

303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 30

16 April 1943

Target: Power Station, Lorient, France

Crews Dispatched: 21

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 50 minutes

Bomb Load: 5 x 1,000 lb H.E. M44 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 26,700 ft

Ammo Fired: 37,450 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 4 destroyed, 1 probable

Maj. Glenn E. **Hagenbuch**, CO 427BS, flew #41-24619, *S for Sugar*, as lead B-17 of the Low Squadron.

Maj. Gene **Romig** led the 303rd BG(H) formation of 21 aircraft dispatched to bomb Lorient in *Knockout Dropper*, #41-24605 (359BS) BN-R. Five aircraft aborted the mission:

#42-5390, *The Avenger*, 360BS (Lt. **Clifton**). The air intake duct cracked at altitude and the manifold pressure dropped off.

#42-5483, *Red Ass*, 360BS (Lt. **Mack**). The No. 3 supercharger ran away.

#41-24587, *Bad Check*, 427BS (Lt. **Jacques**). The Nos. 2 and 4 engines ran excessively rough at altitude.

#41-24619, *S for Sugar*, 427BS (Maj. **Hagenbuch**). The No. 4 engine failed.

#41-29481, (*No Name*), 427BS (Lt. **Burch**). The tail guns were out and the No. 1 engine pressure was low.

The remaining sixteen aircraft bombed the primary target. Flak over the target was moderate and inaccurate. There were 20-25 single engine enemy fighters that attacked the Group in the vicinity of Lorient. B-17F #42-5360, *Old Faithful*, piloted by 1Lt. James **McDonald**, was badly damaged, but fought off the enemy aircraft, shooting down two.

Old Faithful was out of formation during the attack with its Nos. 1 and 3 engines running rough. The No. 2 engine failed internally, caught fire, and was extinguished by the CO₂ system. This engine was hit by 20mm shells after feathering. Twenty-mm shells also hit the wing between the Nos. 3 and 4 engines nacelles, cutting the prop cables and fuel line. The No. 3 engine oil pressure dropped to 40 pounds after the attack (75 pounds was normal). Armor plate at the waist gun position was pierced by three machine gun bullets. Lt. **McDonald** landed his badly damaged B-17 at RAF Predannack.

Lt. L.D. **Griffin** landed 360BS #42-5434 *Lady Luck* at Daordstowe with a supercharger out and a flat tire. All other aircraft returned to Molesworth with six stopping at Predannack for refueling.

The 1st Bomb Wing received no fighter support and Group gunners destroyed two enemy fighters with three others as probable and two damaged. The trailing 305BG

downed four planes with one probable and one damaged, losing one B-17 in the process. Maj. **Romig**, leading the 102 PBCW, believed that stacking the 305BG rather than normally trailing at the same altitude was partly responsible for spoiling the enemy fighter attack and preventing further B-17 losses. Maj. **Romig** also kept his airspeed down to assist some stragglers in the rear of the formation.

Lt. Ralph S. **Hayes**, during debriefing, said, "The bombs dropped in a good pattern, but they didn't hit the right place. The fighters were fairly persistent in their hit-and-run attacks, but didn't work us over today as they have in the past." Most crew members were unexcited about the mission. S/Sgt. Paul H. **Prescott**, waist gunner in the *Yardbird*, piloted by Capt. J.W. **Farrar**, was unperturbed about the fact that a 20mm shell had passed within two feet of his head. He said, "What the Hell. A miss is as good as a mile."

The experience of Lt. **McDonald** and his crew was an exception to the other crews, who weren't overly excited about the mission. Lt. **McDonald's** aircraft was so badly damaged that they had to land at a southern England field. "We lost one engine and received damage to two others on one of the first fighter attacks. From then on it was touch and go as to whether we would make it home. We couldn't stay with the formation after the enemy aircraft riddled us." His crew frankly admitted that if it hadn't been for the skill and courage of their pilot, they never would have made it back. 1Lt. James **Montgomery**, bombardier, said, "I've seen the light. I still can't believe that we are here. How in the world all those shells could pass through the nose of the ship and neither Clem (1Lt. R.W. **Clement**, navigator) nor myself got a scratch is a mystery to me." M/Sgt. J.E. **Bruskotter**, the ball turret gunner who expended all of his ammunition and claimed an enemy destroyed, said, "The turret was so full of empty shells that I could hardly move." "The pay off," **Montgomery** continued, "came when two FW-190s attacked us long after we were out to sea on the way home." We had jettisoned all but the upper turret guns and there were only 50 rounds left in them. We were ready for a crash landing in the water. Sgt. **Bruskotter** was closest to the upper turret and he operated it. The FW-190 made two passes at us and he got one of them. We were only 20 feet above the waves at the time and we all thought that it was curtains for us. If they'd known our condition, they could have finished us off in a hurry."

Four enemy aircraft kills and one probable were claimed during the mission. S/Sgt. R.W. **Sterling**, S/Sgt. J.E. **Bruskotter**, Lt. Robert J. **Yonkman** and S/Sgt. E.F. **Hairr** each were credited with an FW-190. Sgt. J. **Kerr** had a probable FW-190.

