

303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 18

27 February 1943

Target: U-Boat Pens, Brest, France

Crews Dispatched: 16

Length of Mission: 5 hours 22 minutes

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

Bombing Altitude: 21,600 ft

Ammo Fired: 9,440 rounds

The primary target was Brest, with no secondary or last resort targets given. Briefing was a 0900 hours by Lts. **Prior**, **Von Schmidt** and **Robinson**. Sixteen aircraft took off between 1220 and 1229 hours.



Maj Clemmens K. Wurzbach

The Group was led by Maj. **Clemmens K. Wurzbach**, 358BS CO in #41-24562 *Sky Wolf*, with 1Lt Carl H. **Morales** as Copilot. One aircraft aborted the mission, #41-24605, *Knockout Dropper*, 359BS(H) (Capt. **Roller**). The No. 2 engine was rough at altitude. The aircraft returned with the prop feathered.

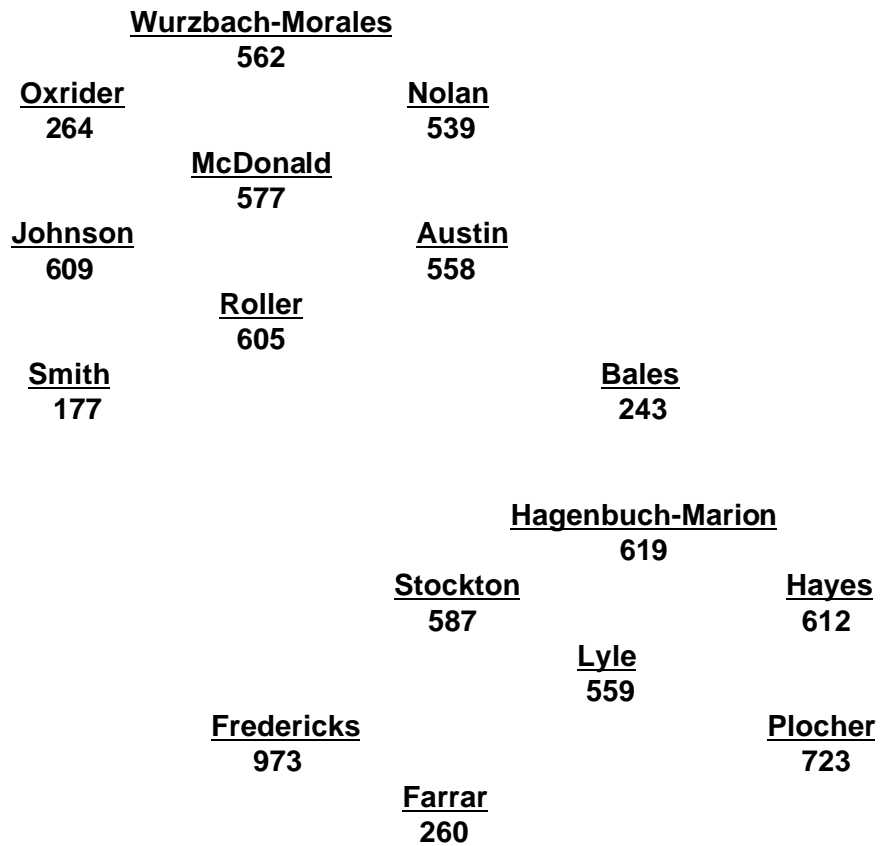
Fifteen B-17s bombed the target from 21,600 feet with 37 1/2 tons of 1,000-lb. H.E. bombs. Intense black flak was encountered over the target, which was accurate as to height. Five to ten enemy aircraft were observed with few attacks. No enemy aircraft claims were made. The absence of heavy fighter attacks was attributed to the excellent quality of the RAF Spitfire escort. There were no casualties. All aircraft returned between 1733 and 1750 hours.

The 305th BG(H) turned back within sight of the target without dropping bombs after it received a bogus recall radio signal.



HANS C. JOHNSON CREW - 359th BS
(crew assigned 359BS: 15 Jan 1943)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



One (1) aircraft aborted this mission:
Lt. Roller in 605

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 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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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24539 *Jersey Bounce*

P Nolan, Robert J., 1Lt
CP Kruse, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV Anderson, William J., 2Lt
BOM Hopper, Richard R., 2Lt
ENG Hively, Roy J., T/Sgt
BT Phillips, Carl W., S/Sgt
RO Hamill, Milton, T/Sgt
RWG Isham, Lawrence W., S/Sgt
LWG Goff, James P., Sgt
TG DeMuth, Edward L., S/Sgt

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

P McDonald, James M., 1Lt
CP Rogan, Dave L., 2Lt
NAV McElwain, Richard E., 2Lt
BOM Montgomery, James H., Jr., 2Lt
ENG Fanning, David D., T/Sgt
RWG Weiskopf, Dennis, Sgt
RO Carpenter, Glenn S., T/Sgt
BT Bruskotter, James E., S/Sgt
TG Sterling, Robert W., S/Sgt
LWG Martin, James C., S/Sgt

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

P Austin, Charles N., 1Lt
CP Feldman, Norbert B., 1Lt
NAV White, Richard G., Jr., 1Lt
BOM Coltrane, Robert A., 1Lt
ENG Snipes, Samuel O., S/Sgt
LWG Mikkelson, Delbert, Sgt
RO Gergash, Bernard A., Sgt
BT LeBlanc, Alex, Sgt
TG Deal, Fred O., Sgt
RWG Eckard, Eugene W., Sgt

