

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 51

17 July 1943

Target: Synthetic Rubber Processing Plant at Hannover, Ger.

Crews Dispatched: 27

Length of Mission: 3 hours, 35 minutes

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

Bombing Altitude: 24,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 12,235 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 2 Destroyed

The 1st Bombardment Wing had a complex formation of main and composite Groups and Squadrons. The 303rd BG(H) mission was composed of two formations:

Main Group: 18 aircraft of the 427th (lead), 359th (low) and 358th (high) led by Capt. Billy **Southworth** in #41-24619 *S for Sugar*.

Composite Group:

19 aircraft of the 360th BS (lead), four aircraft of Composite Squadron 384th BG(H) and one aircraft each from the 427th and 359th BSs (low) and a composite high Squadron with six 379th BG(H) aircraft and one from the 360th BS led by Maj. Lewis **Lyle** in #42-29931, *Satan's Workshop*.

Because of a heavily overcast sky which closed in the entire airbase, 303rd BG(H) aircraft took off 37 minutes late. The engines on one aircraft, #42-3002 *The Old Squaw*, piloted by Lt. **Clark** would not start. The external power plant solenoid shorted out, running down the batteries. This was the start of a confusing and bad luck mission with an unusual number of abortions.

Maj. **Lyle** aborted the mission immediately after take-off when his No. 2 engine ran away. His right wingman, Lt. **Cogswell**, in #42-2973 *Iza Vailable* turned back five miles north of Walsham when the oil return line to his No. 3 engine broke. Lt. **Stallings**, flying #42-5434 *Lady Luck*, took over the Group lead. Lt. **James**, flying in #42-29944, *Winning Run*, left the low Composite Squadron when his tail gunner, S/Sgt. **Misiak**, became sick due to oxygen failure. Lt. **Campbell**, in the same composite Squadron, flying 359BS #42-5257 *Miss Bea Haven*, left 30 miles from the Dutch coast when his gunner's heated clothing failed. This left the composite Group with five of the nine 303rd BG(H) aircraft plus ten of the other Groups' aircraft.

The 358th, flying as the high Squadron of the main 303rd BG(H) effort, had an abortive aircraft when Lt. **Kruse** in #42-5360 *Old Faithful*, had the No. 1 engine run away after 36 minutes. The other five aircraft failed to find the formation and all returned to Base. The low 359th Squadron also had problems. Lt. **Reeder** in #41-24561 *The Duchess* and Lt. **Pentz** in #41-24416 *Black Diamond Express* left after reaching altitude when gunners in both planes became sick from vaccinations. Lt. **Nix**, in #41-24587 *Bad Check*, departed 15 miles off the English coast when his No. 1 engine ran away. This left the main Group with only nine of the original eighteen aircraft.

Approaching the Dutch coast, the main 303rd BG(H) Group found solid 9/10 cloud cover below their 27,000 feet altitude. They continued another 75 miles and called Wing, recommending a return to Base. The recall was approved and the entire Wing was ordered to return home. The aircraft of the 303rd BG(H), flying as the composite Group, failed to rendezvous and finally attached themselves to part of the 103rd Combat Wing. They returned to Base when they received the recall order. Enemy fighters attacked both formations after the turn back and followed them for ten minutes out to sea. Two enemy fighters were destroyed. Flak was meager and inaccurate. There were no casualties or lost aircraft. Lt. George **Stallings** described the mission as "an obvious lack of accuracy in weather forecasting. The mission was disorganized from the start and small flights of ships were scattered all over the sky."

Two gunners on #42-29754 *Shangrila Lil* had claims of aircraft destroyed:
S/Sgt. N.D. Borrer (ME-109) S/Sgt F.J. Dioquardo (FW-190).



S-for-Sugar #41-24619 (427BS) GN-S
102nd PBCW #2 Low (427BS) - Pilot Capt B.B. Southworth / CoPilot 1Lt R.P. Dubell

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Southworth</u> 619		
		<u>Cote</u> 124		<u>Rolfson</u> 131
			<u>Strickland</u> 392	
		<u>Shelhamer</u> 341		<u>Pratt</u> 955
	<u>McClung</u> 605			<u>Rogan</u> 562
<u>Mattison</u> 177		<u>Reeder</u> 561	<u>Lemmon</u> 571	<u>Sumarlidason</u> 029
	<u>Nix</u> 587			<u>Timken</u> 664
<u>Pentz</u> 416		<u>Loughnan</u> 565	<u>Kruse</u> 360	<u>Joy</u> 577

Thirteen (13) aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Rogan in 562	Lt. Sumarlidason in 029
Lt. Timken in 664	Lt. Joy in 577
Lt. Lemmon in 571	Lt. Kruse in 360
Lt. Reeder in 561	Lt. Nix in 587
Lt. Pentz in 416	Lt. Cogswell in 973
Maj. Lyle in 931	Lt. James in 944
Lt. Campbell in 257	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><u>CREW POSITIONS</u> 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><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> 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 cuntry 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 Latshaw, William 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
(Abortive)

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

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
PHO Luman, Norton, Sgt
(Abortive)

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
(Abortive)

B-17F #41-24562 Sky Wolf

P Rogan, Dave L., 1Lt
CP Gamble, Donald, 1Lt
NAV McSween, William D., 2Lt
BOM Coburn, Ralph F., 2Lt
ENG Wagner, Clyde E., T/Sgt
LWG Vaughn, Norville, S/Sgt
RO Bland, Hugh N., T/Sgt
BT Scharch, Richard G., S/Sgt
TG Gilbert, Bill A., S/Sgt
RWG Schmeltzer, Charles S., Sgt
(Abortive)

