

# 303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 29

5 April 1943

Target: Erla Aircraft Works, Antwerp, Belgium

Crews Dispatched: 21

Crewmen Wounded: S/Sgt. Arnold, Lt. Butt, Lt. Heflin

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 10 minutes

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

Bombing Altitude: 25,400 ft

Ammo Fired: 27,845 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 3 Destroyed, 1 Probable

**C**ol. W.W. **Dunlap** (101 PBCW) flew as a passenger in the 358BS second flight with Capt. **Baldwin** in #41-24577, *Hell's Angels*. Low Squadron leader was Maj. **Lyle** and High Squadron Leader was Capt. **Stouse**.

Three aircraft aborted the mission and failed to bomb the target:

#41-24561, *The Duchess*, 359BS (**Stouse**). The Nos. 1 and 3 engines experienced problems. The No. 1 engine was feathered.

#42-5177, *Fast Worker MK II*, 359BS (**McClung**). The radio operator, Sgt. G.K. **McCoy**, fainted at altitude. Both ball turret guns were out.

#42-5430, *Pappy/Good Snuf*, 359BS (**Johnson**). The ball turret gunner, Sgt. Robert L. **Burry**, passed out. The oil cooler was out.

A fourth B-17, #42-29540, *Shooting Star*, 427BS (**Burch**) was attacked by enemy fighters and flak. Battle damage forced Lt. **Burch** to leave the formation before bombing.

Seventeen aircraft bombed the primary target from 24,000 feet with 51 tons of 1,000-lb. H.E. M44 bombs. Slight, inaccurate, black flak was reported over Ostend, Ghent, Bruges, and Schouwen Island. Enemy air opposition was moderate with 30 to 50 aircraft reported. They attacked from the Belgian coast to mid-channel enroute back. FW-190s, ME-109s, ME-110s, and JU-88s were seen in twelve encounters. 303rd BG(H) gunners destroyed three with one probable. Sgt. P.E. **Henderson** and S/Sgt. R.R. **Peck** each shot down an FW-190, Sgt. R.K. **Sink** shot down an ME-110 and Lt. W.V. **Chamberlain** had a probable on a Ju-88. In at least five instances, fighters bombed the formation. The bombs were accurate as to altitude and bursts were four times the size of flak bursts.

B-17 #42-29540, *Shooting Star*, landed at an RAF Base at Steeple-Morden, home of Col. Elliot **Roosevelt's** 3rd U.S. Photo Group, after departing the formation before it reached the target. They had jettisoned their bombs in the English channel before landing. British anti-aircraft guns fired on them when they were flying at 6,500 feet near Ipswich, England, but stopped on a flare signal.

Good Spitfire fighter coverage was provided from the turning point to within twenty-five miles off Harwich. The pilot, Lt. **Burch**, remarked, "We were in formation until we hit the continent, when suddenly a burst of flak knocked out our oxygen system. No sooner

had this happened than an enemy fighter made a close attack and knocked out the No. 1 engine. Knowing we couldn't stay in formation, I pulled out to head for home. Another FW-190 came in and hit our No. 3 engine, but it didn't go out altogether. The No. 2 engine had its oil line shot out, but it kept running. Lt. Byron **Butt**, my bombardier, was just going to his



**ARMAND F. BURCH CREW - 427th BS**  
**B-17F Shooting Star #42-29540 427BS (GN-S)**  
 (crew assigned 427BS: 09 Feb 1943 - photo: USA, early 1943)  
**First 427th Bomb Squadron Replacement Crew**  
 (Back L-R) S/Sgt Robert W. Arnold (WG), S/Sgt George W. Ashworth (R),  
 4 unknown ground crewmen, S/Sgt H.H. Brown (TG) - (Middle) T/Sgt Benjamin  
 Barlow (E), S/Sgt Louis F. Bourdon (BT), unknown, 1Lt John D. Noblin (N)  
 (Front L-R) 1Lt Armand F. Burch (P), 2Lt Byron K. Butt (B), 2Lt Burt J. Cardwell (CP)

