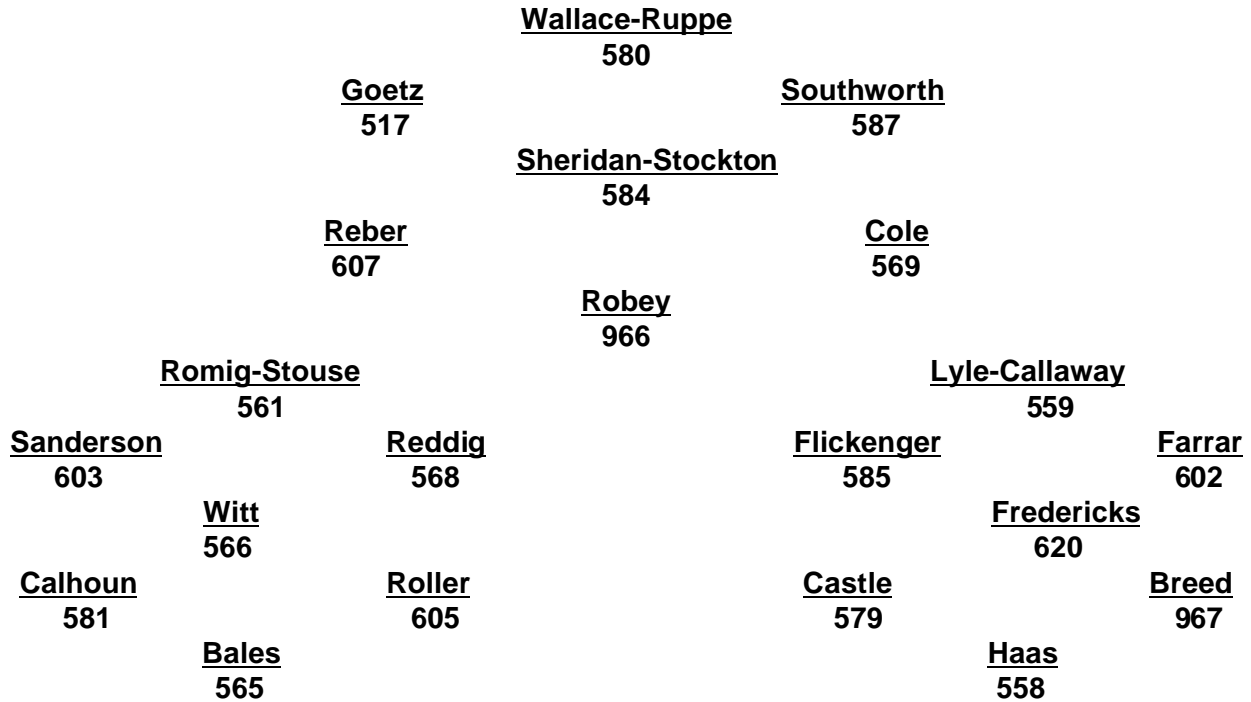
Col. **Wallace** would lead this mission, flying with Lt. **Ruppe**. The 359th BS was led by Maj. **Romig** and Lt. **Stouse**. Capt. **Lyle** and Maj. **Callaway** were lead aircraft for the 360th BS, but it had one 358th BS aircraft and crew under its command. Maj. **Sheridan** and Lt. **Stockton** took the lead for the 427th BS.

Twenty-one B-17s took off at 1025, went to the start point, and then direct to the target. The return trip was made around the Brest peninsula. Two planes had returned early due to mechanical difficulties. Following another Bomb Group to the target, the 303rd BG(H) attacked the secondary target, St. Nazaire, France at 1222 by mistake, at an altitude of 19,400 feet. The group had veered over 100 miles off course.

Intense heavy flak was encountered over the target area. The flak was mostly inaccurate for the height. Aircraft #41-24558, *Hunga Dunga*, experienced slight damage. A formation of 18-20 FW-190s attacked the 303rd BG 18 miles off Cape Frehel, France. The attack continued for 20 minutes. Sgt. Kenneth J. **Kurtenbach**, tail gunner on #41-24602, *Yardbird*, 360th BS, claimed destruction of an enemy aircraft. It was seen to turn to its side with smoke coming from its engine. Sgt. **Kurtenbach** fired several bursts into the FW-190's belly and flames were seen coming from the fuselage. It was out of control as it went into the clouds. An additional four aircraft were claimed as probably and three damaged. Three men were slightly wounded by flak.

