

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 50

14 July 1943

Target: Villacoublay Aircraft Repair Depot at Paris, France

Crews Dispatched: 22

Crews Lost: Lt. Swaffer - crew rescued

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 1 KIA

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 50 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 24,800 ft

Ammo Fired: 12,585 rounds

It was Bastille Day and 8th Air Force Groups were sent to bomb targets in the vicinity of Paris. Four Groups were dispatched to bomb the Le Bourget airport, which was the airfield where Charles **Lindbergh** completed his 1927 trans-Atlantic flight. Other Groups, including the 303rd BG(H)'s 20 aircraft, were dispatched to attack the Villacoublay Aircraft Repair Depot. Two planes were spares that kept with the formation as far as the English coast. They then turned back as no aircraft had aborted. One YB-40, #42-5739 *Lufkin Ruffian*, of the 92nd BG(H) accompanied the 303rd BG(H) formation.

Major William **Calhoun**, CO of the 359th BS led the formation in #41-24635, *The '8' Ball MK II*. The bombers flew in excellent formation to make a good bomb run and dropped their bombs well in the target area. There were no clouds and visibility was excellent at the 24,000 ft. formation altitude. The flak, although somewhat meager, proved accurate. There were not more than 15 to 20 enemy fighters observed and these made very few attacks on the 303rd BG(H) formation. The few FW-190 and ME-109 attacks were not pressing. After leaving the target the Fortresses were met by their Spitfire cover and escorted back to the English coast.

Major **Calhoun** reported on the mission: "It was a pretty good show as a whole. Everyone flew in good formation and I think our bombs were pretty well in there. However, I'll wait to see the pictures. We had a running fight with flak right from the target to the coast. The fighters weren't bothering us as they were after another wing and stragglers. The Spitfires gave us damn good coverage." Col. J.K. **Lacey**, of the 103rd Combat Wing, was riding with Maj. **Calhoun** as an observer and commented, "It was a good ride. No fighters to speak of, but plenty accurate flak."

Aircraft #42-5221 *Son*, 427BS, piloted by Lt. Armand F. **Burch**, landed at Homesley-South with a badly injured bombardier. 2Lt. Robert E. **Rohrlich** died 14 July, 1943 in a hospital from head wounds caused by flak. He is buried in the Cambridge American Cemetery, England.

Several 303rd BG(H) combat crewmen finished their operational tour of 25 missions. Capt. Lloyd D. **Griffin**, pilot of *Lady Luck*, remarked, "I only saw one fighter myself, but they were attacking other Groups. Our big problem was flak. We met the Spits OK and they

brought us back." His co-pilot, 1Lt. Walter C. **Swanson** added, "There were about 15 to 20 fighters attacking the Groups ahead. They were FW-190s and ME-109s which hit them when they came off their target." Other *Lady Luck* crew members finishing their 25th missions were: T/Sgt. Vernon E. **Schwartz**, radio operator and S/Sgt. L.D. **Wiegand**, tail gunner, who described the mission as "Just an ordinary raid." Also, S/Sgt. Samuel **Edwards** who said, "I didn't fire a single shot. Spent most of my time taking pictures. Got some pretty good shots of Paris, too. We had one fighter attack, but I didn't see him." T/Sgt. William **Eason**, engineer, summed it up for those finishing 25 missions with the remark, "We got back all right. Can't ask for anything more." S/Sgt. Elwood **Hairr**, waist gunner on Capt. Billy E. **Southworth's** crew, flying in *S for Sugar*, also finished 25 missions.

Aircraft #42-29791 *Memphis Blues*, 358th BS, was hit by anti-aircraft fire halfway between the target and the French coast causing one engine to catch fire. A second engine caught fire due to anti-aircraft guns from the Le Havre area. Spitfires protected the aircraft and followed it down as it ditched in the English Channel 30 miles off Shoreham. Lt. Calvin A. **Swaffer**, an ex-RAF pilot, and his crew were all rescued by the British Air-Sea rescue. This was the 25th mission for Lt. **Swaffer**.



