

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 37

17 May 1943

Target: Keranan Submarine Pens, Lorient, France

Crews Dispatched: 21

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 10 minutes

Bomb Load: 5 x 1000 lb. G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 26,300 ft

Ammo Fired: 32,572 rounds

Three aircraft returned early from the mission: #42-3029 *Wallaroo* 359BS (**Smith**) - The No. 1 propeller governor was inoperative and the No. 2 supercharger was faulty. #42-5482 *Cat-O-Nine Tails* 359BS (**McClung**) - The ball turret gunner, S/Sgt. Carl L. **Phillips**, had cramps. #42-5221 *Son* 359BS (**Roller**) - The tail gunner, Sgt. Arthur L. **Burnham**, froze his left knee. There was no canvas over his guns to keep the cold air out.

The near perfect flying weather of the past five days continued. Visibility over the target was excellent. Light flak was seen over the French coast, both in and out and over the target area. About 45 to 50 German FW-190s and ME-109s were in the area with 20 encounters, primarily tail attacks. Enemy losses were 7 destroyed, six probables, and six damaged. The Spitfire support was good. All 18 bombers completed the mission and returned home safely.

Opinions of crew members varied as to the character of the raid. Capt. **Calhoun** said, "I believe I would describe it as easy as far as enemy opposition was concerned. My bombardier, Capt. Robert **Yonkman**, said the bombing was good." 1Lt. Richard **Hopper**, bombardier for Capt. **Nolan** of *Jersey Bounce, Jr.*, said, "It was damn fine bombing." 1Lt. Frank **Zasadil**, bombardier for Capt. **Morales** in *Sky Wolf*, commented, "The aiming point was demolished."

When asked about fighter opposition, Capt. **Morales** said, "I couldn't see any fighters, but I could see the tracers whizzing by." His co-pilot, 2Lt. Calvin **Swaffer**, said, "The fighters looked green to me. They stayed far out to the side." Capt. **Nolan's** tail gunner, S/Sgt. Emile V. **Bitter**, flying in *Jersey Bounce, Jr.*, had a different view. "Those SOBs were swarming like bees. I think I got two of them. One came in to within 150 yards. I got him for sure. I might have gotten a third, but was too busy to watch him go down," he said.

1Lt. Robert **Taylor**, bombardier for Capt. **Griffin**, in *A.O.G. Not in Stock*, disputed the report that the flak was meager and inaccurate. He was plenty glad that he wore a steel helmet. Pointing to a crease in the top of his headgear, he said, "These tin hats aren't just made for the infantry. A piece of flak caused that dent and it went on and glanced off the side of my navigator's [Lt. W.M. **Preston**] helmet." 1Lt. D.S. **Clifton**, pilot of 360th BS *Iza Vailable*, said, "This was the toughest raid I've been on. The flak was bursting on all sides, and the fighters gave the 360th Squadron hell."

Crew Reports on Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

S/Sgt. E.V. Bitter (664)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. E.V. Bitter (664)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. C.N. Giassullo (656)	FW-190	Possible
S/Sgt. R. Nakaniski (9635)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. W.E. Briggs (571)	FW-190	Probable
S/Sgt. V.E. Brown (571)	ME-109F	Damaged
Sgt. G.R. Redhead (656)	FW-190	Possible
Sgt. F.M. Mathews (664)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. J.E. Schneider (002)	FW-190	Possible
S/Sgt. R.W. Martin (430)	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. L.E. Nordyke (002)	FW-190	Damaged
S/Sgt. D.C. McEachern (002)	FW-190	Destroyed
Lt. L.V. Gordon (640)	FW-190	Damaged/Possible Destroyed
S/Sgt. W.C. Mulgrew (4635)	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. D.T. Deitch (606)	FW-190	Possible
S/Sgt. L.T. O'Connell (260)	FW-190	Damaged
Sgt. H.G. Schneiderman (570)	FW-190	Possible
Lt. J.W. Stewart (260)	FW-190	Damaged
T/Sgt. A. Hlebasko (483)	FW-190	Damaged



