

## 303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 4

23 November 1942

Target: Submarine Pens, St. Nazaire, France

Crews Dispatched: 12

Crews Lost: Lt. A.E. Reddig - 10 KIA

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: Capt. Fulghum - WIA/POW

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 45 minutes

Bomb Load: 2 x 2000 lb H.E. M34 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 20,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 5,754 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 2 Destroyed, 1 Probable, 2 Damaged

The briefing was conducted by Lts **Whitehead, Johnson** and **Von Schmidt**. Twelve aircraft took off at 0930 and were over the target at 1330. They dropped twenty-three 2,000 lb. H.E. bombs from 20,800 feet. Crews reported hits on sail loft, wet dock, small ship in drydocks, marshalling yards, etc. Cameras failed to function.



Maj George L. Robinson

Thirty or more FW-190s made vicious close attacks in groups of two or three immediately after the bombers left the intense flak over the target. Group gunners destroyed two enemy aircraft with one probable and two damaged.

The Group suffered its first crew loss in #41-24568. *Lady Fairweather* was on its third mission and was seen to hit the water while still in flames. The aircraft crashed in the Atlantic in the Bay of Biscay near Belle Isle. Four parachutes were believed seen descending at the time of the encounter. The missing crewmen were: 1Lt. A.E. **Reddig**, Capt. C.G. **Miller**, 2Lt. J. **Ercegovich**, 2Lt. J.W. **Plummer**, T/Sgt. R.W. **Van Fleet**, T/Sgt. D.B. **Nollen**, S/Sgt. G.S. **Sturgis**, S/Sgt. F.A. **Mann**, Sgt. A.S. **Grieb**, and Sgt. G.T. **Senior**. All crewmen are listed on the Wall of Missing in Cambridge Cemetery, England.

The formation was led by Deputy Group Commander Maj. **George L. Robinson** in #41-24609 *Holy Mackerel*. The lead navigator on the ship, Capt. Harold **Fulghum**, bailed out over the target. *Holy Mackerel* had been hit by flak, causing considerable damage which made the interphone inoperative. Hydraulic fluid flowing into the navigator's compartment led the navigator to assume that it was blood and that his pilot had been killed. He bailed out in a panic situation and was last seen descending near bursting flak. Capt. **Fulghum**, 358th BS, became a POW. Five other men on four different crews were injured, none critically.

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

	<u>Robinson</u> 609	
<u>Breed</u> 567		<u>Castle</u> 579
	<u>Calhoun</u> 581	
<u>Saunders</u> 606		<u>Miller-Reddig</u> 568
	<u>Wurzbach</u> 541	
<u>Haas</u> 558		<u>Morales</u> 562
	<u>Frost</u> 582	
<u>Robey</u> 517		<u>Clark</u> 526



**REDDIG CREW - 359th BS**  
**B-17F Lady Fairweather #41-24568 (BN-U)**  
**(original crew assigned 359BS: 27 July 1942 - photo: 10 Oct 1942)**  
(Back L-R) 1Lt Arthur E. Reddig (P), 2Lt Francis McMurtry (CP), 2Lt John Ercegovich (N),  
2Lt Grady Ward (B) - (Front L-R) Sgt Robert W. Van Fleet (E), Sgt Ferrell A. Mann (LWG),  
Sgt Gerald S. Sturgis (BT), Sgt Devon B. Nolen (R)

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #41-24562 Sky Wolf**

P Morales, Carl H., 2Lt  
 CP Swaffer, Calvin A., 2Lt  
 NAV Hunter, William C., 2Lt  
 BOM Zasadil, Frank E., 2Lt  
 ENG Hinds, Francis G., T/Sgt  
 BT Carroll, Albert V., Sgt  
 RO Dasher, Everett A., Sgt  
 GUN Brody, Harry J., Sgt  
 GUN Blake, Robert C., Sgt  
 GUN Zimmer, Erwin C., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24541 Spook**

P Wurzbach, Clemens K., Maj  
 CP Dunnica, Lawrence G., Lt  
 NAV Thornton, Leonard E., Lt  
 BOM Montgomery, James H. Jr., Lt  
 ENG Tucker, Harry W., T/Sgt  
 RO Holland, Bertis W., S/Sgt  
 GUN Dew, Robert L., Sgt  
 GUN Cascio, Phillip T., Sgt  
 GUN Taylor, Claude P., S/Sgt  
 GUN Sadler, James K., 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  
 RO Gergash, Bernard A., Pvt  
 BT Hall, Sidney V., Sgt  
 GUN Isham, Lawrence W., Sgt  
 GUN Batterson, Frank L., Sgt  
 GUN Maxwell, Samuel P., Sgt  
 GUN Lucas, Jack, Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24582 One O'Clock Jump**

