

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 59

16 August 1943

Target: LeBourget Airdrome, Paris, France

Crews Dispatched: 20

Crews Lost: 2 crewmen wounded, one seriously

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 16 x 300 lb H.E. M31 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 20,800 ft

Ammo Fired: 40,837 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 2 Destroyed, 2 Probable

Major **Edgar E. Snyder**, Jr., 427th BS Commanding Officer was on the mission flying as co-pilot with Lt. David P. **Shelhamer** in 359BS #41-24605 *Knockout Dropper*. For the second successive day, 303rd BG(H) flying Fortresses flew to France to attack German airdromes. There were no abortions and the bombers had full P-47 fighter cover all the way to the target and back. Weather on the trip was excellent and the target was visible for many miles. The formation made a straight bomb run for approximately five minutes to place their 47 3/4 tons of M31 300-lb. bombs right on the target aiming point.



Maj Edgar E. Snyder

Approximately 35 to 40 enemy fighters were seen, although they stayed with the formation for only a short time. Very few close attacks were made due to the escorting P-47 fighter cover. One sweep of about 25 FW-190s came out of the sun to make a passing attack, but they kept right on going. Some flak was also encountered, but it was only moderate in intensity and resulted in very little damage.

Lt. **Cote** summed up the mission as follows: "We went straight down the line for five minutes with nothing to bother us. No reason why we shouldn't have blown it off. There were only a few fighters around and they weren't too eager." Col. **Stevens** added, "Had a fine bomb run over what I would call medium flak with no fighters bothering us. Left a lot of smoke down there. We blew a few people's hats off, anyway." The navigator and bombardier, Capt. Frederick J. **Illgen** and 1Lt. Abbott M. **Smith**, Jr., both completed their 25th mission. They remarked that it was a good trip and they hit the target right on the nose.

Other mission comments included Capt. Walter K. **Shayler**, flying co-pilot in *Satan's Workshop*, "The first sweep of enemy fighters hit us just as we started on the bomb run," he said. "They took one pass and went by. The P-47s were sitting up above and prevented the FW-190s from coming in too close. Certainly helps like hell to have them along." T/Sgt. William **Hembree**, top turret gunner of *Hell's Angels* 358th BS commented, "A train of bombs went right across three hangars and as soon as they hit they blew up and plenty of smoke came up. Fighters weren't so bad. We had a good escort all the way." Sgt. Frank **Garret**, ball turret gunner on *Knockout Dropper* reported, "Followed those bombs all the way down and they really smacked the place. Shot at plenty of fighters. I thought

that I hit one, but I didn't see him go down. They stayed out pretty far." S/Sgt. Otto **Johnson**, top turret gunner in *A.O.G. Not in Stock* 360th BS said, "Good trip. Shot about 400 rounds out there and they didn't come in. We didn't have any direct attacks on our Squadron at all."

Crew Reports of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

2Lt. C.W. Spencer (524)	FW-190	Damaged
T/Sgt. F.G. Krajacic (524)	ME-109	no claim
S/Sgt. G.W. Buske (264)	FW-190	no claim
Sgt. G.R. Keesling (177)	FW-190	Destroyed
Sgt. G.R. Keesling (177)	FW-190	Damaged
S/Sgt. C.M. Bacon (260)	FW-190	Probable destroyed
S/Sgt. John B. Mitchell (931)	FW-190	Destroyed
Lt. J.T. McLane (260)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. F.J. Dioquardo (260)	FW-190	Destroyed
Sgt. R.K. Sink (587)	FW-190	no claim