Bomb Strike photo from B-17F #42-2973 Iza Vailable

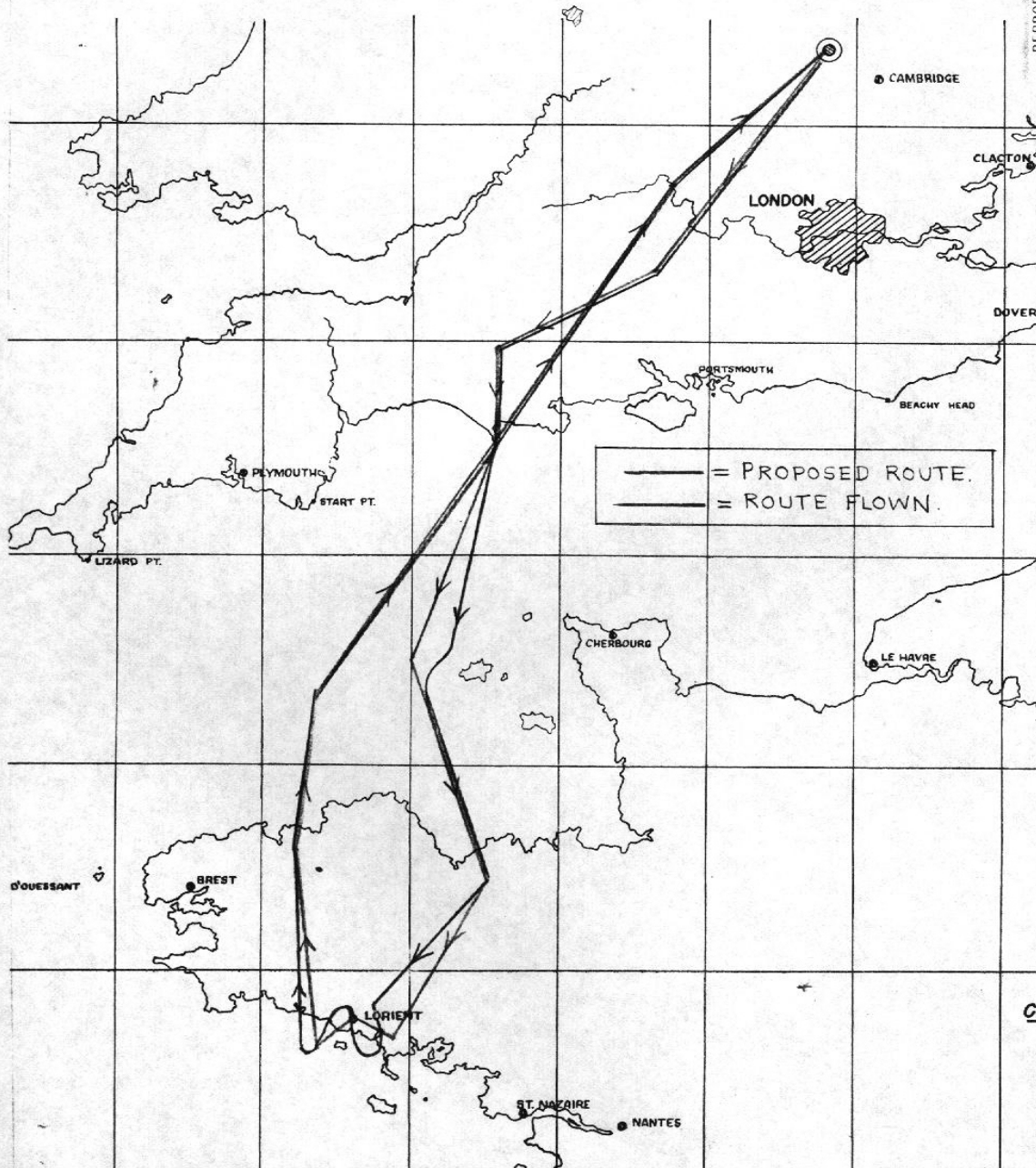
303 5-17-43
#37 KARAHAY/
LORIENT 1.727

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BY R. Baylan NARA, Date 8/20/89