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

P Wurzbach, Clemens K., Maj
CP Morales, Carl H., 1Lt
NAV Miller, Hubert E., 1Lt
NAV Anderson, Samuel H., 1Lt
BOM Zasadil, Frank E., 2Lt
ENG Hinds, Francis G., T/Sgt
BT Carroll, Albert V., S/Sgt
RO Burns, Francis J., T/Sgt
RWG Hill, John E., S/Sgt
TG Blake, Robert C., S/Sgt
LWG Westfall, Max M., Sgt

B-17F #42-5264 *Yankee Doodle Dandy*

P Oxrider, George J., 1Lt
CP Hurlburt, Donald W., 2Lt
NAV Grant, Donald L., 2Lt
BOM Steele, Earl A., 2Lt
ENG Ziemer, Frederick B., T/Sgt
BT Smith, Robert H., S/Sgt
RO Dasher, Everett A., T/Sgt
RWG Maxwell, Samuel P., S/Sgt
TG Bitter, Emile V., Jr., Sgt
LWG Heaps, Theodore C., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Johnson, Hans C., 1Lt
CP Gibson, Charles E., 1Lt
NAV McNeely, Robert T., 1Lt
BOM Owen, Jedediah G., 1Lt
ENG Dickinson, Paul A., S/Sgt
RWG Ryan, Francis J., Sgt
RO Thornton, Edmund R., Sgt
BT Mulgrew, William C., S/Sgt
LWG Murphy, Murel A., S/Sgt
TG Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt
NG Davis, Marcus K., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5243 *FDR's Potato Peeler Kids*

P Bales, Ross C., 1Lt
CP Hayward, Fred H., 2Lt
NAV Browning, Richard C., 2Lt
BOM Thomas, Paul M., 2Lt
ENG Winter, Raymond K., Jr., T/Sgt
TT Perkins, Homer T., S/Sgt
BT Zsampar, Joseph G., Sgt
RO Kilgore, Raymond H., T/Sgt
TG Snell, Jack D., S/Sgt
RG Van Ravenstein, Edward A., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5177 *Fast Worker MK II*

P Smith, Sanford T., 1Lt
CP Farrell, Lawrence C., 2Lt
NAV Kelly, James F., 2Lt
BOM Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt
ENG Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt
RWG Traban, James J., S/Sgt
RO Gentry, Robert, T/Sgt
BT Hardaway, Sidney T., Sgt
TG Howard, Earl R., S/Sgt
LWG Tibbles, Russell F., Sgt

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

P Roller, Jack, Capt
CP Cline, William J., 2Lt
NAV Henson, Walter C., 2Lt
BOM Shoup, John R., Jr., 2Lt
ENG Marcelonis, Joseph G., T/Sgt
BT Ketron, Frank M., S/Sgt
RO McCoy, Gordon K., Sgt
BT Beringer, John L., Jr., S/Sgt
TG Burnham, Arthur L., S/Sgt
LWG Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt
(Abortive)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-2973 *Iza Vailable*

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

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

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| P | Lyle, Lewis E., Capt |
| CP | Bartlett, Keith O., Lt |
| NAV | Moore, Paul G., Capt |
| BOM | Saiz, Reinaldo J., Lt |
| OBS | Shayler, Walter K., Capt |
| ENG | Smith, Gene K., T/Sgt |
| RWG | Bradford, Edward A., Sgt |
| RO | Balcombe, Clayton S., S/Sgt |
| LWG | McGiffin, Tom, Sgt |
| TG | Smith, Woodrow W., S/Sgt |
| BT | Semonick, Martin A., S/Sgt |

B-17F #42-5260 *Yardbird II*

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|-----|------------------------------|
| P | Farrar, John W., 1Lt |
| CP | Trojan, Joseph E., Lt |
| NAV | Auman, Rictor H., 2Lt |
| BOM | Stewart, Jack W., 2Lt |
| ENG | Hassler, Kenneth C., T/Sgt |
| RWG | Prescott, Paul H., S/Sgt |
| RO | Lindewall, Erick K., T/Sgt |
| BT | Sunderlin, Joseph R., S/Sgt |
| TG | Bartlett, Frank W., Sgt |
| LWG | O'Connell, Lincoln T., S/Sgt |
| PHO | Stringer, James L., Sgt |

B-17F #42-5723 *(No Name)*

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| P | Plocher, Martin E., Lt |
| CP | Tyler, Clair A., Lt |
| NAV | Corwin, Elicera J., Lt |
| BOM | Kahlden, William F., Jr., Lt |
| RWG | Legge, Henry R., T/Sgt |
| TT | Matheson, Edwin L., S/Sgt |
| RO | Friese, Everett E., T/Sgt |
| BT | Swanson, Theodore G., S/Sgt |
| LWG | Stevenson, Robert L., Sgt |
| TG | Tornow, August E., S/Sgt |

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Marion, Charles E., LtCol
CP Hagenbuch, Glenn E., Capt
NAV Soha, Walter M., Lt
BOM Dieffenbach, Albert W., Lt
ENG Zipfel, Charles E., T/Sgt
RO Coomes, Clarence S., S/Sgt
TG Hinds, Durward L., S/Sgt
RWG Henderson, George W., S/Sgt
LWG Harmon, Edward Z., Sgt
BT Belk, Jack, S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24612 *The Devil Himself*

P Hayes, Ralph S., Jr., Lt
CP Rolfson, Jack G., Lt
NAV Illgen, Frederick J., Lt
BOM Butt, Byron K., Lt
ENG Good, James K., T/Sgt
TG Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt
RO Jessee, Jesse J., S/Sgt
BT Bourdon, Louis F., S/Sgt
RWG Barron, Dante G., S/Sgt
LWG Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt

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

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
LWG Bryant, Carson, S/Sgt
TG Koch, Vernon E., S/Sgt
RWG Brown, Howard T., S/Sgt
BT Jenkins, Robert R., Sgt