

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

Capt. 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

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

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

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 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)