

303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 9

3 January 1943

Target: Torpedo Storage Areas, St. Nazaire, France

Crews Dispatched: 17

Crews Lost: Lt. Clark, Lt. Adams, Lt. Saunders, Lt. Goetz

Length of Mission: 7 hours plus

Bomb Load: 5 x 1000 lb M44 H.E. Demolition bombs

Bombing Altitude: 20,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 6,552 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 12 Destroyed, 6 Probables, 2 Damaged

Capt. **Lewis E. Lyle**, CO 360th BS, led the 360th BS low formation, Maj. **Wurzbach**, CO 358th BS, led the 358th BS high formation, and Maj. **Sheridan**, CO 427th BS, led the 2nd flight lead formation.

Three B-17s aborted this mission and were to land at Chelveston, but returned to Molesworth when orders were changed: #41-24541, *Spook*, 358BS-B (**Wurzbach**), lower ball turret inoperative; #41-24605, *Knockout Dropper*, 359BS-R (**Bales**), left top turret gun inoperative. Left waist gun reported runaway; #41-24635, *The '8' Ball MK II*, 359BS-O (**Calhoun**), WG was sick.

The weather was beautiful, clear and cold. B/Gen. **Haywood S. Hansell**, newly-appointed commanding General, 1st Provisional Bombardment Combat Wing (PBCW), led the VIII BC effort as a passenger in Col. **Wallace's** lead B-17.



Capt. Lewis E. Lyle

The Group encountered intense black flak and 25-35 enemy fighters. Crews claimed twelve enemy aircraft destroyed, seven probables, and one damaged. Each of the four Squadrons lost one B-17 over enemy territory. Only two parachutes were seen to open. 2Lt. Grady B. **Ward**, bombardier on #41-24603, *Green Hornet*, 359BS-Y, was injured in the right hand from flying glass broken by enemy aircraft bullets.

B-17 #41-24517, *Kali*, piloted by 1Lt. W.A. **Goetz** blew up in mid-air over St. Nazaire. All crew members were lost. Lt. **Goetz**, Maj. **Sheridan**, Lt. **Madrid**, Lt. **Smith**, T/Sgt. **Walters**, Sgt. **Runge**, Sgt. **Rutt**, and Sgt. **Bradley** are listed on the Wall of Missing at Brittany Cemetery, France. Sgt. **McDonald** is listed on the Wall of Missing at Cambridge, England.

Snap! Crackle! Pop! was named by Capt. Jacob **Fredericks**, 360th BS, who flew this B-17 from the U.S. to England. Before entering the AAF, he had worked for the Kellogg Co., the creators of the Rice Krispies cereal and its *Snap! Crackle! Pop!* promotional slogan. Piloted by 1Lt. A.I. **Adams**, this aircraft crashed at La Bauleles Pins, France.

Navigator 2Lt. **Herrington** suffered a wounded leg which was amputated by German doctors. From the Luftwaffe Hospital he was sent to an interrogation center. He was later one of the first AAF men to be repatriated. After an arduous journey through four countries, he arrived at a Washington, DC hospital. He married the nurse who treated him. S/Sgt. J.J. **Gordon** parachuted into the sea thirty meters from the Bay of La Baule Peo Pins beach. He was rescued by German soldiers and became a prisoner of war.



B-17F 41-24620 Snap! Crackle! Pop! 360BS PU-O
Actual Nose Art panel from crashed B-17 near St. Nazaire, France

Adams' ball turret gunner on *Snap! Crackle! Pop!* was S/Sgt **Alan Magee**. The ball turret was hit by flak, wounding **Magee** and becoming inoperative. He left the turret and discovered that his chest pack had a large hole in the middle, with one end damaged. He didn't bother putting it on his chest harness. He made his way to the bomb bay, waiting for the radioman to bail out. *Snap! Crackle! Pop!* then sustained a direct flak hit and went into a tight spin. S/Sgt **Magee**, again wounded, tried to reach the radio room hatch. He blacked