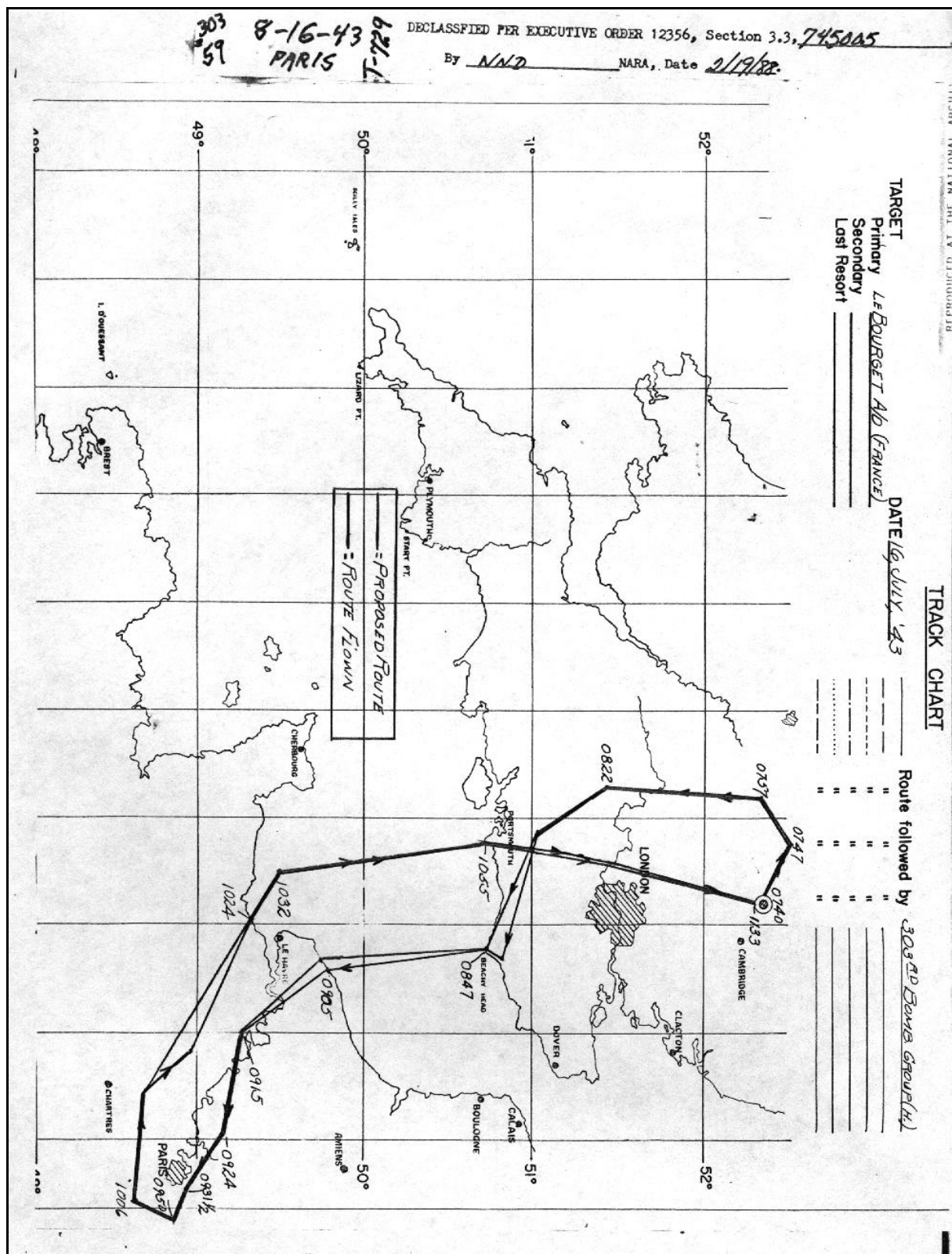


Vicious Virgin #42-5431 (427BS) GN-I

1st BW Lead (427BS) - Pilot LtCol K.D. Stevens / CoPilot 1Lt A.A. Cote

LtCol K.D. Stevens (P), 1Lt A.A. Cote (CP), Capt F.J. Illgen (N),
 1Lt A.M. Smith, Jr. (B), Lt F.W. Tucker (TG-O)
 T/Sgt J.R. Arter (E), S/Sgt J.M. Micek (WG), T/Sgt V. Reaves (R),
 S/Sgt C.M. May (BT), S/Sgt J.J. Keaton (WG)

(crewmen are not in order)



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Stevens-Cote</u> 341			
<u>Cardwell</u> 587		<u>Hullar</u> 131	
<u>Shelhamer</u> 605			
<u>Shope</u> 081		<u>Olsen</u> 788	
<u>Clifton-Shayler</u> 931		<u>Timken</u> 562	
<u>Bradbury</u> 393	<u>Jokerst</u> 754	<u>Shebeck</u> 524	<u>Gamble</u> 064
<u>Stallings</u> 854		<u>Lemmon</u> 664	
<u>Baker</u> 260	<u>Cogswell</u> 434	<u>Monahan</u> 577	<u>Sumarlidason</u> 264
<u>Manning</u> 177		<u>Hendry</u> 192	