Many hits were made on the dock installations at St. Nazaire, although it took a considerable amount of time to convince an unbelieving Col. **Wallace** that the Group had bombed the wrong target. Three planes landed at Chelveston, all others returned to Molesworth. Following the mission, sixteen of the Group's B-17s were out of commission due to flak and mechanical difficulties. This was a better record than the first mission, but the Group had a long way to go to become war veterans.

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Three (3) aircraft aborted this mission:

- Lt. Robey in 966
- Capt. Calhoun in 581
- Lt. Farrar in 602

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CREW POSITIONS</b> CMP - Command Pilot P - Pilot CP - Co-Pilot NAV - Navigator ANV - Ass't. Navigator MNV - Mickey Navigator ENG - Engineer BOM - Bombardier RO - Radio Operator	TOG - Toggler BT - Ball Turret Operator TT - Top Turret Operator TG - Tail Gunner NG - Nose Gunner RG - Radio Gunner WG - Waist Gunner LWG - Left Waist Gunner RWG - Right Waist Gunner GUN - Gunner	VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer  <b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b> KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war	DOW - Died of wounds EVD - Evaded the enemy INT - Interned in neu cntry REP - Repatriated RES - Rescued ESC - Escaped BO - Bailed out DCH - Ditched CR-L - Crashed on land CR-S - Crashed at sea
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## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### B-17F #41-24580 *Hell Cat*

CMP	Wallace, James H., Col
P	Ruppe, Eldon T., 2Lt
NAV	Gordon, Bruce W., 2Lt
BOM	Haas, Anton H., 2Lt
ENG	Mullendore, Merle S., T/Sgt
GUN	Brunett, Arthur, Sgt
RO	Hughes, Norman, Sgt
LWG	Lucas, Jack, Sgt
GUN	Bitter, Emile V., Jr., Sgt
GUN	Rukes, Merlyn D., Sgt

### B-17F #41-24558 *Hunga Dunga*

P	Haas, Joseph E., 1Lt
CP	O'Connor, Robert S., 2Lt
NAV	Anderson, William J., 2Lt
BOM	Steele, Earl A., 2Lt
ENG	Koenig, Bernard H., T/Sgt
BT	Hall, Sidney V., Sgt
RO	Gergash, Bernard A., Pvt
TG	Batterson, Frank L., Sgt
RWG	Kinney, Jesse R., Sgt
GUN	Reino, Thomas J., Sgt



**JOSEPH E. HAAS CREW - 358th BS**

**B-17F Hunga Dunga #41-24558 358th BS (VK-F)**

**(original crew assigned 358BS: 10 Sep 1942 - photo: 13 Oct 1942)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Joseph E. Haas (P), 2Lt Robert S. O'Connor (CP), 2Lt William J. Anderson (N),  
2Lt Earl A. Steele (B), Maj Charles A. Green (pass) - (Front - not identified)

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #41-24565 *Idaho Potato Peeler***

P Bales, Ross C., 1Lt  
 CP McGough, Wilson N., 2Lt  
 NAV Browning, Richard C., 2Lt  
 BOM Thomas, Paul M., 2Lt  
 ENG Winter, Raymond K., Sgt  
 TT Perkins, Homer T., Sgt  
 BT Klee, John P., S/Sgt  
 RO Kilgore, Raymond H., T/Sgt  
 TG Snell, Jack D., S/Sgt  
 LWG Alcorn, C.E., Cpl

### **B-17F #41-24566 *Zombie***

P Witt, Orville S., 1Lt  
 CP Kalhoefer, Herbert E., 1Lt  
 NAV Brightbill, Donald H., 2Lt  
 BOM Dyar, Wilmer E., 2Lt  
 ENG Woods, Lyle C., T/Sgt  
 BT Renner, Warner R., S/Sgt  
 RO Bachom, Thomas F., T/Sgt  
 RWG Kinsey, Harold A., S/Sgt  
 TG Thomas, Laurence W., S/Sgt  
 GUN Millett, Bernard W., Cpl