Crews again reported air to air bombs being used by the enemy fighters in an attempt to bomb our formation. The enemy bombs were described as being one third the size of a 100 pound bomb, silver colored, fat and short, one and one-half feet long and ten inches in diameter. The bombs had violent bursts estimated to be five or six times as large as a flak burst. The bombs were released from 1000 to 3000 feet above the formation and were accurate as to altitude but not as to deflection.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Romig-Calhoun</u> 605				
<u>Smith</u> 177		<u>Haines</u> 430		
<u>Bales</u> 243				
<u>Campbell</u> 482		<u>Konsmo</u> 624		
<u>McDonald</u> 360				
<u>Hagenbuch</u> 619		<u>Farrar</u> 260		
<u>Sterling</u> 610	<u>Jaques</u> 587		<u>Trojan</u> 382	<u>Stalling</u> 393
<u>Broussard</u> 341		<u>Griffin</u> 434		
<u>Burch</u> 481	<u>Strickland</u> 081		<u>Mack</u> 483	<u>Castle</u> 570
<u>Hayes</u> 612		<u>Clifton</u> 390		

Five (5) aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Clifton in 390	Lt. Mack in 483
Lt. Jaques in 587	Lt. Burch in 481
Maj. Hagenbuch in 619	

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 Squadron Crew List

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

P McDonald, James M., 1Lt
CP Rogan, Dave L., 1Lt
NAV Clement, Richard W., 1Lt
BOM Montgomery, James H., Jr., 2Lt
ENG Fanning, David D., T/Sgt
RWG Zioance, John, 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 Weiskopf, Dennis, S/Sgt



Knockout Dropper #41-24605 (359BS) BN-R

1st BW Lead (359BS) - Pilot Maj E.A. Romig / CoPilot Capt W.R. Calhoun

(L-R) 1Lt J.M. Strickland (N), S/Sgt J.A. Garriott (BT),
T/Sgt R.R. Zaorski (E), 1Lt R.J. Yonkman (B), S/Sgt C.H. Owen (TG),
Sgt R.J. Horvath (WG), T/Sgt S.R. Richardson (R), S/Sgt H.B. Brown, Jr. (WG),
Capt W.R. Calhoun (CP), Maj E.A. Romig (P), 1Lt S.H. Anderson (N)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-5177 *Fast Worker 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., T/Sgt
LWG Adams, Ralph B., S/Sgt
RO York, Robert F., T/Sgt
BT Tibbles, Russell F., S/Sgt
TG Howard, Earl R., S/Sgt
RWG Perryman, Jack L., Sgt
PAS Rahn, Lehman H., 1Lt

B-17F #42-29624 *Pappy*

P Konsmo, George E., Capt
CP Mulligan, Thomas E., 2Lt
NAV Street, Benjamin B., 1Lt
BOM Gordon, LeRoy V., 1Lt
ENG Doran, Arnold S., T/Sgt
RO McGee, Paul P., T/Sgt
TG Milliff, Mike C., S/Sgt
RWG Jordan, Lloyd L., S/Sgt
BT Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt
LWG Kerr, Joseph, Sgt

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

P Romig, Eugene A., Maj
CP Calhoun, William R., Jr., Capt
NAV Strickland, Joseph M., 1Lt
NAV Anderson, Samuel H., 1Lt
BOM Yonkman, Robert J., 1Lt
ENG Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt
LWG Horvath, Robert A., Sgt
RO Richardson, Donald R., T/Sgt
BT Garriott, John A., S/Sgt
TG Owen, Calvin H., S/Sgt
RWG Brown, Houston B., Jr., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5482 *Cat-O-Nine Tails*

P Campbell, Claude W., 1Lt
CP Miller, Arthur W., 2Lt
NAV Ririe, George M., 2Lt
BOM Boutelle, Winston E., 2Lt
ENG Hernan, Howard E., T/Sgt
RO Murray, Robert L., S/Sgt
RWG Bachert, Kurt W., S/Sgt
BT Catozza, Peter P., S/Sgt
TG Tupper, Theron S., S/Sgt
LWG Wilson, Benton, Sgt

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

P Bales, Ross C., Capt
CP Dooley, Walter E., 1Lt
NAV Jacobsen, Norman N., 2Lt
BOM Thomas, Paul M., 1Lt
ENG Winter, Raymond K., Jr., T/Sgt
RG O'Reilly, Francis W., S/Sgt
RO Kilgore, Raymond H., T/Sgt
BT Zsamper, Joseph G., S/Sgt
TG Snell, Jack D., S/Sgt
RWG Van Ravenstein, Edward A., S/Sgt

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

P Haines, Rolland M., 1Lt
CP Kramer, Mayer, 2Lt
NAV Delorenzo, D.D., 2Lt
BOM Morse, Anthony E., 2Lt
ENG Wood, James A., T/Sgt
LWG Garcia, Robert A., S/Sgt
RO Kalk, Kenneth T. M., T/Sgt
TG Davis, Charles E., S/Sgt
RWG Martin, Raymond W., S/Sgt
BT Foster, Allen G., 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	Taylor, Robert L., Lt
ENG	Eason, William M., T/Sgt
LWG	Edwards, Samuel L., S/Sgt
RO	Schwartz, Vernon E., T/Sgt
TG	Wiegand, Lynwood D., S/Sgt
BT	Plummer, Robert, S/Sgt
RWG	Henderson, Paul E., Sgt

