

303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 23

13 March 1943

Target: Railroad Marshalling Yards, Amiens / Longeau, France

Crews Dispatched: 20

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 6 x 1000 lb H.E. M44 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 21,800 ft

Ammo Fired: 5,535 rounds

Twenty Group aircraft took off, led by Group Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Charles **Marion**, to bomb the primary target at Amiens. The secondary target was Abbeville, and no last resort target was given.

One aircraft aborted: #42-5430, *Pappy/Good Snuf*, 359BS (Lt. **Shaeffer**). A broken oil line to the No. 2 engine and feathered prop caused the aircraft to abort the mission.

Bombing results were reported as poor, due to an 8/10 cloud cover, haze, intense vapor trails and poor visibility. Slight to moderate black flak, mostly accurate, was observed from south of La Treport and the French coast. Spitfires escorted the Fortresses all the way over the target and back to England. FW-190s were scarce and not more than ten were observed by our crews. The Spitfires kept these at bay and very few rounds of ammunition were fired at the German planes. Crews made no claims for planes destroyed.

S/Sgt. Vernon **Koch**, 24, of Dearborn, MI, stated, "I was the tail gunner on Capt. **Stockton's** ship and all I could see were Spitfires. They were all over the place. Several dogfights took place after the FW-190s attempted to close in on us. One sneaked through the Spitfires formation, but he cooked his goose by that. I saw the Spits knock down two of them in no time at all."

1Lt. Ercil F. **Eyster**, 27, of Dayton, OH, pilot of Fortress #41-24609, *Holy Mackerel*, said, "There were too many clouds just past the target to observe the results of the bombing, but it was a good trip anyway." Sgt. Eugene A. **Nicosia**, 21, of Waco, TX, the ball turret gunner on Lt. **Eyster's** ship said, "All I did was swing my turret and keep looking. I didn't see a thing to shoot at all day." T/Sgt. Harold J. **Dunham**, 25, of Jackson, MI, top turret gunner of the *Holy Mackerel*, stated, "The only firing I did was test fire my guns, but I don't mind as long as the Spits take care of the shooting." 1Lt. Glynn F. **Shumake**, 27, of Franklin, GA, when asked for a quotation on how he liked the trip, quickly remarked, "That's the roughest trip that I have taken yet." When asked why, he replied, "It was my first one."

Capt. Lewis E. **Lyle**, 26, of Pine Bluff, AR, co-pilot for Lt. Col. **Marion**, a veteran of eighteen missions, said, "Those Spifires really stayed with us. They are certainly beautiful to watch flying along with us." Capt. **Lyle** was not alone in this thinking. Without exception, the men had high praise for the RAF Spitfire pilots. There were no casualties. The eighteen B-17s completing the mission all returned to home base between 1626 and 1640 hours.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Marion</u> 559		
		<u>Griffin</u> 723		<u>Farrar</u> 260
			<u>Stouse</u> 605	
		<u>Eyster</u> 635		<u>McClung</u> 257
			<u>Southworth</u> 393	
	<u>Hagenbuch</u> 619			<u>Baldwin</u> 577
<u>Burch</u> 540		<u>Broussard</u> 587		<u>Austin</u> 558
	<u>Stockton</u> 081			<u>Oxlider</u> 264
				<u>Morales</u> 573
<u>Shaeffer</u> 430		<u>Roller</u> 243		<u>Bilek</u> 382
	<u>Smith</u> 177			<u>Nolan</u> 432

One (1) aircraft aborted this mission:
Lt. Shaeffer in 430

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer</p> <p>RESULTS OF MISSION KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war</p>	<p>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</p>
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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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., S/Sgt
RO Warren, Russell M., S/Sgt
BT Brody, Harry J., S/Sgt
LWG Weiskopf, Dennis, Sgt
TG Godwin, Harold E., Sgt
PAS Shumake, Glynn F., 1Lt

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 #42-5432 *The Hunting Club*

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

B-17F #42-29573 *Two Beauts*

P Morales, Carl H., 1Lt
CP Swaffer, Calvin A., 2Lt
NAV Miller, Hubert E., 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 Sadler, James K., S/Sgt
LWG Heaps, Theodore C., Sgt
PAS Grobe, David E., Jr., 1Lt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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 Williams, Lemuel R., T/Sgt
BT Beringer, John L., Jr., S/Sgt
TG Burnham, Arthur L., S/Sgt
LWG Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt

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

P Smith, Sanford T., 1Lt
CP Farrell, Lawrence W., 2Lt
NAV Summers, Thomas E., 1Lt
BOM Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt
ENG Hardaway, Sidney T., Sgt
LWG Adams, Ralph B., S/Sgt
RO York, Robert F., T/Sgt
BT Tibbles, Russell F., Sgt
TG Howard, Earl R., S/Sgt
RWG Perryman, Jack L., Sgt
PHO Alderson, John W., 2Lt

B-17F #41-24605 Knock Out Dropper

P Stouse, Harold L., Capt
CP O'Conner, Squire T., 1Lt
NAV Strickland, Joseph M., 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 #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 Ryan, Francis J., Sgt
BT Phillips, Carl W., S/Sgt

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

P Eyster, Ercil F., 1Lt
CP Hayward, Fred H., 2Lt
NAV Shanks, John D., 2Lt
BOM Cargill, William D., 2Lt
ENG Dunham, Harold J., T/Sgt
RO Thornton, Edmund R., Sgt
LWG Morton, George T., Sgt
BT Nicosia, Eugene A., Sgt
RWG O'Reilly, Francis W., Sgt
TG Altizer, Robert C., T/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Griffin, Loyd D., Lt
CP	Swanson, Walter C., Lt
NAV	Preston, William M., Lt
BOM	Hamilton, Claude A., S/Sgt
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	Klasnick, Joseph S., Sgt
BT	Plummer, Robert, Sgt

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

P	Bilek, A.F., Lt
CP	Kelly, C.J., Lt
NAV	Kelley, James F., Lt
BOM	White, Raymond R., Lt
ENG	Sage, L.G., T/Sgt
RWG	Savickas, J.J., Sgt
RO	Fogarty, J.J., S/Sgt
LWG	Henderson, Paul E., Sgt
TG	Brannon, H.P., Sgt
BT	Glaspell, T.D., S

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

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

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

P	Marion, Charles E., LtCol
CP	Lyle, Lewis E., Capt
NAV	Moore, Paul G., Capt
BOM	Saiz, Reinaldo J., Lt
ENG	Smith, Gene K., T/Sgt
RWG	Bradford, Edward A., S/Sgt
RO	Balcombe, Clayton S., T/Sgt
BT	Sangster, Robert H., S/Sgt
LWG	Semonick, Martin A., S/Sgt
TG	McGiffin, Tom, Sgt
OBS	Bartlett, Keith O., Lt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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	Karanson, William A., Jr., T/Sgt
BT	Choice, Hudson, S/Sgt
LWG	Storer, Charles R., S/Sgt
RWG	Nowak, Stanislaus, Sgt
TG	Jurosek, Bernard, Sgt

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

P	Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
CP	Dillinger, John M., 2Lt
NAV	McElwain, Richard E., Lt
BOM	Smith, Abbott M., Jr. Lt
ENG	Means, Lucian W., Jr., T/Sgt
RO	Doughty, Edward J., S/Sgt
RWG	Brandt, Waldo B., Sgt
BT	Belk, Jack, S/Sgt
LWG	Johnson, Otto D., Sgt
TG	Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt

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

P	Hagenbuch, Glenn E., Capt
CP	Barker, John C., Lt
NAV	Soha, Walter M., 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-17 #42-29540 *Shooting Star*

P	Burch, Armand F., Lt
CP	Cardwell, Burt J., Lt
NAV	Noblin, John D., Lt
BOM	Butt, Byron K., Lt
ENG	Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt
RWG	Bourdon, Louis F., S/Sgt
RO	Ashworth, George W., S/Sgt
LWG	Arnold, Ronald W., S/Sgt
TG	Brown, Howard T., S/Sgt
RWG	Barron, Dante G., Sgt

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

P	Shaeffer, E.A., Lt
CP	Stone, Arthur M., Lt
NAV	Illgen, Frederick J., 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

(Abortive)

B-17F #42-5081 *Luscious Lady*

P	Stockton, Donald E., 1Lt
CP	Rolfson, Jack G., Lt
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	Hairr, Elwood F., Sgt
BT	Jenkins, Robert R., Sgt