

303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 45

26 June 1943

Target: Aircraft Works, Villacoublay, France

Crews Dispatched: 20

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 55 minutes

Bomb Load: 500 lb H.E. M43 bombs

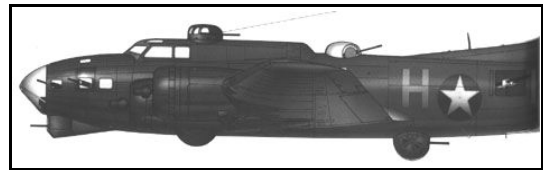
Bombing Altitude: 25,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 21,371 rounds

Aircraft Shot Down: 1 destroyed

The Lead Squadron included one YB-40 "B-17 Gunship" (#42-5744) of the 92 BG(H). One YB-40 was also furnished to the 384BG and seven to the 379BG.

The YB-40 was a derivation of the Boeing B-17, in which additional guns were added. It was hoped that they would be able to escort the other bombers and protect them from enemy fighter attacks beyond the range of normal fighter escort. Lockheed-Vega did the conversion work on the Boeing B-17s, but only twenty YB-40s



YB-40 illustration by Rikyu Watanabe

were made. Changes included a remotely-controlled chin turret (which later became standard on the B-17G model), twin .50 caliber guns in the waist positions (instead of the single guns), an extra twin gun power turret behind what used to be the radio operator's gun position, and sometimes extra cheek guns in the nose. The bombs and bombardier were not used and extra ammo for the guns was carried. Even with the reduction in weight without the bombs, the added weight of guns and ammo made the aircraft heavier and slower. As a result, once the other bombers had released their bombloads, the YB-40s could not keep up with the formation. The program was made obsolete not only by its own failures, but by the appearance of long-range fighter escorts.

Three aircraft aborted the mission due to oxygen system failures:

#42-2973 *Iza Vailable* 427BS (**Shelhamer**)

#42-3029 *Wallaroo* 359BS (**Campbell**)

#42-5260 *Yardbird II* 358BS (**Swaffer**)

Fair weather prevailed until the bombers reached the target area where they found solid cloud cover. In accordance with the American Army Air Force policy of not bombing indiscriminately on French territory, the Group did not drop its bombs.

From 30 to 40 enemy aircraft were observed but few attacks were made. S/Sgt. R.K. Sink in *Flak Wolf* claimed one FW-190 destroyed. No anti-aircraft fire was observed. All Group aircraft returned safely to Molesworth.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

	<u>Mitchell-Marion</u> 664			
	<u>Swaffer</u> 360		<u>Ward - 92BG</u> YB-40 #42-5744	
		<u>Timken</u> 577		
	<u>Thompson</u> 791		<u>Lemmon</u> 571	
	<u>Southworth</u> 619			<u>Griffin</u> 260
<u>Lipe</u> 131		<u>Cote</u> 944	<u>Van Wie</u> 606	<u>Casello</u> 483
	<u>Broussard</u> 341			<u>Roller</u> 482
<u>Pratt</u> 955		<u>Shelhamer</u> 973	<u>Campbell</u> 029	<u>Cline</u> 561
	<u>Strickland</u> 392			<u>McClung</u> 640
<u>Mattison</u> 177				

Three (3) aircraft aborted this mission:

- Lt. Shelhamer in 973
- Lt. Campbell in 029
- Lt. Swaffer in 360

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p>CREW POSITIONS</p> <p>CMP - Command Pilot P - Pilot CP - Co-Pilot NAV - Navigator ANV - Ass't. Navigator MNV - Mickey Navigator ENG - Engineer BOM - Bombardier RO - Radio Operator</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer</p> <p>RESULTS OF MISSION</p> <p>KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war</p>	<p>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</p>
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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Lemmon, John V., 1Lt
CP Clark, Elmo E., F/O
NAV Gust, Darrell D., 2Lt
BOM Stone, Elbert E., 2Lt
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 #41-24577 *Hell's Angels*

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

B-17F #42-29791 *Memphis Blues*

P Thompson, Frank H., 2Lt
CP Sumarlidason, Arni L., 2Lt
NAV McConnen, James R., 2Lt
BOM Sweet, William T., 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
PAS Wood, W.D., 1Lt

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

P Mitchell, Kirk R., Capt
CP Marion, Charles E., Col
NAV McElwain, Richard E., 2Lt
NAV Summers, Thomas E., 1Lt
BOM McCord, Lawrence E., 2Lt
ENG Koenig, Bernard H., T/Sgt
LWG Goff, James P., S/Sgt
RO Hogue, Earl T/Sgt
BT Carroll, Albert V., S/Sgt
RWG Martin, James C., S/Sgt
TG Manifold, Donovan B., 2Lt

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

P Swaffer, Calvin A., 1Lt
CP Johnston, John R., 1Lt
NAV Karraker, William H., 2Lt
NG Zioance, John C., S/Sgt
ENG Lopez, Rudolph S., T/Sgt
RWG Mills, James E., S/Sgt
RO Matthews, James O., T/Sgt
BT Griffin, Edward W., S/Sgt
TG Moody, John F., S/Sgt
LWG Cobb, Edward N., Sgt
PAS Lewis, Charles R., Capt
(Abortive)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24561 *The Duchess*

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 York, Robert F., T/Sgt
TG Howard, Earl R., Sgt
RWG Jordan, Lloyd L., S/Sgt
BT Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt
LWG Kerr, Joseph, Sgt
PHO Kagey, Martin I., Jr., Sgt

