

# 303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 26

28 March 1943

Target: Railroad Marshalling Yards, Rouen, France

Crews Dispatched: 18

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 10 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 500 lb H.E. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 22,600 ft

Ammo Fired: 16,480 rounds

**C**apt. L.E. **Lyle** led the High squadron in #41-24559, *Ooold Soljer*. Eighteen Group aircraft attacked the railway marshalling yards at Rouen. There was no secondary or last resort target. There was 5/10 cloud cover over the target with unlimited visibility. Bombing, with 51 tons of 500-lb. H.E. M43 bombs, was reported as good. Hits were seen straddling the yards in the aiming point vicinity. Some bombs burst in fields near the Seine River and some in the Seine River. Pilot Earl A. **Shaeffer** of *Luscious Lady*, #42-5081, brought back his bombs because the bomb bay doors failed to open.

Flak was observed near Fecamp, Bolbec, Duclair and over the target area. It was slight and inaccurate as to height and deflection. Fifteen to thirty enemy aircraft were seen. Attacks were desultory. Spitfire air support was present on both ways of the mission. They engaged in numerous dogfights. There were no encounters with the 303rd BG(H) formation and the Spitfires failed to destroy any enemy aircraft.

A U.S. F-5A (P-38) from the 13th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron made the first 8th Air Force photo reconnaissance sortie over Dieppe. Maj. James H. **Hall**, 13th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron CO, undertook sortie No. 1. All previous photo reconnaissance had been provided by the RAF.

There were no casualties or damage on the mission. All aircraft returned by 1445 hours. Capt. **Young**, 1st Bomb Wing Intelligence Officer, a previous 360th BS(H) S-2 officer, flew on the mission as an observer.



LtCol Charles E. Marion (left)

Group Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Charles E. **Marion**, who led the Group, remarked, "That was the softest touch I was ever on. Our gunners didn't fire a shot at a German plane all day." The crew of *The Hunting Club*, piloted by 1Lt. James R. **Dunn**, all commented on the mission's success. Lt. **Dunn** said, "It was only my second trip. I'm glad that I was broken in on the Vegesack raid because this was certainly a breeze by comparison." His bombardier, 2Lt. Robert A. **Lizotte**, remarked, "The bombing looks good. I didn't wait to see my own hits because I wanted to get back to

my gun. I was really expecting some fighter attacks." The tail gunner, S/Sgt. Eugene C. **Clowe**, said, "I fired at about seven enemy aircraft, but didn't hit any because they were staying too far out. The bombing sure was good. I saw smoke and fire all around the target." T/Sgt. L.D. **Yager**, top turret gunner, who was also making his second trip, said, "I was also initiated on the Vegesack raid. This was like playing ball by comparison." Other gunners on *The Hunting Club* crew, T/Sgt. Stanislaw **Nowak**, S/Sgt. Carl E. **Shellman**, and T/Sgt. Earl **Hogue**, stated, almost in unison, "It was a snap. Wish we could depend on all of them being that easy with as good results."

Capt. **Baldwin**, veteran of eighteen missions, said, "It's getting to be like a habit. We go over, drop our bombs, and fly back. Our bombing is improving all the time. We haven't always totally destroyed what we went after, but the day will soon come when we will." When asked, "Were all of your raids in the same airplane, Captain?" he replied, "Yes Sir. The *Hell's Angels* has gone over 20 times with every time over the target. That's a pretty good record."



**Ooold Soljer #41-24559 (360BS) PU-C**

**102nd PBCW #2 High (360BS) - Pilot Capt L.E. Lyle / CoPilot 1Lt K.O. Bartlett**

(Back L-R) 1Lt G.V. Stallings (OB), 1Lt K.O. Bartlett (CP), Capt L.E. Lyle (P)

Lt M.S. Fonorow (B), Lt S.H. Anderson (N), Capt P.C. Young (OB)

(Front L-R) T/Sgt C.S. Bolcombe (R), T/Sgt G.K. Smith (E), T/Sgt F.A. Hartung (WG)

Sgt T. McGriffin (TG), S/Sgt E.A. Bradford (WG), S/Sgt R.H. Sangster (BT), T/Sgt W.W. Smith (BT)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<b><u>Marion-Roller</u></b>				
<b>605</b>				
<b><u>Eyster</u></b>		<b><u>Nix</u></b>		
<b>609</b>		<b>243</b>		
<b><u>Morales</u></b>				
<b>562</b>				
<b><u>Dunn</u></b>		<b><u>Smith</u></b>		
<b>432</b>		<b>430</b>		
<b><u>Stockton</u></b>		<b><u>Lyle</u></b>		
<b>619</b>		<b>559</b>		
<b><u>Hayes</u></b>	<b><u>Shaeffer</u></b>	<b><u>Griffin</u></b>	<b><u>Fredericks</u></b>	
<b>612</b>	<b>081</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>973</b>	
<b><u>Baldwin</u></b>		<b><u>Farrar</u></b>		
<b>577</b>		<b>260</b>		
<b><u>Oxridner</u></b>	<b><u>Nolan</u></b>	<b><u>Bilek</u></b>	<b><u>Broussard</u></b>	
<b>264</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>610</b>	

