

# 303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 21

8 March 1943

Target: Railroad Marshalling Yards, Rennes, France

Crews Dispatched: 19

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 12 minutes

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

Bombing Altitude: 20,800 ft

Ammo Fired: 23,243 rounds

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

**F**or this mission, 303rd BG(H) B-17s were dispatched to attack the railway marshalling yards at Rennes, France, with the Cherbourg/Maupertus airdrome as the secondary target. No last resort target was given. Nineteen aircraft were off the ground on time. Assembly and rendezvous were made over Chelveston in normal manner with the 305th Bombardment Group (H) leading this Wing.

Seven Group aircraft aborted the mission:

#42-5257, *Miss Bea Haven*, 359BS (Lt. **McClung**). The tail gunner's hand was frozen.

#42-5177, *Fast Worker MK II*, 359BS (Lt. **Smith**). The right waist gun ran away and left side oxygen leaked.

#42-5430, *Pappy/Good Snuf*, 359BS (Lt. **Johnson**). The ball turret oxygen system was out and one ball turret gun and tail gun were out.

#42-5393, *Thumper Again*, 360BS (Lt. **Farrar**). Both waist guns and the top turret gun went out.

#42-2973, *Iza Vailable*, 360BS (Lt. **Fredericks**). The rheostat on the radio operator's and tail gunner's electric suits went out.

#41-24587, *Bad Check*, 427BS (Lt. **Hayes**). The induction system failed in the No. 3 engine.

#42-29540, *Shooting Star*, 427BS (Lt. **Stockton**). The heating system in the tail went out.

The remaining twelve aircraft proceeded on course to Rennes and bombed the primary target with 29 3/4 tons of 500-lb. H.E. M43 bombs under good conditions with no cloud cover, no haze and ten miles visibility. Photographs taken by the Group from 20,800 feet showed fair to good results, with good concentration near the target area and 10 to 12 bursts in the marshalling area.

Flak over Rennes was slight and inaccurate, being generally reported as low. All bursts were black, but one crew reported three high grey bursts. Slight inaccurate heavy black flak was seen at Grandcamp, St. Brieuc, and Avranches. One crew reported very slight white flak at St. Narcouf, another reported moderate white inaccurate flak at Guernsey.

Spitfires of the 4th Fighter Group, along with RAF Squadrons, furnished excellent escort from Guernsey to the French coast and again from St. Lo to the English coast.

Enemy air opposition was moderate to intense, with approximately 35 fighters reported. FW-190s and some ME-109s were observed from the French coast to the target and back about ten miles out to sea. During this time there were enemy aircraft attacks from all directions, but mostly from 11 to 1 o'clock, level or slightly below. Crews reported varied colors on the FW-190s with yellow noses and silver-grey undersurfaces predominating.

Aircraft #41-24635, *The '8' Ball MK II*, and #41-24619, *S for Sugar*, reported a FW-190 shot down by a Spitfire at 1453. The 303rd BG(H) had eight enemy aircraft encounters. Right Waist Gunners, S/Sgt S.P. **Maxwell** and S/Sgt R.C. **Lentz**, Bombardier, Lt. R.R. **Hopper**, and Top Turret Gunner, S/Sgt. E.O. **Snipes**, are each credited with shooting down FW-190s. Tail Gunners S/Sgt. F.S. **Vance** and S/Sgt. W.W. **Stephen**, and Right Waist Gunner, S/Sgt. S.L. **Edwards** had probable kills on FW-190s.

All Group aircraft returned safely to Molesworth. No B-17 was seriously damaged.