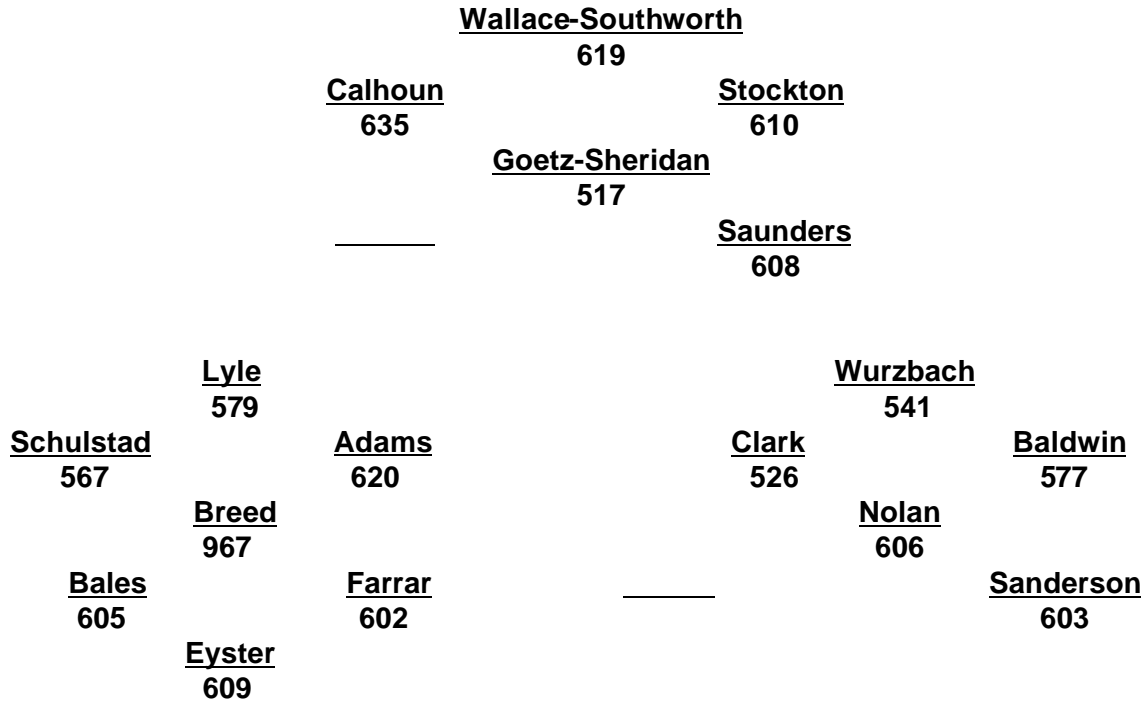
out from lack of oxygen and was tossed out of the hatch without a parachute. Unconscious, he fell about 20,000 feet and crashed through the glass roof of the St. Nazaire railroad station, tangling in the steel girders. Germans cut him down and a German doctor saved **Magee's** arm, which was nearly tom off and repaired his badly damaged teeth, leg, knee and ankle. He was treated well by the Germans in a series of hospitals and POW camps and remained a POW until the end of the war. He summed up his miraculous survival by stating that he was found on the roof of the railroad station. "I don't know how I got there, but here I am, thanks to God."

B-17 #41-24608, *Yehudi*, piloted by 1Lt. F.A. **Saunders**, was shot down by anti-aircraft fire and ditched. All crew members were lost, except Lt. **Saunders** and 2Lt. Oscar F. **Forester**, Jr., both of whom became prisoners of war. Lt. **Kirk**, Lt. **Kossis**, S/Sgt. **Wagner**, S/Sgt. **Chitwood** and Sgt. **High** are listed on the Wall of Missing at Cambridge, England. Sgt. **Litton** is buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium.

B-17 #41-24526, *Leapin' Liz*, piloted by 1Lt. J.B. **Clark**, was shot down by enemy fighters and ditched in the Bay of Biscay. All of the crew members were lost. Lt. **Clark** and Sgt. **Brunnet** are listed on the Wall of Missing at Cambridge. Lt. **Hoffman**, T/Sgt. **Reino**, Sgt. **Land** and S/Sgt. **Rukes** are listed on the Wall of Missing at Brittany. Lt. **Lusk** is buried in Epinal American Cemetery near Vosges, France. S/Sgt. **Hall** is buried in Brittany American Cemetery near Manche, France.