### **CALVIN A. SWAFFER CREW - 358th BS**

(photo taken the day after ditching *Memphis Blues* in the English Channel)

(L-R) 2Lt William H. Karraker (N), S/Sgt Edward W. Griffin (BT),  
T/Sgt James O. Matthews (R), 1Lt James R. Johnston (CP),  
S/Sgt J.E. Mills (RWG), 1Lt Calvin A. Swaffer (P), 2Lt William T. Sweet (B),  
T/Sgt Rudolph S. Lopez (E), Sgt Edward N. Cobb (LWG)

**1ST BOMB WING COMMENDATION**

M/Gen **Frank A. Armstrong, Jr.**, Commanding General 1st Bomb Wing, sent the following message to the 1st BW following the mission of 14 July:

"The photographs of yesterday's mission show that your bombers were consistently "on target" and that few bombs fell outside our objective area. I wish that you would make it known to every unit and every crew my appreciation and extend to them my congratulations for this superior performance. It is with great pleasure that I forward this commendation to every crew member and profess my pride in their individual courage and airmanship."

**Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point**

		<b><u>Calhoun-Shumake</u></b> 635		
		<b><u>Reeder</u></b> 561		<b><u>Booker</u></b> B-40 739
			<b><u>Campbell</u></b> 257	
		<b><u>Mattison</u></b> 177		<b><u>Loughnan</u></b> 482
	<b><u>Griffin</u></b> 434			<b><u>Southworth</u></b> 619
<b><u>Joy</u></b> 571		<b><u>Baker</u></b> 754	<b><u>Strickland</u></b> 392	<b><u>James</u></b> 131
	<b><u>Clifton</u></b> 788			<b><u>Burch</u></b> 221
<b><u>Van Wie</u></b> 606		<b><u>Cogswell</u></b> 973	<b><u>Cote</u></b> 341	<b><u>Pratt</u></b> 955
	<b><u>Kruse</u></b> 360			<b><u>Swaffer</u></b> 791
		<b><u>Lemmon</u></b> 664		
			<b><u>Thompson</u></b> 577	

**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS**

<b><u>CREW POSITIONS</u></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  <b><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u></b> 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 Lists

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

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 #42-29571 Charley Horse**

P Joy, Ripley W., 1Lt  
 CP Monahan, William J., 1Lt  
 NAV Maher, William P., 2Lt  
 BOM Hargrove, Walter, 2Lt  
 ENG Ignaczewski, Marion D., T/Sgt  
 RWG Gasser, Walter, S/Sgt  
 RO Kimotek, Frank, T/Sgt  
 BT Buinicky, Alfred R., S/Sgt  
 TG Miller, David, S/Sgt  
 LWG Comer, James H., S/Sgt

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

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

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

P Kruse, Richard L., 1Lt  
 CP Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt  
 NAV McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt  
 BOM Webster, Richard E., 2Lt  
 ENG Biddle, Loran C., T/Sgt  
 LWG Doherty, John J., S/Sgt  
 RO Brown, James J., T/Sgt  
 BT Humphries, Olwin L., S/Sgt  
 TG Abney, Howard L., S/Sgt  
 RWG Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

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

P Swaffer, Calvin A., 1Lt RES  
 CP Johnston, John R., 1Lt RES  
 NAV Karraker, William H., 2Lt RES  
 BOM Sweet, William D., 2Lt RES  
 ENG Lopez, Rudolph S., T/Sgt RES  
 RWG Mills, James E., S/Sgt RES  
 RO Matthews, James O., T/Sgt RES  
 BT Griffin, Edward W., S/Sgt RES  
 TG Moody, John F., S/Sgt RES  
 LWG Cobb, Edward N., Sgt RES

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5257 *Miss Bea Haven***

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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 York, Robert F., T/Sgt  
RWG Bachert, Kurt W., S/Sgt  
BT McCauley, Patrick N., Sgt  
TG Quick, George D., S/Sgt  
LWG Wilson, Benton, S/Sgt  
PHO Williams, Lemuel R., T/Sgt

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

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P Reeder, D.M., 2Lt  
CP McLean, Ralph C., 2Lt  
NAV Salk, Harvey M., 2Lt  
BOM Vermillion, Earl E., 2Lt  
ENG Herod, Henry W., T/Sgt  
LWG Hayes, John J., S/Sgt  
RO Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt  
RWG Hull, Kenneth W., S/Sgt  
BT Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt  
TG Swan, Henry, S/Sgt

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

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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  
OBS Barrett, Jesse M., Capt