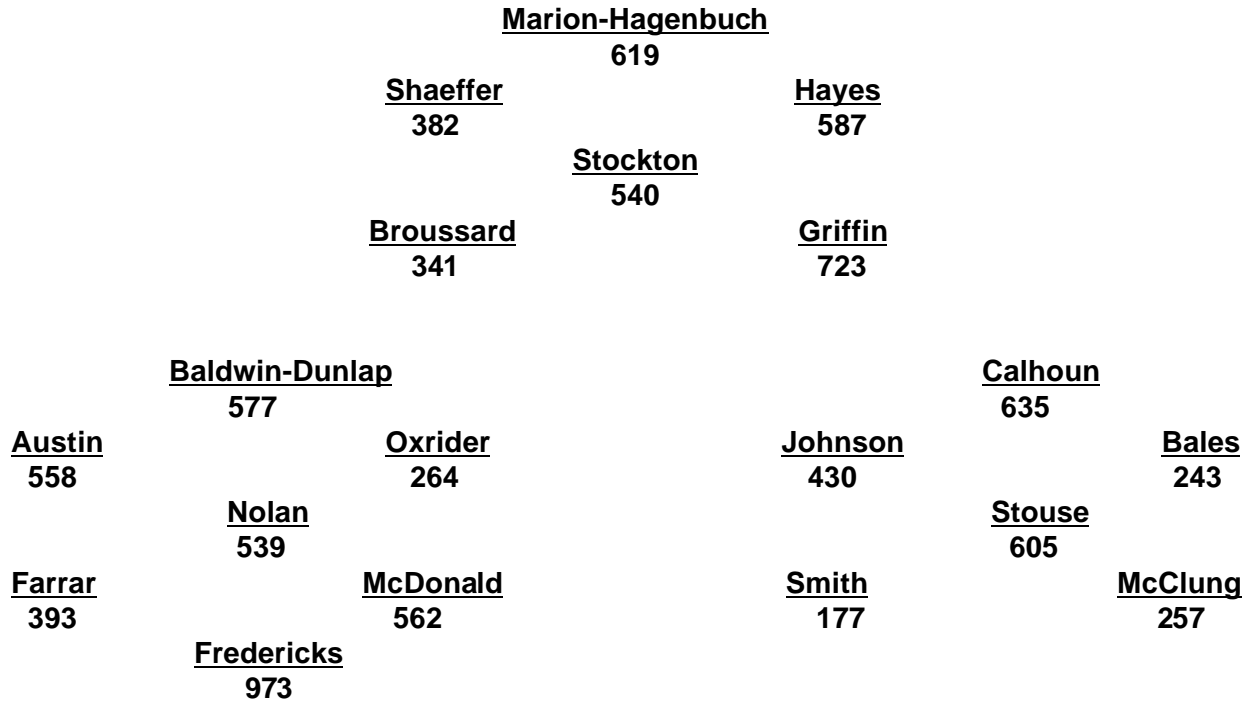


**S-for-Sugar #41-24619 (427BS) GN-S**  
**102nd PBCW #2 (427BS) - Pilot Capt G.E. Hagenbuch / CoPilot LtCol C.E. Marion**

(Back L-R) unidentified, Capt W.M. Soha (N), 1Lt S. Anderson (N), Capt A.W. Dieffenbach (B),  
Capt G.E. Hagenbuch (P), LtCol C.E. Marion (CP)

(Front Row & unidentified crewman - not in order) T/Sgt C.E. Zipfel (E),  
T/Sgt Dale F. Brandfas (R), Sgt Ward M. Kirkpatrick (BT), S/Sgt G.W. Henderson (WG),  
S/Sgt E.Z. Harmon (WG), S/Sgt D.L. Hinds (TG)

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Seven (7) aircraft aborted this mission:

- Lt. McClung in 257
- Lt. Smith in 177
- Lt. Johnson in 430
- Lt. Farrar in 393
- Lt. Fredericks in 973
- Lt. Hayes in 587
- Lt. Stockton in 540

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<b><u>CREW POSITIONS</u></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><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u></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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## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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

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

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P McDonald, James M., 1Lt  
CP Rogan, Dave L., 2Lt  
NAV Clement, Richard W., 1Lt  
BOM Montgomery, James H., Jr., 2Lt  
ENG Fanning, David D., T/Sgt  
RWG Hall, Sidney V., 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 #41-24539 *Jersey Bounce***

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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 Shellman, Carl E., 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 #42-5264 *Yankee Doodle Dandy***

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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  
PHO Stringer, James L., Sgt

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

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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

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Stouse, Harold L., Capt  
CP O'Connor, Squire T., 1Lt  
NAV Elliott, Jesse H., 1Lt  
BOM Mathis, Jack W., 1Lt  
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  
RWG Brown, Houston B., Jr., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24635 The '8' Ball MK II**

P Calhoun, William R., Jr., Capt  
CP Woodman, George C., 2Lt  
NAV Strickland, Joseph M., 1Lt  
BOM Cargill, William D., 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., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5430 Pappy/Good Snuf**