### **B-17F #41-24605 *Knockout Dropper***

P Roller, Jack, 1Lt  
 CP Cline, William J., 2Lt  
 NAV Henson, Walter C., 2Lt  
 BOM Shoup, John R., Jr., 2Lt  
 ENG Marcelonis, Joseph, T/Sgt  
 BT Ketron, Frank M., S/Sgt  
 RO Williams, Lemuel R., T/Sgt  
 RWG Beringer, John L., Jr., S/Sgt  
 TG Burnham, Arthur L., S/Sgt  
 GUN Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt

### **B17F #41-24561 *The Duchess***

CMP Romig, Eugene A., Maj  
 P Stouse, Harold L., 1Lt  
 NAV Elliott, Jesse H., 2Lt  
 BOM Penn, Hunter G., 2Lt  
 ENG Audiss, Eldon W., T/Sgt  
 RO Richardson, Donald R., T/Sgt  
 LWG Tupper, Theron S., S/Sgt  
 BT Garriott, John A., S/Sgt  
 TG Owen, Calvin H., S/Sgt  
 GUN Brown, Houston B., Jr., Cpl

### **B-17F #41-24568 *Lady Fairweather***

P Reddig, Arthur E., 1Lt  
 CP McMurtry, Francis M., 2Lt  
 NAV Ercegovich, John, Jr., 2Lt  
 BOM Ward, Grady B., 2Lt  
 ENG Van Fleet, Robert W., T/Sgt  
 LWG Mann, Ferrell A., S/Sgt  
 RO Nolen, Devon B., T/Sgt  
 GUN Senior, George T., Sgt  
 TG Grieb, Alexander S., Sgt  
 BT Sturgis, Gerald S., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24603 *Green Hornet***

P Sanderson, Ellis J., 1Lt  
 CP Bowman, Horace D., Jr. 2Lt  
 NAV Spence, John W., 2Lt  
 BOM Plummer, John W., 2Lt  
 ENG Devers, Sidney, T/Sgt  
 RO Jones, Miles B., T/Sgt  
 BT Greene, Frank W., S/Sgt  
 RWG Swanson, Harry F., S/Sgt  
 TG Markiewicz, Joseph L., S/Sgt  
 LWG Silva, Carlos J., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24581 *The '8' Ball***

P Calhoun, William R., Capt  
 CP Nix, James S., 2Lt  
 NAV Strickland, Joseph M., 2Lt  
 BOM Kossis, Norman, 2Lt  
 ENG Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt  
 LWG Fortunak, Richard C., S/Sgt  
 RO Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt  
 BT Mulgrew, William C., S/Sgt  
 TG Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt  
 RWG Murphy, Murel A., Sgt  
 (Abortive)

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-2967 *Shak Hak***

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P	Breed, William H., 1Lt
CP	Schulstad, Louis M., 1Lt
NAV	Allen, Homer R., 2Lt
BOM	Santerre, Homer N., 2Lt
ENG	Putala, Stanley, T/Sgt
LWG	Easter, Samuel D., S/Sgt
RO	Herbert, Joseph M., T/Sgt
TG	Lentz, James H., S/Sgt
RWG	Roth, Charles L., S/Sgt
BT	Magee, Alan E., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24585 *Wulfe Hound***

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P	Flickenger, Paul F., 1Lt
CP	Williams, Jack E., 2Lt
NAV	Schowalter, Gilbert T., 1Lt
BOM	Polk, Beverly R., 2Lt
ENG	Whitman, William A., T/Sgt
LWG	Schlotfeldt, Arnold H., S/Sgt
RO	Fegette, Iva Lee, S/Sgt
BT	Sunderlin, Joseph R., Sgt
GUN	O'Connell, Lincoln T., S/Sgt
GUN	Stamper, William B., T/Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24559 *Ooold Soljer***

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P	Lyle, Lewis E., Capt
CP	Callaway, Richard D., Maj
NAV	Embach, John H., 1Lt
BOM	Libonati, Michael L., 1Lt
ENG	Smith, Gene K., T/Sgt
LWG	Hartung, Frederick A., T/Sgt
RO	Balcombe, Clayton S., Sgt
BT	Sangster, Robert A., Sgt
TG	Durant, Edward W., S/Sgt
RWG	Bradford, Edward A., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24579 *Thumper***

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P	Castle, John A., 2Lt
CP	Fitzsimmons, Kent M., 2Lt
NAV	Anderson, Samuel H., 2Lt
BOM	Sinopoli, Louis B., 2Lt
ENG	Levin, Meyer, S/Sgt
LWG	Heitman, Alfred V., Sgt
RO	Yannie, Emilio J., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Craft, Cecil E., Sgt
TG	Soria, Peter, Sgt
RWG	Dobbins, Jerry W., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24620 *Snap! Crackle! Pop!***