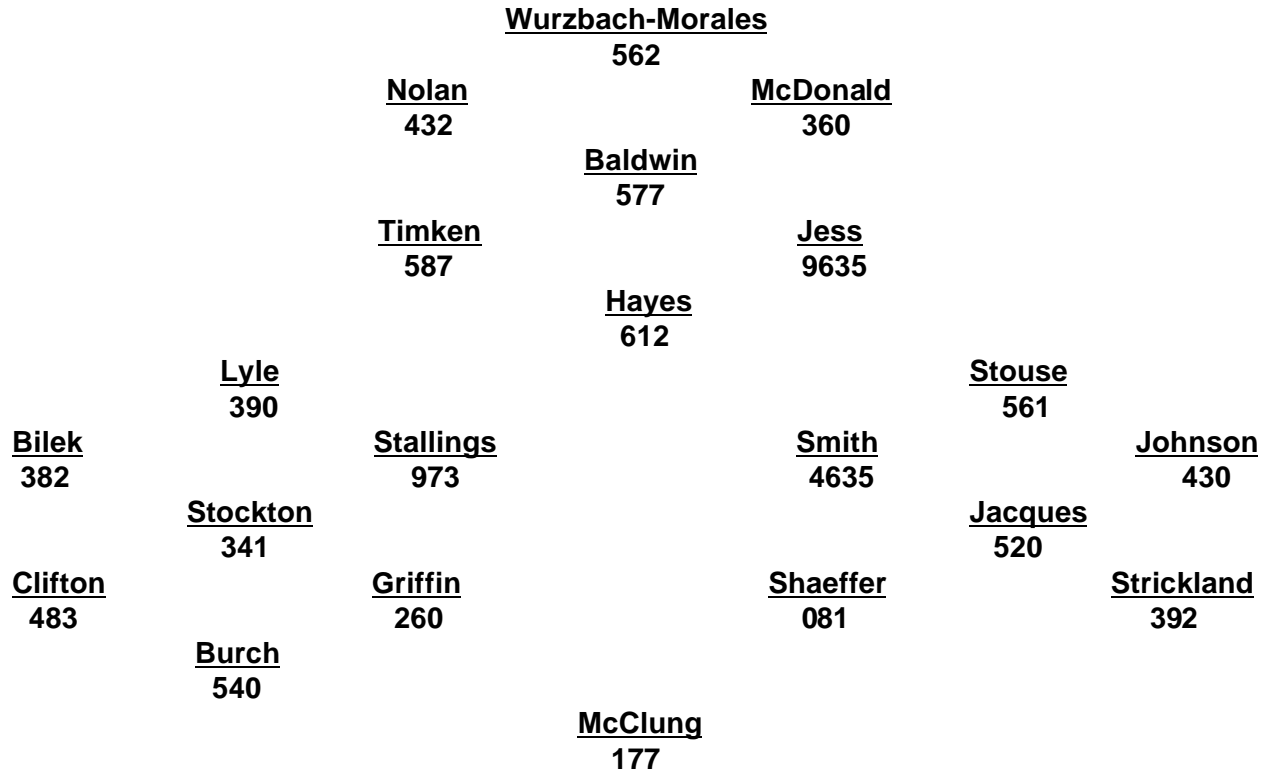
bombsight when a 30 caliber came through the plexiglass near the sight and creased his forehead. Another inch and it would have gone through his head. We were gradually losing altitude and we were prepared for anything. One Spitfire observed our plight and stayed with us until we were half-way over the channel and then left us believing we could make it back OK. When we finally had to land, we had one and one-half engines and a flat tire. We were damned worried for a while, but glad to be back. One of my gunners, S/Sgt. R.M. **Arnold**, had a close one, too. Flak caught him in the face, but luckily, it didn't hurt him much." Lt. **Burch** made a perfect landing, despite the extensive damage to his B-17.

Commenting on the mission, 1Lt. Donald R. **Bone**, the bombardier of #41-24577, *Hell's Angels*, and a 358BS veteran of twenty-one missions, remarked, "There were plenty of enemy fighters up there and they stayed right along from the time we hit the coast until we had gone over the target and got back out again. Spitfires then picked us up. We were lucky, however, because they were working over the Groups in front of us. They really went to work on the boys in the lead, and I saw a couple of them shot down by fighters."

1Lt. George T. **Mackin**, assistant Group operations officer, made his first mission as a co-pilot for 1Lt. Ralph S. **Hayes**, Jr. He said, "I was a little scared at first, but we kept so busy that I didn't think of it much after that."

All other aircraft returned safely to Molesworth. After the mission, the Belgian Ambassador to the U.S. protested about the inaccurate bombing that resulted in many civilian casualties.

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Four (4) aircraft aborted this mission:

- Lt. Stouse in 561
- Lt. Johnson in 430
- Lt. McClung in 177
- Lt. Burch in 540

## 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	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
	<b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b> KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war		

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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., T/Sgt  
BT Brody, Harry J., S/Sgt  
LWG Weiskopf, Dennis, S/Sgt  
TG Godwin, Harold E., S/Sgt  
PAS Dunlap, W.W., LtCol

### **B-17F #42-5360 *Old Faithful***

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P McDonald, James M., 1Lt  
CP Rogan, Dave L., 1Lt  
NAV McElwain, Richard E., 2Lt  
BOM Montgomery, James H., Jr., 2Lt  
ENG Fanning, David D., T/Sgt  
RWG Swanson, Theodore G., S/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  
PAS Blythe, Leon W., Capt

### **B-17F #42-29635 *Augerhead***

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P Jess, Ray W., 2Lt  
CP O'Connor, Robert S., 2Lt  
NAV Davidson, Robert P., 2Lt  
BOM Box, Charles M., 2Lt  
ENG Koenig, Bernard H., T/Sgt  
RWG Hardacre, Charles F., S/Sgt  
RO Godzinski, Joseph J., T/Sgt  
BT Johnson, Byron W., S/Sgt  
LWG Smith, Harold E., T/Sgt  
TG White, Frank M., Sgt