B-17F #42-3029 *Wallaroo*

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 Kraft, Harold A., T/Sgt
RWG Bachert, Kurt W., S/Sgt
BT Dioquardo, Fred J., Sgt
TG Quick, George D., S/Sgt
LWG Wilson, Benton, Sgt
(Abortive)

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

P Roller, Jack, Capt
CP Farrell, Lawrence C., 2Lt
NAV Henson, Walter C., 1Lt
BOM Yonkman, Robert J., Capt
ENG Zaorski, Roman R., S/Sgt
RO Williams, Lemuel T., T/Sgt
BT Tibbles, Russell F., S/Sgt
LWG Adams, Ralph B., S/Sgt
RWG Powell, Marvin F., Sgt
TG Burnham, Arthur L., S/Sgt
PHO Ryan, Francis J., S/Sgt

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

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
LWG Rettinhouse, Robert A., S/Sgt
TT Vogel, George W., S/Sgt

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

P McClung, Guy H., 1Lt
CP Nix, James S., 1Lt
NAV Stettler, Donald G., 2Lt
BOM Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt
ENG Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt
RWG Traban, James J., S/Sgt
RO Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt
TG Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt
BT Mulgrew, William C., S/Sgt
LWG Fortunak, Richard C., S/Sgt
PHO Piatek, Casimir P., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Griffin, Loyd D., Capt
CP Ingram, D.E., Col
NAV Preston, William M., Lt
BOM Taylor, Robert L., Lt
ENG Eason, William M., T/Sgt
RO Schwartz, Vernon E., T/Sgt
TG Wiegand, Lynwood D., S/Sgt
LWG Edwards, Samuel L., S/Sgt
BT Plummer, Robert, S/Sgt
RWG Henderson, Paul E., S/Sgt
OBS Swanson, Walter C., Lt

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

P Casello, John J., Lt
CP Huguenin, Wesley V., Lt
NAV Effinger, Lawrence E., Lt
BOM Fawcett, Jack B., Lt
ENG Carnathan, Hugh S., T/Sgt
NG Schneiderman, Henry G., S/Sgt
RWG Gray, Johnnie E., S/Sgt
RO Calco, Anthony, T/Sgt
LWG Frost, Carlyle A., S/Sgt
BT Ponder, Truly S., S/Sgt
TG Stout, Otis T., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29606 *Butch*

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 Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt
TG Bridges, Robert C., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Capt
CP	LeFevre, William G., Lt
NAV	Herman, Charles L., Lt
BOM	Rohrlich, Robert L., Lt
ENG	Smock, Edmund L., T/Sgt
RO	Karanson, William A., T/Sgt
LWG	Storer, Charles R., S/Sgt
LWG	Jurosek, Bernard, S/Sgt
RWG	Koch, Vernon E., S/Sgt
TG	Bourdon, Louis F., S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24619 *S for Sugar*

P	Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
CP	Dubell, Richard P., Lt
NAV	Illgen, Frederick J., Lt
BOM	Butt, Byron K., Lt
ENG	Means, Lucian W., Jr., T/Sgt
BT	Longo, Angelo L., S/Sgt
RO	Doughty, Edward J., T/Sgt
TG	Misiak, Frank L., S/Sgt
RWG	Fleming, William W., S/Sgt
LWG	Tripp, Jesse E., 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
BT	Peck, Raymond R., S/Sgt
RO	Martel, Albert E., Jr., T/Sgt
RWG	Strohsack, R.R., S/Sgt
TG	Sherg, Anthony W., S/Sgt
LWG	McGill, Edward E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-3131 *Flak Wolf*

P	Lipe, Fort W., Lt
CP	Rolfson, Jack G., Lt
NAV	Hinds, Durward L., S/Sgt
BOM	Smith, Abbott M., Jr., Lt
ENG	Good, James K., T/Sgt
BT	Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt
RO	Brandfas, Dale F., T/Sgt
LG	Barron, Dante G., S/Sgt
TG	Serpa, Joseph E., S/Sgt
RWG	Barron, Dante G., Sgt

B-17F #42-29944 *Winning Run*

P	Cote, Addell A., Lt
CP	Eckhart, Alan, Lt
NAV	Barnhill, Wilbur R, Lt
BOM	Hull, John W., Lt
ENG	Arter, John R., T/Sgt
BT	May, Cecil M., S/Sgt
RO	Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt
TG	Gunsauls, Paul, S/Sgt
LWG	Cooney, Robert M., S/Sgt
RWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29955 *Mr. Five by Five*

P	Pratt, James H., Lt
CP	Bowling, William A., Lt
NAV	Boner, Allen M., Lt
BOM	Bierman, Leonard B., Lt
ENG	Scheuerer, Joseph E., Sgt
RO	Royar, Frederick J., S/Sgt
BT	Allen, Glen R., Sgt
TG	Johnston, Walter J., S/Sgt
LWG	Schilling, D.E., Sgt
RWG	Humphreys, Robert R., S/Sgt

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

P	Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Lt
CP	Tucker, Frederick W., Lt
NAV	Kotz, Warren C., Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L, Lt
ENG	Willet, John K., S/Sgt
BT	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt
RO	Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
TG	Vateckas, Coster R., S/Sgt
LWG	Kesky, Leonard A., S/Sgt
RWG	Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt

(Abortive)