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<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	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 <u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> 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 #42-3192 (No Name)

P	Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Wise, Calder L., 2Lt
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	Hargrave, Alfred J., Sgt
TG	Abney, Howard L., S/Sgt
RWG	Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24562 Sky Wolf

P	Timken, Jack C., 1Lt
CP	Hungerford, Merle R., Capt
NAV	Chamberlain, William V., 2Lt
BOM	Solverson, Robert K., 2Lt
ENG	Knuth, Leland M., T/Sgt
LWG	Redhead, George R., S/Sgt
RO	Baxter, Jack, Sgt
BT	Toy, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Giassullo, Criscienzo N., S/Sgt
RWG	Hitt, William T., Sgt

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

P	Monahan, William J., 1Lt
CP	Clark, Martin L., 2Lt
NAV	Maher, William P., 2Lt
BOM	Hargrove, Walter, 2Lt
ENG	Hembree, William T., T/Sgt
RWG	Gasser, Walter, S/Sgt
RO	Kimotek, Frank, S/Sgt
BT	Buinicky, Alfred R., S/Sgt
TG	Miller, David, S/Sgt
LWG	Comer, James H., S/Sgt

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

P	Lemmon, John V., 1Lt
CP	Harper, William B., 2Lt
NAV	Gust, Darrell D., 2Lt
BOM	Stone, Elbert E., 2Lt
ENG	Borzansky, 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 #42-3064 Star Dust

P	Gamble, Donald, 1Lt
CP	Kyse, Walter R., 2Lt
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	McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt

B-17F #42-29524 Meat Hound

P	Shebeck, Daniel A., 2Lt
CP	Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt
NAV	Curo, Dwight M., 2Lt
BOM	Spencer, Charles W., 2Lt
ENG	Krajacic, Frank G., T/Sgt
RWG	Gross, Joseph, S/Sgt
RO	Brooke, Curtis O., T/Sgt
BT	Perez, Frank F., S/Sgt
TG	Boyd, Fred C., S/Sgt
LWG	Buck, George W., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5264 Yankee Doodle Dandy

P	Sumaridason, Arni L., 2Lt
CP	Benepe, Louis M., 1Lt
NAV	Haddock, Ralph M., 2Lt
BOM	Sager, Richard A., 2Lt
ENG	Backiel, Stanley J., T/Sgt
RWG	Stender, Francis H., S/Sgt
RO	Grimm, Richard C., S/Sgt
BT	Mathews, Frank M., S/Sgt
LWG	Cassidy, Edward J., S/Sgt
TG	Buske, George W., S/Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew List

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

P	Manning, John P., 2Lt
CP	Blossom, George H., 2Lt
NAV	Antman, Jack, 2Lt
BOM	Pullman, Edward J., 2Lt
ENG	Keesling, George R., T/Sgt
RWG	Kolling, Arthur J., S/Sgt
RO	Fitzsimmons, Kenneth P., T/Sgt
LWG	Santella, Albert G., S/Sgt
BT	Traylor, Lloyd S., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Jennings, Harley F., S/Sgt



**Fast Worker II Ground Crew
B-17F #42-5177 359BS (BN-U)**

(L-R) unknown, James P. Thompson, unknown,
unknown, Crew Chief Clarence E. Kenison

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Baker, William T., 1Lt
CP	Gahimer, Loyd D., 2Lt
NAV	McLane, Joseph T., 2Lt
BOM	Fleming, George J., Lt
ENG	Fielder, Neal F., T/Sgt
RWG	Bowman, Vergil E., S/Sgt
RO	Crowder, Gayther B., T/Sgt
BT	Dioquardo, Fred J., Sgt
LWG	Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt
TG	Bacon, Charlie M., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5854 *Alley Oop*