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

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

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

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P Timken, Jack C., 1Lt  
CP Wright, George E., 2Lt  
NAV Chamberlain, William V., 2Lt  
BOM Solverson, Robert K., 2Lt  
ENG Knuth, Leland N., S/Sgt  
RWG Paiva, Joseph B., S/Sgt  
RO Baxter, Jack, T/Sgt  
BT Toy, James E., S/Sgt  
TG Corbin, Homer H., Sgt  
LWG Redhead, George R., Sgt

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

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

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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 Broyles, Harold D., S/Sgt  
RO Watson, Clyde G., S/Sgt  
BT Burry, Robert L., Sgt  
LWG Chandler, U.M., Sgt  
TG Treon, John E., Sgt  
(Abortive Sortie)

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

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P McClung, Guy H., 1Lt  
CP Roseberry, William E., 2Lt  
NAV Stettler, Donald G., 2Lt  
BOM Rothman, Theodore I., 2Lt  
ENG Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt  
RWG Marcelonis, Joseph G., T/Sgt  
RO McCoy, Gordon K., Sgt  
TG Piatek, Casimir P., S/Sgt  
BT McKagan, Azzon C., S/Sgt  
LWG Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt  
(Abortive Sortie)

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

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P Smith, Sanford T., 1Lt  
CP Farrell, Lawrence C., 2Lt  
NAV Summers, Thomas E., 1Lt  
BOM Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt  
ENG Hardaway, Sidney T., S/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 #41-24561 *The Duchess***

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P Stouse, Harold L., Capt  
CP O'Connor, Squire T., 1Lt  
NAV Roberts, Sumner L., 2Lt  
BOM Shoup, John R., Jr., 2Lt  
ENG Tupper, Theron S., S/Sgt  
RO Richardson, Donald R., T/Sgt  
LWG Beringer, John L., Jr., Sgt  
BT Garriott, John A., S/Sgt  
TG Owen, Calvin H., S/Sgt  
RWG Brown, Houston B., Jr., S/Sgt  
OBS Barrett, Jesse M., Capt  
(Abortive)

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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

### **B-17F #42-5390 *The Avenger***

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P Lyle, Lewis E., Capt  
CP Fredericks, Jacob W., Capt  
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., Sgt  
RWG Collins, Harvie L., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5483 *Red Ass***

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P Clifton, David S., Lt  
CP Trojan, Joseph E., Lt  
NAV Wright, Howard R., Lt  
BOM Currie, Herman C., Lt  
ENG Doss, Carroll P., T/Sgt  
RWG Compo, Anthony, S/Sgt  
RO Morrison, Eugene D., T/Sgt  
BT Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt  
TG Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt  
LWG Jameson, Jimmie E., Sgt

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

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P Stallings, George V., Jr., Lt  
CP Bradbury, Joseph E., Lt  
NAV McColl, Daniel A., Lt  
BOM Tippet, Paul S., Lt  
ENG Watson, James A., T/Sgt  
LWG Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt  
RO Jones, Dick W., S/Sgt  
BT Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt  
TG Pierson, Lawrence C., S/Sgt  
RWG Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt  
PHO Luman, Morton, Sgt

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

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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

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Stockton, Donald E., Capt  
CP Barker, John C., Lt  
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 Knotts, Emory L., S/Sgt  
TG Koch, Vernon E., S/Sgt  
BT Jenkins, Robert R., Sgt

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

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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 Serpa, Joseph E., S/Sgt  
RWG Groves, R.W., S/Sgt  
LWG Lentz, R.C., S/Sgt

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

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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  
BT Bourdon, Louis F., S/Sgt  
RO Ashworth, George W., S/Sgt  
LWG Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt  
TG Brown, Howard T., S/Sgt  
RWG Harmon, Edward Z., S/Sgt  
(Abortive Sortie)

### **B-17F #42-29520 (No Name)**

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P Jacques, Chester D., Lt  
CP Holder, Alvin D., Lt  
NAV Bradshaw, John W., Lt  
BOM Carlson, Robert C.A., Lt  
ENG Clapshaw, Keith L., S/Sgt  
TG Whalen, William R., Sgt  
RO Vassel, Warren T., Sgt  
BT Longo, Angelo L., Sgt  
RWG Peklinsky, Anthony J., Sgt  
LWG Ryan, Clayton W., Sgt

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

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P Hayes, Ralph S., Jr., Lt  
CP Mackin, George T., Lt  
NAV Illgen, Frederick, J., Lt  
BOM Smith, Abbott M., Jr., Lt  
ENG Gray, J.R., T/Sgt  
TG Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt  
RO Jessee, Jesse J., S/Sgt  
LWG Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt  
RWG Hairr, Elwood F., S/Sgt  
BT Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5392 *Stric Nine***

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P Strickland, Alexander C., Lt  
CP Olsen, Curtis M., Lt  
NAV Hokans, Carl A., Lt  
BOM Lamme, Edwin G., Lt  
ENG Baart, James C., T/Sgt  
TT Strohsack, R.R., S/Sgt  
RO Martel, Albert E., Jr., T/Sgt  
BT Peck, Raymond R., S/Sgt  
TG Sherg, Anthony W., S/Sgt  
LWG McGill, Edward E., Sgt