P Johnson, Hans C., 1Lt  
CP Gibson, Charles E., 1Lt  
NAV McNeely, Robert T., 1Lt  
BOM Owen, Jedediah G., 1Lt  
ENG Broyles, Harold D., S/Sgt  
RWG Morton, George T., Sgt  
RO Himes, Albert A., Sgt  
BT Chandler, U.M., Sgt  
LWG McKagan, Azzon C., S/Sgt  
TG Treon, John E., Sgt  
(Abortive)

### **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  
RG Tribbles, Russell F., Sgt  
RO Kilgore, Raymond H., T/Sgt  
BT Nicosia, Eugene A., Sgt  
TG Snell, Jack D., S/Sgt  
RWG Van Ravenstein, Edward A., Sgt

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

P Smith, Sanford T., 1Lt  
CP Farrell, Lawrence C., 2Lt  
NAV Kelley, James F., 2Lt  
BOM Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt  
ENG Dunham, Harold J., T/Sgt  
LWG Adams, Ralph B., S/Sgt  
RO Thornton, Edmund R., Sgt  
BT Hardaway, Sidney T., Sgt  
TG Howard, Earl R., S/Sgt  
RWG Altizer, Robert C., S/Sgt  
(Abortive)

### **B-17F #42-5257 Miss Bea Haven**

P McClung, Guy H., 2Lt  
CP Roseberry, William E., 2Lt  
NAV Stettler, Donald G., 2Lt  
BOM Rothman, Theodore I., 2Lt  
ENG Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt  
RWG Traban, James J., S/Sgt  
RO Gentry, Robert, T/Sgt  
TG Piatek, Casimir P., S/Sgt  
LWG O'Reilly, Francis W., Sgt  
BT Phillips, Carl W., 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  
OBS Vaughan, Thomas S., Lt  
(Abortive Sortie)

### **B-17F #42-5393 *Thumper Again***

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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  
(Abortive Sortie)

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

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P Griffin, Loyd D., Lt  
CP Swanson, Walter C., Lt  
NAV Preston, William M., Lt  
BOM Taylor, Robert L., Lt  
ENG Eason, William M., T/Sgt  
RWG Edwards, Samuel L., S/Sgt  
RO Schwartz, Vernon E., T/Sgt  
TG Wiegand, Lynwood D., S/Sgt  
LWG Henderson, Paul E., Sgt  
BT Plummer, Robert, Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5341 *Vicious Virgin***

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P Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Lt  
CP Le Fevre, William G., Lt  
NAV Roberts, Sumner L., Lt  
BOM Sherwood, Lyle D., Lt  
ENG Smock, Edmund L., T/Sgt  
RO Knotts, Emory L., T/Sgt  
BT Choice, Hudson, S/Sgt  
LWG Bridges, Alvin A., Sgt  
RWG Brandt, Waldo B., S/Sgt  
TG Jurosek, Bernard, Sgt

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

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P Hagenbuch, Glenn E., Capt  
CP Marion, Charles E., LtCol  
NAV Soha, Walter M., Lt  
NAV Anderson, Samuel H., Lt  
BOM Dieffenbach, Albert W., Lt  
ENG Zipfel, Charles E., T/Sgt  
RO Brandfas, Dale F., T/Sgt  
TG Hinds, Durward L., S/Sgt  
LWG Henderson, George W., S/Sgt  
BT Kirkpatrick, Ward M., S/Sgt  
RWG Harmon, Edward Z., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29540 *Shooting Star***

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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 Coomes, Clarence S., S/Sgt  
BT Jenkins, Robert R., Sgt  
(Abortive)

### **B-17F #42-5382 *The Witches Tit***

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P Shaeffer, Earl A., Lt  
CP Stone, Arthur M., Lt  
NAV Stugard, F., Jr., Lt  
BOM Fec, A.D., Lt  
ENG Murray, G.F., T/Sgt  
BT Harris, M.L., Sgt  
RO Penley, D.B., T/Sgt  
TG Vance, F.S., S/Sgt  
LWG Groves, R.W., S/Sgt  
RWG Lentz, R.C., S/Sgt

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

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P Hayes, Ralph S., Jr., Lt  
CP Rolfson, Jack G., Lt  
NAV Illgen, Frederick, J., Lt  
BOM Smith, Abbott M., Jr., Lt  
ENG Good, James K., T/Sgt  
TG Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt  
RO Jessee, Jesse J., S/Sgt  
LWG Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt  
BT Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt  
RWG Gray, J.R., T/Sgt  
(Abortive)