One (1) aircraft aborted this mission:  
Lt. Shaeffer in 081

### 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
--	---	---	--

## 358th Bombardment Group Crew Lists

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

---

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 Brud, Robert P., Cpl  
RO Burns, Francis J., T/Sgt  
LWG Hill, John E., S/Sgt  
TG Blake, Robert C., S/Sgt  
RWG Westfall, Max M., S/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., S/Sgt

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

---

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 Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt  
RO Hamill, Milton, Sgt  
TG Bitter, Emile V., Jr., S/Sgt  
LWG Isham, Lawrence W., S/Sgt  
RWG Goff, James P., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5432 *The Hunting Club***

---

P Dunn, James R., 2Lt  
CP Hafen, Keith L., 2Lt  
NAV McColl, Daniel A., 1Lt  
BOM Lizotte, Robert A., 2Lt  
ENG Yager, Lamoine D., T/Sgt  
RWG Nowak, Stanislaus, S/Sgt  
RO Hogue, Earl, T/Sgt  
BT Shellman, Carl E., S/Sgt  
TG Clowe, Eugene C., S/Sgt  
LWG Testoni, William A., 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., S/Sgt  
RO Warren, Russell M., S/Sgt  
BT Brody, Harry J., S/Sgt  
LWG Weiskopf, Dennis, S/Sgt  
TG Godwin, Harold E., S/Sgt  
PHO Stringer, James L., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Smith, Sanford T., 1Lt  
CP Farrell, Lawrence C., 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

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

P Marion, Charles E., LtCol  
CP Roller, Jack, Capt  
NAV Strickland, Joseph M., 1Lt  
BOM Dieffenbach, Albert W., Capt  
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 #41-24609 Holy Mackerel**

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  
NG Altizer, Robert C., T/Sgt  
TG Bauer, Floyd E., S/Sgt

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

P Nix, James S., 2Lt  
CP Bales, Ross C., 1Lt  
NAV Browning, Richard C., 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 C., S/Sgt  
TG Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt  
RWG Murphy, Murel A., S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5434 *Lady Luck***

---

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  
BT Plummer, Robert, S/Sgt  
LWG Henderson, Paul E., Sgt

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

---

P Farrar, John W., 1Lt  
CP Shayler, Walter K., Capt  
NAV Auman, Rictor H., 2Lt  
BOM Stamper, William B., M/Sgt  
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., S/Sgt  
LWG O'Connell, Lincoln T., S/Sgt

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

---

P Bilek, A.F., Lt  
CP Kelley, C.J., Lt  
NAV Kelly, 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 Slayton, C.E., S/Sgt  
TG Brannan, H.P., Sgt  
BT Glaspell, T.D., Sgt

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

---

P Fredericks, Jacob W., Capt  
CP Way, Arthur C., Lt  
NAV Hoyt, Otis A., Lt  
BOM Kulesa, Frank E., 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 Tippet, Paul S., Lt

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

---

P Lyle, Lewis E., Capt  
CP Bartlett, Keith O., Lt  
NAV Anderson, Samuel H., Lt  
BOM Fonorow, Milton S., Lt  
ENG Smith, Gene K., T/Sgt  
LWG Bradford, Edward A., S/Sgt  
RO Balcombe, Clayton S., T/Sgt  
BT Sangster, Robert H., S/Sgt  
TG Smith, Woodrow W., S/Sgt  
RWG McGiffin, Tom, Sgt  
OBS Young, Percy C., Capt  
OBS Stallings, George V., Jr., Lt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

---

P Stockton, Donald E., Capt  
CP Snyder, Edgar E., Jr., Capt  
NAV Grant, Lawrence H., 2Lt  
BOM Shirley, Lloyd A., 2Lt  
ENG Smith, Roy Q., S/Sgt  
RO Amos, Lee H., S/Sgt  
RWG Coomes, Clarence S., S/Sgt  
LWG Brandt, Waldo B., S/Sgt  
TG Koch, Vernon E., S/Sgt  
BT Jenkins, Robert R., 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 Roberts, Sumner L., Lt  
ENG Zipfel, Charles E., T/Sgt  
TG Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt  
RO Jessee, Jesse J., S/Sgt  
BT Kirkpatrick, Ward M., S/Sgt  
LWG Hairr, Elwood F., Sgt  
RWG Barron, Dante G., Sgt

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

---

P Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Lt  
CP Le Fevre, William G., Lt  
NAV Bradshaw, John W., 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 Peklinsky, Anthony J., Sgt  
RWG Storer, Charles R., S/Sgt  
TG Jurosek, Bernard, Sgt

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

---

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 Doughty, Edward J., T/Sgt  
TG Vance, F.S., S/Sgt  
LWG Groves, R.W., S/Sgt  
RWG Lentz, R.C., S/Sgt  
(Abortive Sortie)