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P	Fredericks, Jacob W., Capt
CP	Way, Arthur C., 2Lt
NAV	Herrington, Glen M., Lt
BOM	Fonorow, Milton S., Lt
ENG	Hlastala, Michael S., T/Sgt
LWG	Schneiderman, Henry G., Sgt
RO	Smith, Richard J., S/Sgt
BT	Nardine, Howard H., S/Sgt
TG	Murray, Gilbert A., Jr., S/Sgt
RWG	Collins, Harvie L., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24602 *Yardbird***

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P	Farrar, John W., 1Lt
CP	Adams, Arthur I., 2Lt
NAV	Auman, Rictor H., 2Lt
BOM	Stewart, Jack W., 2Lt
ENG	Hassler, Kenneth C., S/Sgt
RWG	Bartlett, Frank W., Cpl
RO	Lindewall, Erick K., T/Sgt
BT	Dillard, George N., Sgt
TG	Kurtenbach, Kenneth J., S/Sgt
OBS	Trojan, Joseph E., 2Lt
	(Abortive)

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #41-24584 *Susfu***

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CMP	Sheridan, Charles C., Maj
P	Stockton, Donald E., 1Lt
NAV	Soha, Walter M., 2Lt
BOM	Dieffenbach, Albert W., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, Roy Q., S/Sgt
RO	Miller, Gordon D., S/Sgt
BT	Hinds, Durward L., Sgt
TG	Henderson, George W., Sgt
RWG	Pennington, James L., Sgt
LWG	Harmon, Edward Z., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24569 *Memphis Tot***

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P	Cole, Lloyd R., Capt
CP	McCune, Robert N., 2Lt
NAV	Driggs, Robert P., 2Lt
BOM	Bryant, Edward N., 2Lt
ENG	Purinton, Bliss D., S/Sgt
RO	Brandfas, Dale F., S/Sgt
TG	Callery, Phillip J., Sgt
RWG	Witte, Arch, Jr., S/SGT
GUN	Coomes, Clarence S., S/Sgt
GUN	Bryant, Carson, S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-2966 *(No Name)***

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P	Robey, Harry A., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Burma, Benjamin H., 2Lt
NAV	Grice, Charles R., 2Lt
BOM	Moser, Roy R., 2Lt
ENG	Sulcofski, Francis, S/Sgt
RO	Vogel, Sebastian L., S/Sgt
BT	Levering, Edward T., Sgt
RWG	Bradley, Merel D., Sgt
TG	Rutt, Donald H., Sgt
LWG	Hummel, Wilbur F., Sgt

(Abortive)

### **B-17F #41-24587 *Bad Check***

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P	Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
CP	Dillinger, John M., 2Lt
NAV	Schueler, Jon R., 2Lt
BOM	Conver, Milton K., 2Lt
ENG	Means, Lucian W., Jr., T/Sgt
RO	Doughty, Edward J., S/Sgt
GUN	Brandt, Waldo B., Sgt
GUN	Belk, Jack, Sgt
GUN	Fleming, William W., Sgt
GUN	Jenkins, Robert R., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24607 *Jerry Jinx***

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P	Reber, Ehle, H., 1Lt
CP	Mitchell, Allan D., 2Lt
NAV	Byrom, Jarold J., 2Lt
BOM	Swindle, Robert J., 2Lt
ENG	Hamilton, Duke L., Jr., S/Sgt
RWG	Blankenship, Irwin D., Sgt
RO	Mayo, Donald A., S/Sgt
BT	Choice, Hudson, Sgt
TG	Hand, Victor G., Sgt
LWG	Gross, Luther N., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24517 *Kali***

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P	Goetz, William H., 1Lt
CP	McDermott, Mark L., 2Lt
NAV	Madrid, Robert L., 2Lt
BOM	Smith, Robert W., 2Lt
ENG	Shelly, James F., T/Sgt
RO	Walters, Joseph H., S/Sgt
BT	Storer, Charles R., Sgt
LWG	Koch, Vernon E., Sgt
GUN	Runge, Walter E., Sgt
GUN	Morrison, Thomas H., Sgt