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

P	Trojan, Joseph E., Lt
CP	Palmer, Joseph F., Lt
NAV	Rosenblum, Nathan J., Lt
BOM	Kieffer, Claude M., Lt
ENG	Lauffer, Gerald T., T/Sgt
TT	Duffey, Elmer E., S/Sgt
RO	Gullage, Edmund, T/Sgt
BT	Owen, Burl M., S/Sgt
TG	Hodges, Alva E., S/Sgt
RWG	Holder, Samuel A., S/Sgt
OBS	Sheldon, Robert M., Lt

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

P	Stallings, George V., Jr., Lt
CP	Bradbury, Joseph E., Lt
NAV	Kelly, James F., Lt
BOM	Stamper, William B., M/Sgt
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	Stickler, John J., S/Sgt
RWG	Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt

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

P	Clifton, David S., Lt
CP	Garvey, John L., 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

(Abortive)

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

P	Farrar, John W., Capt
CP	Shumake, Glynn F., 1Lt
NAV	Auman, Rictor R., 2Lt
BOM	Stewart, Jack W., Lt
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	Semonick, Martin A., S/Sgt
LWG	O'Connell, Lincoln T., S/Sgt

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

P	Mack, David W., Lt
CP	Way, Arthur C., Lt
NAV	Smith, Roland M., Lt
BOM	Philpitt, Russell O., Lt
ENG	Deitch, Daniel T., T/Sgt
BT	Peterson, Andrew C., S/Sgt
RO	Cicinelli, Salvatore J., S/Sgt
TG	Biernacki, Joseph J., S/Sgt
LWG	Stewart, Carl C., S/Sgt
RWG	Spitzfaden, Robert E., Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17F #42-29570 *(No Name)*

P	Castle, John A., Lt
CP	Van Wie, John A., Lt
NAV	Blank, Paul, Lt
BOM	Rice, Bernard, Lt
ENG	Hlebasko, Albert, T/Sgt
BT	Morton, Eugene L., S/Sgt
RO	Noll, Robert W., T/Sgt
RWG	Spring, Benjamin F., S/Sgt
LWG	Swanson, Theodore G., S/Sgt
TG	Bridges, Robert C., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17 #42-29481 (No Name)

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 Cooney, Robert M., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24612 The Devil Himself

P Hayes, Ralph S., Jr., Lt
 CP Rolfson, Jack G., Lt
 NAV Illgen, Frederick, J., Lt
 BOM Walker, John B., Lt
 ENG Means, Lucian W., Jr., T/Sgt
 TG Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt
 RO Jessee, Jesse J., T/Sgt
 LWG Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt
 RWG Hairr, Elwood F., S/Sgt
 BT Johnson, Otto D., Sgt

B-17F #42-5341 Vicious Virgin

P Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Lt
 CP Dubell, Richard P., Lt
 NAV Herman, Charles 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 Bridges, Alvin A., Sgt
 RWG Storer, Charles R., S/Sgt
 TG Jurosek, Bernard, Sgt

B-17F #42-5081 Luscious Lady

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

B-17F #41-24587 Bad Check

P Jaques, Chester D., Lt
 CP Holder, Alvin D., Lt
 NAV Bradshaw, John W., Lt
 BOM Carlson, Robert C.A., Lt
 ENG Bryant, Carson, S/Sgt
 BT Longo, Angelo L., Sgt
 RO Coomes, Clarence S., Sgt
 TT Clapshaw, Keith L., S/Sgt
 RWG Peklinsky, Anthony J., Sgt
 LWG Ryan, Clayton W., Sgt
 PHO Kagey, Martin I., Jr., S/Sgt
 (Abortive)

B-17F #41-24619 S For Sugar

P Hagenbuch, Glenn E., Maj
 CP Snyder, Edgar E., Jr., Capt
 NAV Soha, Walter M., Capt
 BOM Dieffenbach, Albert W., Capt
 ENG Zipfel, Charles E., T/Sgt
 RO Doughty, Edward J., T/Sgt
 BT Kirkpatrick, Ward M., S/Sgt
 TG Henderson, George W., S/Sgt
 LWG Brandt, Waldo B., S/Sgt
 RWG Harmon, Edward Z., S/Sgt
 PHO Thorson, Ellwood, S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24610 Joe Btfsplk

P Sterling, Jay R., Lt
 CP Neil, John L., Lt
 NAV Roach, Harry E., Jr., Lt
 BOM Parker, David M., Lt
 ENG Griffin, P.E., T/Sgt
 BT McCormack, A.R., S/Sgt
 RO Fields, Harley W., T/Sgt
 LWG Cashman, Daniel J., S/Sgt
 TG Cleavelin, Jesse C., S/Sgt
 RWG Whalen, William R., Sgt