P Frost, William W., Capt  
 CP Mays, Robert L., Lt  
 NAV Phillips, Joe R., Lt  
 BOM Brownlee, Leon W., Lt  
 ENG Hildebrand, Kenneth G., T/Sgt  
 RO Powers, Joseph E., Sgt  
 GUN Shaw, Floyd J., Sgt  
 GUN Devine, William S., Sgt  
 GUN Toney, James R., Jr., Sgt  
 GUN Demuth, Edward L., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24526 Leapin Liz**

P Clark, James B., Lt  
 CP Bouton, Paul, Jr., Lt  
 NAV Hoffman, Charles E., Lt  
 BOM Lusk, Don W., Jr., Lt  
 ENG Reino, Thomas J., T/Sgt  
 RO Wilder, LeRoy W., S/Sgt  
 GUN Hall, George F., S/Sgt  
 GUN Rukes, Merlyn D., S/Sgt  
 GUN Kennedy, John W., Jr., Sgt  
 GUN Hamill, Milton, S/Sgt

#### 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 cuntry 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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## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Calhoun, William R., Jr., Capt
CP	Nix, James S., Lt
NAV	Strickland, Joseph M., 2Lt
BOM	Dominick, George B., Lt
RO	Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt
GUN	Perkins, Homer T., Sgt
GUN	Fortunak, Richard C., S/Sgt
GUN	Mulgrew, William C., S/Sgt
GUN	Silva, Carlos J., Sgt
GUN	Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24606 *Werewolf***

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P	Saunders, Frank A., Lt
CP	Kirk, Leonard W., Lt
NAV	Forester, Oscar F., Jr., Lt
BOM	Kossis, Norman, Lt
RO	Clevenger, Walter M., T/Sgt
GUN	Cozza, Victor J., T/Sgt
GUN	Wagner, Lloyd E., S/Sgt
GUN	Hoklin, Leif H., S/Sgt
GUN	Chitwood, Russell O., S/Sgt
GUN	High, Howard A., Sgt

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

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P	Reddig, Arthur E., 1Lt	KIA
CP	Miller, Charles G., Capt	KIA
NAV	Ercegovich, John, Jr., 2Lt	KIA
BOM	Plummer, John W., Lt	KIA
GUN	Van Fleet, Robert W., T/Sgt	KIA
GUN	Sturgis, Gerald S., S/Sgt	KIA
RO	Nolen, Devon B., T/Sgt	KIA
GUN	Mann, Ferrell A., S/Sgt	KIA
GUN	Senior, George T., Sgt	KIA
TG	Grieb, Alexander S., Sgt	KIA

### **B-17F #41-24609 *Holy Mackerel***

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P	Robinson, George L., Maj	
CP	Eyster, Ercil F., 1Lt	
NAV	Fulghum, Harold, Capt	BO/WIA/POW
NAV	Gilliam, Jackson P., Lt	
BOM	Haas, Anton H., Lt	
RO	Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt	
GUN	Dunham, Harold J., T/Sgt	
GUN	Woods, Lyle C., T/Sgt	
GUN	Davis, Marcus K., S/Sgt	
GUN	Bauer, Floyd E., S/Sgt	
GUN	Altizer, Robert C., T/Sgt	

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **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  
RO Yannie, Emilio J., Jr., S/Sgt  
GUN Heitman, Alfred V., Sgt  
GUN Murray, Gilbert A., Jr., S/Sgt  
GUN Semonick, Martin A., S/Sgt  
GUN Staner, Billie L., Cpl

### **B-17F #41-24567 *Beats Me***

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P Breed, William H., Lt  
CP Sample, Harry T., Jr., Lt  
NAV Allen, Homer R., Lt  
BOM Santerre, Homer N., Lt  
ENG Putala, Stanley, T/Sgt  
RO Herbert, Joseph M., T/Sgt  
GUN Easter, Samuel D., S/Sgt  
GUN Kuffel, Mathias A., S/Sgt  
GUN Lentz, James H., S/Sgt  
GUN Loken, Roy C., Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew List

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

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P Robey, Harry A., Jr., Lt  
CP Burma, Benjamin H., Lt  
NAV Grice, Charles R., Lt  
BOM Moser, Roy R., Lt  
ENG Sulcofski, Francis, S/Sgt  
RO Vogel, Sebastian L., S/Sgt  
GUN Levering, Edward T., Sgt  
GUN Bradley, Merel D., Sgt  
GUN Rutt, Donald H., Sgt  
GUN Storer, Charles R., Sgt