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

P Timken, Jack C., 1Lt
CP Harper, William B., 2Lt
NAV Chamberlain, William V., 2Lt
BOM Solverson, Robert K., 2Lt
ENG Knuth, Leland M., T/Sgt
RWG Redhead, George R., S/Sgt
RO Baxter, Jack, Sgt
BT Toy, James E., S/Sgt
TG Giassullo, Criscienzo N., S/Sgt
LWG Brooks, John W., Sgt
PHO Kagey, Martin I., Jr., S/Sgt
(Abortive)

B-17F #42-3029 Wallaroo

P Sumarlidason, Arni L., 2Lt
CP Benepe, Louis M., 1Lt
NAV Cassidy, Raymond J., 2Lt
BOM Sager, Richard A., 2Lt
ENG Backiel, Stanley J., T/Sgt
BT Stender, Francis H., S/Sgt
RO Grimm, Richard C., S/Sgt
RWG Clemens, Bruce R., T/Sgt
LWG Cassidy, Edward J., S/Sgt
TG Buske, George W., S/Sgt
(Abortive)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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 McCauley, Patrick N., Sgt
 TG Quick, George D., S/Sgt
 LWG Wilson, Benton, S/Sgt
 (Abortive)

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 Mulholland, John J., 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
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24565 *Idaho Potato Peeler*

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
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

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
 (Abortive)

B-17F #41-24416 *Black Diamond Express*

P Pentz, Arthur H., 1Lt
 CP Mulligan, Thomas E., 2Lt
 NAV Jacobsen, Norman N., 2Lt
 BOM Philpitt, Russell O., 1Lt
 ENG Dougherty, John A., T/Sgt
 BT Edwards, Hurd L., Sgt
 RO Murray, Robert L., T/Sgt
 RWG Horvath, Robert A., S/Sgt
 TG Knudsen, Elmer T., Sgt
 LWG Howard, George Z., S/Sgt
 (Abortive)

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

P McClung, Guy H., 1Lt
 CP Bolsover, Harold S., F/O
 NAV Stettler, Donald G., 2Lt
 BOM Rothman, Theodore I., 2Lt
 ENG Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt
 RWG Traban, James J., S/Sgt
 RO Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt
 TG Piatek, Casimir P., S/Sgt
 BT Joubert, Francis M., Sgt
 LWG Ryan, Francis J., S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24587 *Bad Check*

P Nix, James S., 1Lt
 CP Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
 NAV Street, Benjamin B., 1Lt
 BOM Gordon, LeRoy V., 1Lt
 ENG Doran, Arnold S., T/Sgt
 TT Jordan, Lloyd L., S/Sgt
 RO Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt
 TG Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt
 BT Carver, William H., Sgt
 LWG Kerr, Joseph, S/Sgt
 (Abortive)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-29606 *Butch*

P Van Wie, John A., Lt
 CP Walsh, James D., Lt
 NAV Blank, Paul, Lt
 BOM Taylor, Robert L., 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
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

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
 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
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

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
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

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
 RWG Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt
 RO Kistulentz, Paul, T/Sgt
 BT Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt
 TG Stickler, John J., S/Sgt
 LWG Pierson, Lawrence C., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

P Way, Arthur C., Lt
 CP Fyler, Carl J., Lt
 NAV Molnar, George, Lt
 BOM Gibson, Steve M., Lt
 ENG Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt
 LWG Stachowiak, Martin G., S/Sgt
 RO Crowder, Gayther B., T/Sgt
 RWG Jillson, John S., S/Sgt
 TG Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt
 BT Ford, Ray D., S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-29931 *Satan's Workshop*

P Lyle, Lewis E., Maj
 CP Clifton, David S., Lt
 NAV Rosenblum, Nathan J., Lt
 NAV Wright, Howard R., Lt
 BOM Rice, Bernard, 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 Garvey, John L., Lt
 OBS Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt
 (Abortive)

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

P Cogswell, Robert W., Lt
 CP Tippet, Paul S., Lt
 NAV Cobb, Edward L., Lt
 BOM Kennedy, John B., 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
 (Abortive)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-3124 (No Name)

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 Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

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 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
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-29944 Winning Run

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
 (Abortive)

B-17F #42-5341 Vicious Virgin

P Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Lt
 CP Tucker, Frederick W., Lt
 NAV Kotz, Warren C., Lt
 BOM Lewis, William L., Lt
 ENG Willett, John K., S/Sgt
 BT Garrett, Frank O., Sgt
 RO Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
 TG Vateckas, Coster R., S/Sgt
 LWG Barlow, Elmer O., T/Sgt
 RWG Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

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
 (Abortive Sortie)

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 Good, James K., T/Sgt
 BT Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt
 RO Jessee, Jesse J., T/Sgt
 TG LeFevre, William G., Lt
 LWG Hinds, Durward L., S/Sgt
 RWG Fleming, William W., S/Sgt
 OBS Lame, Louis A., Capt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-3131 Flak Wolf

P Rolfson, Jack G., Lt
 CP Shope, George W., Jr., Lt
 NAV Doyle, Robert V., Lt
 BOM Reeder, John J., Lt
 ENG Walsh, Charles E., T/Sgt
 BT Tambe, Angelo J., S/Sgt
 RO Ratliff, Leonard E., T/Sgt
 TG Hoover, G.W., S/Sgt
 RWG Smith, Frank D., S/Sgt
 LWG Burns, Arthur J., S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)