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

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P Calhoun, William R., Jr., Maj  
CP Shumake, Glynn F., Capt  
NAV Strickland, Joseph M., Capt  
NAV Stettler, Donald G., 2Lt  
BOM Yonkman, Robert J., Capt  
ENG Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt  
RWG Traban, James J., S/Sgt  
RO Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt  
TG Halpin, Robert H., F/O  
BT Joubert, Francis M., Sgt  
LWG Ryan, Francis J., S/Sgt  
OBS Lacey, J.K., Col

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

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P Loughnan, Victor J., 2Lt  
CP Gredvig, Winfield H., 2Lt  
NAV Maxwell, James L., 2Lt  
BOM Robinson, John M., 2Lt  
ENG High, Eugene W., T/Sgt  
LWG Knorpp, Billy F., S/Sgt  
RO Daley, Russell M., T/Sgt  
BT McGee, Kenneth L., S/Sgt  
RWG Barr, Gordon E., S/Sgt  
TG McConaghy, Leo R., S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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  
RWG Jameson, Jimmie E., S/Sgt  
TG Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt  
PHO Luman, Morton, Sgt

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

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P Cogswell, Robert W., Lt  
CP Tippet, Paul S., Lt  
NAV Cobb, Edward L., Lt  
BOM Kennedy, John D., Lt  
ENG Bengston, Gilbert E., T/Sgt  
RWG Etheredge, Alvin, S/Sgt  
RO Deerfield, Eddie, S/Sgt  
BT Davis, Paul J., S/Sgt  
LWG Brundage, Augustus V., S/Sgt  
TG Timm, Harold R., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5434 Lady Luck**

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P Griffin, Loyd D., Capt  
CP Swanson, Walter C., Lt  
NAV Effinger, Lawrence E., 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

### **B-17F #42-29606 Butch**

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P Van Wie, John A., Lt  
CP Walsh, James D., Lt  
NAV Blank, Paul, Lt  
BOM Fawcett, Jack B., Lt  
ENG Hlebasko, Albert, T/Sgt  
BT Morton, Eugene L., S/Sgt  
RO Noll, Robert W., T/Sgt  
RWG Deffinger, John P., Sgt  
LWG Swanson, Theodore G., S/Sgt  
TG Bridges, Robert C., S/Sgt  
PHO Kagey, Martin I., Jr., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29754 Shangrila Lil**

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P Baker, William T., Lt  
CP Huguenin, Wesley V., Lt  
NAV McLane, Joseph T., Lt  
BOM Fleming, George J., Lt  
ENG Fielder, Neal F., T/Sgt  
LWG Bowman, Vergil E., S/Sgt  
RO Pallage, Walter K., Sgt  
BT Dioquardo, Fred J., Sgt  
RWG Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt  
TG Bacon, Charlie M., S/Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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	Micek, John M., S/Sgt
RWG	Fleming, William W., 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	Strohsack, R.R., S/Sgt
BT	Peck, Raymond R., S/Sgt
RO	Martel, Albert E., Jr., T/Sgt
TG	Sherg, Anthony W., S/Sgt
LWG	McGill, Edward E., S/Sgt
RWG	Baart, James C., T/Sgt

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

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P	James, Jacob C., Lt
CP	Ness, Howard C., Lt
NAV	Scroggins, Paul W., Lt
BOM	Witt, Walter E., Lt
ENG	Johnson, Otto D., S/Sgt
BT	Longo, Angelo L., Sgt
RO	Hamilton, A.J., S/Sgt
TG	Misiak, Frank L., S/Sgt
LWG	Kesky, Leonard A., S/Sgt
RWG	Tripp, Jesse E., Sgt

### **B-17 #42-5221 *Son***

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P	Burch, Armand F., Lt	
CP	Cardwell, Burt J., Lt	
NAV	Noblin, John D., Lt	
BOM	Rohrlich, Robert E., Lt	DOW
ENG	Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt	
BT	Bourdon, Louis F., S/Sgt	
RO	Ashworth, George W., S/Sgt	
RWG	Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt	
TG	Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt	
LWG	Cooney, Robert M., Sgt	

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

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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 #41-24619 *S for Sugar***

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P	Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
CP	Dubell, Richard P., Lt
NAV	Herman, Charles L., Lt
BOM	Smith, Abbott M., Jr., Lt
ENG	Good, James K., T/Sgt
BT	Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt
RO	Jessee, Jesse J., T/Sgt
TG	Serpa, Joseph E., S/Sgt
LWG	Hinds, Durward L., S/Sgt
RWG	Hairr, Elwood F., S/Sgt