Gen. **Hansell**, during interrogation, remarked that bombing and gunnery could be improved, but that he highly admired the courage of the crews as a whole.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Three (3) aircraft aborted this mission:

Maj. Wurzbach in 541

Lt. Bales in 605

Capt. Calhoun in 635

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS 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 RESULTS OF MISSION 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 #41-24606 *Werewolf*

P	Nolan, Robert J., 1Lt
CP	Kruse, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV	Grant, Donald L., 2Lt
BOM	Hopper, Richard R., 2Lt
ENG	Hively, Roy J., T/Sgt
RWG	Lucas, Jack, Sgt
RO	Hamill, Milton, S/Sgt
BT	Kinney, Jesse R., Sgt
LWG	Goff, James P., Sgt
TG	DeMuth, Edward L., Sgt

B-17F #41-24577 *Hell's Angels*

P	Baldwin, Irl E., Capt
CP	Joy, Ripley W., 2Lt
NAV	Madsen, Parley W., Jr., 1Lt
BOM	Bone, Donald R., 1Lt
ENG	Rodriguez, James E., Jr., T/Sgt
RWG	Meddaugh, Allerton F., Sgt
RO	Warren, Russell M., Sgt
BT	Brody, Harry J., Sgt
LWG	Weiskopf, Dennis, Sgt
TG	Godwin, Harold E., Sgt

B-17F #41-24541 *Spook*

P	Wurzbach, Clemens K., Maj
CP	Dunnica, Lawrence G., 1Lt
NAV	Thornton, Leonard E., 2Lt
BOM	Montgomery, James H., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Tucker, Harry W., T/Sgt
RWG	Dew, Robert L., Sgt
RO	Holland, Bertis W., Sgt
BT	Cascio, Philip T., Sgt
TG	Taylor, Claude P., Sgt
LWG	Harker, Wayne E., Sgt
(Abortive)	

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

P	Clark, James B., Lt	KIA
CP	Bouton, Paul, Jr., Lt	KIA
NAV	Hoffman, Charles E., Lt	KIA
BOM	Lusk, Don W., Jr., Lt	KIA
ENG	Reino, Thomas J., T/Sgt	KIA
RO	Wilder, LeRoy W., S/Sgt	KIA
RWG	Hall, George F., S/Sgt	KIA
TG	Rukes, Merlyn D., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Brunnet, Arthur, Sgt	KIA
LWG	Land, Jonathan S., Sgt	KIA

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Eyster, Ercil F., 1Lt
CP	Hayward, Fred H., 2Lt
NAV	Hansen, Walter C., 2Lt
BOM	Cargill, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Dunham, Harold J., T/Sgt
RO	Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt
TT	Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt
LWG	Davis, Marcus K., S/Sgt
TG	Bauer, Floyd E., S/Sgt
RWG	Altizer, Robert C., T/Sgt

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

P	Sanderson, Ellis J., 1Lt
CP	Bowman, Horace D., Jr. 2Lt
NAV	Spence, John W., 2Lt
BOM	Ward, Grady B., 2Lt
ENG	Devers, Sidney, T/Sgt
RO	Jones, Miles B., T/Sgt
LWG	Marcelonis, Joseph G., T/Sgt
RWG	Swanson, Harry F., S/Sgt
TG	Gerow, Warren H., T/Sgt
BT	Silva, Carlos J., Sgt

B-17F #41-24635 *The 8 Ball MKII*

P	Calhoun, William R., Jr., Capt
CP	Nix, James S., 2Lt
NAV	Strickland, Joseph M., 2Lt
BOM	Yonkman, Robert J., 1Lt
ENG	Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt
LWG	Fortunak, Richard C., S/Sgt
RO	Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt
BT	Mulgrew, William G., S/Sgt
TG	Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt
RWG	Murphy, Murel A., Sgt

(Abortive)

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

P	Bales, Ross C., 1Lt
CP	McGough, Wilson N., 1Lt
NAV	Browning, Richard C., 2Lt
BOM	Shoup, John R., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Winter, Raymond K., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Beringer, John L., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Kilgore, Raymond H., T/Sgt
TT	Perkins, Homer T., Sgt
TG	Snell, Jack D., S/Sgt
LWG	Van Ravenstein, Edward A., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24608 *Yehudi - DCH*

P	Saunders, Frank A., 1Lt	POW
CP	Kirk, Leonard W., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Forester, Oscar F., Jr., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Kossis, Norman, 2Lt	KIA
ENG	Wagner, Lloyd E., S/Sgt	KIA
RO	Clevenger, Walter M., T/Sgt	KIA
BT	Hoklin, Leif H., S/Sgt	POW
TG	Chitwood, Russell O., S/Sgt	KIA
RWG	High, Howard A., Sgt	KIA
LWG	Litton, Rufus C., Sgt	KIA