P	Stallings, George V., Jr., Capt
CP	Ward, Robert C., Lt
NAV	Effinger, Lawrence E., Lt
BOM	Kulesa, Frank E., Lt
ENG	Watson, James A., T/Sgt
RWG	Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt
RO	Kistulentz, Paul, T/Sgt
BT	Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt
TG	Stickler, John J., S/Sgt
LWG	Levin, Meyer, T/Sgt
PHO	Kagey, Martin I., Jr., T/Sgt

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

P	Clifton, David S., 1Lt
CP	Shayler, Walter K., Capt
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
OBS	Garvey, John L., Lt

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

P	Bradbury, Joseph E., 1Lt
CP	Fyler, Carl J., 1Lt
NAV	Molnar, George 2Lt
BOM	Gibson, Steve M., 2Lt
ENG	Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt
RWG	Fisher, George C., S/Sgt
RO	Jillson, John S., S/Sgt
BT	Ford, Ray D., S/Sgt
LWG	Oxendine, Simeon, Sgt
TG	Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt

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

P	Jokerst, Leonard E., Lt
CP	Bergeron, Willard H., Lt
BOM	DeFeis, Robert N., Lt
ENG	Serwa, Alphonse B., T/Sgt
RWG	Stephen, William H., S/Sgt
RO	Cline, Leroy, T/Sgt
BT	Hemmings, Norman A., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, George W., S/Sgt
TG	Appleton, Vernon R., S/Sgt
NG	Sawicki, Joseph R., S/Sgt
OBS	Sherer, H.A., Maj

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

P	Cogswell, Robert W., Lt
CP	DeWall, Hershel R., Lt
NAV	Kennedy, John D., Lt
BOM	Stamper, William B., M/Sgt
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
PHO	Luman, Morton, Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Stevens, Kermit D., LtCol
CP	Cote, Addell A., Lt
NAV	Illgen, Frederick J., Capt
BOM	Smith, Abbott M., Jr., Lt
ENG	Arter, John R., T/Sgt
BT	May, Cecil M., S/Sgt
RO	Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt
TG	Tucker, Frederick W., Lt
LWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt
RWG	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt

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

P	Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Lt
CP	Snyder, Edgar E., Jr., Maj
NAV	Kotz, Warren C., Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L., Lt
ENG	Barlow, Elmer O., T/Sgt
BT	Willet, John K., S/Sgt
RO	Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
TG	Garrett, Frank O., Sgt
LWG	Barlow, Elmer O., T/Sgt
RWG	Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt

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

P	Olsen, Curtis M., Lt
CP	Ness, Howard C., Lt
NAV	Herman, Charles L., Lt
BOM	Witt, Walter E., Lt
ENG	Johnson, Otto D., S/Sgt
BT	Longo, Angelo L., Sgt
RO	Hamilton, A.J., S/Sgt
RWG	Misiak, Frank L., S/Sgt
LWG	Kesky, Leonard A., S/Sgt
TG	Tripp, Jesse E., Sgt

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

P	Cardwell, Burt J., Lt
CP	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
NAV	Noblin, John D., Lt
BOM	Butt, Byron K., Lt
ENG	Scheuerer, Joseph J., S/Sgt
BT	Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt
RO	Ashworth, George W., S/Sgt
RWG	Cooney, Robert M., Sgt
TG	Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt
LWG	Abernathy, Paul W., Sgt

B-17F #42-5081 *Luscious Lady*

P	Shope, George W., Jr., Lt
CP	Ashwell, Silas B., Lt
NAV	Doyle, Robert V., Lt
BOM	Reeder, John J., Lt
ENG	Walsh, Charles E., T/Sgt
BT	Price, Elbert O., S/Sgt
RO	Ratliff, Leonard E., T/Sgt
TG	Humphreys, Robert R., S/Sgt
RWG	Schilling, D.E., S/Sgt
LWG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt

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

P	Hullar, Robert J., Lt
CP	Klint, Wilbur, Lt
NAV	Brown, Elmer L., Lt
BOM	McCormick, James E., Lt
ENG	Rice, Dale W., S/Sgt
LWG	Fullem, Charles, S/Sgt
RO	Hoyt, George F., S/Sgt
BT	Sampson, Norman A., S/Sgt
TG	Miller, Merlin D., S/Sgt
RWG	Marson, Charles H., S/Sgt