

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

Col. 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

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.



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), unknown

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.

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., 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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

P Bilek, A.F., Lt
CP Kelly, 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*

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*

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*

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)

P Jaques, 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*

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*

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