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TRACK CHART

DATE 17, MAY, 1943 Route followed by 303RD Bn
 LORIENT _____ " " "
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Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Calhoun</u> 4635			
<u>Haines</u> 430	<u>Roller</u> 221		<u>Cline</u> 640
<u>Smith</u> 029	<u>Mattison</u> 002		
<u>McClung</u> 482			
<u>Fredericks</u> 570		<u>Morales</u> 562	
<u>Clifton</u> 973	<u>Van Wie</u> 483	<u>Timken</u> 656	<u>Lemmon</u> 571
	<u>Griffin</u> 788		<u>Nolan</u> 664
<u>Stallings</u> 393	<u>Trojan</u> 260	<u>Thompson</u> 9635	<u>Jess</u> 577
	<u>Mack</u> 606		<u>McDonald</u> 264

Three (3) aircraft aborted this mission:

Capt. Roller in 221

Capt. Smith in 029

Lt. McClung in 482

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 - Togglier 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 cntry 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 Lists

B-17F #42-29635 *Augerhead*

P	Thompson, Frank H., 2Lt
CP	Sumarlidason, Arni L., 2Lt
NAV	McConnen, James R., 2Lt
BOM	McCord, Lawrence E., 2Lt
ENG	Welch, James R., S/Sgt
TT	Fulanovich, Charles J., S/Sgt
RO	McGuire, Robert J., T/Sgt
BT	Nakaniski, Ralph, S/Sgt
TG	Aubrey, Eldred L., S/Sgt
RWG	Wilson, Donald R., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29664 *Jersey Bounce, Jr.*

P	Nolan, Robert J., Capt
CP	Kruse, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV	Anderson, William J., 2Lt
BOM	Hopper, Richard R., 1Lt
ENG	Hively, Roy J., T/Sgt
RWG	Rodriguez, James E., Jr., T/Sgt
RO	Hamill, Milton, T/Sgt
TG	Bitter, Emile V., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Mathews, Frank M., S/Sgt
LWG	Goff, James P., S/Sgt

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

P	Jess, Ray W., 2Lt
CP	Gunn, Harold W., 2Lt
NAV	Davidson, Robert P., 2Lt
BOM	Stone, Elbert E., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, Harold E., T/Sgt
RWG	Hardacre, Charles F., S/Sgt
RO	Godzinski, Joseph J., T/Sgt
BT	Johnson, Byron W., S/Sgt
LWG	Hall, Sidney V., Sgt
TG	White, Frank M., Sgt

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

P	Morales, Carl H., Capt
CP	Swaffer, Calvin A., 2Lt
NAV	McElwain, Richard E., 2Lt
BOM	Zasadil, Frank E., 1Lt
ENG	Hinds, Francis G., T/Sgt
BT	Carroll, Albert V., S/Sgt
RO	Burns, Francis J., T/Sgt
RWG	Westfall, Max M., S/Sgt
TG	Blake, Robert C., S/Sgt
LWG	Hill, John E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29571 *Charley Horse*

P	Lemmon, John V., 1Lt
CP	Clark, Elmo E., F/O
NAV	Gust, Darrell D., 2Lt
BOM	Koenig, Bernard H., T/Sgt
ENG	Berzansky, Andrew, T/Sgt
RWG	Beavers, Albert T., S/Sgt
RO	Zeller, Caryl C., T/Sgt
BT	Bagwell, Clayton R., S/Sgt
TG	Brown, Virgil E., S/Sgt
LWG	Briggs, Wayne E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29656 *The Terrible Ten*

P	Timken, Jack C., 1Lt
CP	Wright, George E., 2Lt
NAV	Chamberlain, William V., 2Lt
BOM	Hogue, Earl, T/Sgt
ENG	Knuth, Leland N., S/Sgt
RWG	Paiva, Joseph B., Sgt
RO	Baxter, Jack, T/Sgt
BT	Toy, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Giassullo, Criscienzo N., S/Sgt
LWG	Redhead, George R., Sgt

B-17F #42-5264 *Yankee Doodle Dandy*

P	McDonald, James M., 1Lt
CP	Rogan, Dave L., 1Lt
NAV	Clement, Richard W., 1Lt
BOM	Witt, Walter E., 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

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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	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
LWG	Morgan, Robert L., Sgt