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24579 <i>Thumper</i>		B-17F #41-24602 <i>Yardbird</i>	
P	Lyle, Lewis L., Capt	P	Farrar, John W., 1Lt
CP	Bartlett, Keith O., Lt	CP	Trojan, Joseph E., Lt
NAV	Moore, Paul G., Capt	NAV	Auman, Rictor H., 2Lt
BOM	Sinopoli, Louis B., 2Lt	BOM	Stewart, Jack W., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, Gene K., T/Sgt	ENG	Hassler, Kenneth C., S/Sgt
RWG	Bradford, Edward A., Sgt	RWG	Prescott, Paul H., S/Sgt
RO	Balcombe, Clayton S., S/Sgt	RO	Lindewall, Erick K., T/Sgt
BT	Sangster, Robert H., Sgt	BT	Sunderlin, Joseph R., Sgt
LWG	Smith, Woodrow W., S/Sgt	LWG	Bartlett, Frank W., Sgt
TG	McGiffin, Tom, Sgt	TG	O'Connell, Lincoln T., S/Sgt
B-17F #42-2967 <i>Shak Hak</i>		B-17F #41-24567 <i>Beats Me</i>	
P	Breed, William H., 1Lt	P	Schulstad, Louis M., Lt
CP	Sample, Harry T., Jr., 2Lt	CP	Christianson, Roy W., Lt
NAV	Allen, Homer R., 2Lt	NAV	Embach, John H., Lt
BOM	DuMont, Earle J., Jr., 2Lt	BOM	Saiz, Reinaldo J., Lt
ENG	Putala, Stanley, T/Sgt	ENG	Pacheco, Antone, T/Sgt
RWG	Staner, Billie L., Sgt	RWG	Klasnick, Joseph S., Sgt
RO	Herbert, Joseph M., T/Sgt	RO	Roth, Charles L., S/Sgt
TG	Lentz, James H., S/Sgt	BT	Soria, Peter, Sgt
BT	Kuffel, Mathias A., S/Sgt	LWG	Dobbins, Jerry W., Sgt
LWG	Loken, Roy C., Sgt	TG	Stevens, Wayne O., S/Sgt
B-17F #41-24620 <i>Snap! Crackle! Pop!- CR-L</i>			
P	Adams, Arthur I., Capt	KIA	
CP	Witterstetter, Gene A., 2Lt	KIA	
NAV	Herrington, Glen M., 2Lt	WIA/POW/REP	
BOM	Libonati, Michael L., Jr., 2Lt	KIA	
ENG	Hart, Lewis C., T/Sgt	KIA	
RWG	Durant, Edward W., S/Sgt	KIA	
RO	Union, Alfred M., T/Sgt	KIA	
BT	Magee, Alan E., S/Sgt	WIA/POW	
LWG	Milam, Marvin L., Sgt	KIA	
TG	Gordon, James I., S/Sgt	POW	

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24610 *Joe Btfsplk*

P	Stockton, Donald E., 1Lt
CP	Lipe, Fort W., 1Lt
NAV	Grant, Lawrence H., 2Lt
BOM	Shirley, Lloyd A., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, Roy Q., S/Sgt
RO	Amos, Lee H., S/Sgt
TG	Ferguson, Paul D., S/Sgt
LWG	Bryant, Carson, S/Sgt
RWG	Coomes, Clarence S., S/Sgt
BT	Jenkins, Robert R., Sgt

B-17F #41-24517 *Kali*

P	Goetz, William H., 1Lt	KIA
CP	Sheridan, Charles C., Maj	KIA
NAV	Madrid, Robert L., 2Lt	KIA
BOM	Smith, Robert W., 2Lt	KIA
ENG	Shelly, James F., T/Sgt	KIA
RO	Walters, Joseph H., S/Sgt	KIA
TG	Bradley, Merel D., Sgt	KIA
LWG	McDonald, Martin F., Sgt	KIA
RWG	Rutt, Donald H., Sgt	KIA
BT	Runge, Walter E., Sgt	KIA

B-17F #41-24619 *S for Sugar*

P	Wallace, James H., Col
CP	Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
NAV	Schueler, Jon R., Lt
BOM	Conver, Milton K., Lt
NAV	Anderson, Samuel H., Lt
ENG	Means, Lucian W., Jr., T/Sgt
RO	Doughty, Edward J., T/Sgt
TG	Kirkpatrick, Ward M., Sgt
BT	Belk, Jack, Sgt
LWG	Fleming, William W., Sgt
RWG	Brandt, Waldo B., Sgt
PAS	Hansell, Heywood S., Jr., B/Gen