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

P	McClung, Guy H., 1Lt
CP	Joy, Ripley W., 2Lt
NAV	Stettler, Donald G., 2Lt
BOM	Rothman, Theodore I., 2Lt
ENG	Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt
RWG	Traban, James J., S/Sgt
RO	McCoy, Gordon K., Sgt
TG	Piatek, Casimir P., S/Sgt
BT	Phillips, Carl W., S/Sgt
LWG	Ryan, Francis J., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17F #42-29640 *Old Ironsides*

P	Cline, William J., 1Lt
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 #41-24635 *The 8 Ball MK II*

P	Calhoun, William R., Jr., Capt
CP	Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	Strickland, Joseph M., Capt
BOM	Yonkman, Robert J., Capt
ENG	Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt
RO	Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt
LWG	Fortunak, Richard C., S/Sgt
BT	Mulgrew, William C., S/Sgt
TG	Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt
RWG	Howard, George Z., S/Sgt
PAS	Neff, William J., Capt

B-17F #42-3002 *The Old Squaw*

P	Mattison, Robert L., 1Lt
CP	Case, Spencer F., 2Lt
NAV	Rich, David A., 1Lt
BOM	Shafer, John H., 1Lt
ENG	Green, Frederick J., T/Sgt
RO	Nordyke, Lloyd E., T/Sgt
TG	McEachern, David C., S/Sgt
BT	Schneider, James E., S/Sgt
RWG	Rettinhouse, Robert A., S/Sgt
LWG	Vogel, George W., Sgt

B-17F #42-3029 *Wallaroo*

P	Smith, Sanford T., Capt
CP	Farrell, Lawrence C., 2Lt
NAV	Summers, Thomas E., 1Lt
BOM	Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt
ENG	Hardaway, Sidney T., T/Sgt
RO	York, Robert F., T/Sgt
LWG	Perryman, Jack L., Sgt
BT	Tibbles, Russell F., S/Sgt
TG	Knudsen, Elmer T., Sgt
RWG	Adams, Ralph B., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17F #42-5221 *Son*

P	Roller, Jack, Capt
CP	Konsmo, George E., Capt
NAV	Henson, Walter C., 1Lt
BOM	Shoup, John R., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Marcelonis, Joseph G., S/Sgt
RO	Williams, Lemuel T., T/Sgt
TT	Ketron, Frank M., S/Sgt
BT	Bruns, William H., Jr., Sgt
TG	Burnham, Arthur L., Sgt
LWG	Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Van Wie, John A., Lt
CP	Walsh, James D., 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

B-17F #42-5788 *A.O.G. Not in Stock*

P	Griffin, Loyd D., Capt
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., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29606 *Butch*

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

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

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
LWG	Compo, Anthony, S/Sgt
RO	Morrison, Eugene D., T/Sgt
BT	Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt
TG	Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt
RWG	Jameson, Jimmie E., Sgt

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

P	Stallings, George V., Jr., Lt
CP	Bradbury, Joseph E., Lt
NAV	Kelley, James F., Lt
BOM	Kulesa, Frank E., 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	Stickler, John J., S/Sgt
RWG	Klasnick, Joseph S., Sgt

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

P	Fredericks, Jacob W., Capt
CP	Way, Arthur C., Lt
NAV	Hoyt, Otis A., Lt
BOM	Saiz, Reinaldo J., Lt
ENG	Murray, Gilbert A., Jr., Sgt
LWG	Schneiderman, Henry G., S/Sgt
RO	Smith, Richard J., T/Sgt
BT	Nardine, Howard H., S/Sgt
TG	Semonick, Martin A., S/Sgt
RWG	Collins, Harvie L., S/Sgt

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

P	Trojan, Joseph E., Lt
CP	Casello, John J., Lt
NAV	Effinger, Lawrence E., Lt
BOM	Stewart, Jack W., Lt
ENG	Hassler, Kenneth C., T/Sgt
RWG	Prescott, Paul H., S/Sgt
RO	Craft, Cecil E., S/Sgt
BT	Sunderlin, Joseph R., S/Sgt
TG	Bartlett, Frank W., S/Sgt
LWG	O'Connell, Lincoln T., S/Sgt
OBS	Fawcett, Jack B., Lt