

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 64

27 August 1943

Target: Special V-weapons Installation Site, Watten, France

Crews Dispatched: 20

Crews Lost: 1 crew - Lt. Crockett (10 crewmen),  
4 slightly wounded on other crews

Length of Mission: 3 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 2 x 2,000 lb H.E. M-34 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 16,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 29,309 rounds

This was the first 8th Air Force attack on a German V-weapons site. They were used to launch attacks on the U.K. Brigadier General **Williams**, Commanding General of the 1st Bomb Wing, flew as a passenger on Lt. A.C. **Strickland's** 427BS B-17 #42-4341 *Vicious Virgin* (sometimes known as the *Scarlet Harlot*). Each aircraft carried 2,000-lb. G.P. bombs. There were no abortive aircraft.

Intense flak was encountered as the formation approached the target at 16,000 feet. Approximately three miles north of St. Omer, aircraft #42-29754 *Shangrila Lil*, flown by 2Lt. George W. **Crockett**, Jr., was hit in the vicinity of its bomb bay practically disintegrating the ship in midair. It was flying on the left wing of Maj. **Calhoun's** lead ship. Four to six parachutes were seen to open. 2Lt. Merian A. **Barsam**, Jr., 2Lt. William J. **Cramsie** and T/Sgt. Morris **Tepper** were killed in the crash. Lt. **Barsam** is buried in Normandy American Cemetery near Coleville-sur-Mer, France. 2Lt. **Crockett**, 2Lt. Israel **Millner**, T/Sgt. Allen D. **Jaynes**, S/Sgt. Eugene F. **Williams**, S/Sgt. Eddie D. **Homer**, S/Sgt. Benjamin **Clarke**, Jr. and S/Sgt. James C. **Burke** were captured by the enemy and taken prisoner.

Nineteen aircraft bombed the target, with results reported from good to poor. The bomb run was again directly into the sun. There was a terrific haze which reduced visibility to less than five miles. The lead bombardier, 1Lt. Jack B. **Fawcett**, had the target in his bombsight for less than sixty seconds.

Enemy air opposition was slight with 20 to 30 fighters observed and only a few attacks on the Group. Fighter escort was a few minutes late but Spitfires provided excellent support. The badly damaged #42-2973 *Iza Vailable* 360BS, piloted by Lt. Robert **Cogswell**, landed at Manston with all crewmen safe. The number one engine's controls were shot away, the number two engine was on fire and had to be feathered and the number three engine's oil lines were knocked out. After the emergency landing, Radio Operator T/Sgt. Eddie **Deerfield** counted 200 flak holes from the nose to the tail.

Maj. **Calhoun** commented, "We had about a three-and-one-half minute bomb run as straight as an arrow. There was haze and cloud cover for about half the bomb run and with about one minute to go, my bombardier got the target in his sights and let the bombs go. I only saw four or five fighters myself and won't worry much about any bombing results opinions until I see pictures." Lt. Curtis M. **Olsen**, pilot of #42-5221 *Son*, finished his 25th

mission and said, "From all of that flak I thought that I was coming back without any cover on my plane, but I fooled them. It would take more than that to keep me from coming back today." Another crewman finishing his 25th mission was T/Sgt. James K. **Good** who added, "About 25 enemy fighters swept right through but they didn't do any damage and they didn't come back." The right waist gunner S/Sgt. Delvyn **Smith** said, "Rough! That flak was terrible, booming all around us." Other men finishing 25 missions were Capt. David S. **Clifton**, pilot of *Lady Luck*, 360BS who commented, "The high cover of Spits kept what fighters we did see underneath us so they didn't bother us much" and Lt. John D. **Noblin**, navigator of *Flak Wolf #42-3131* 427BS, who remarked that the flak was "like someone throwing a bunch of pebbles at us." The veteran Fortress *Hell's Angels* flew its 40th mission with Lt. William **Monahan** as its pilot.



**GEORGE W. CROCKETT JR. CREW - 360th BS**  
**B-17F Shangri-La Lil #42-29754 (360BS) PU-B**  
**(crew assigned 360BS: 13 July 1943 - photo: 12 Aug 1943)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt William J. Cramsie (B-KIA), 2Lt George W. Crockett, Jr. (P-POW),  
 2Lt Isreal Millner (N-POW), 2Lt Meran A. Barsam, Jr. (CP-KIA)

(Front L-R) S/Sgt Benjamin Clarke, Jr. (RWG-POW), S/Sgt Eugene F. Williams (BT-POW),  
 S/Sgt James C. Burke (TG-POW), T/Sgt Allen D. Jaynes (R-POW),  
 Sgt Eddie D. Homer (LWG-POW), T/Sgt Morris Tepper (E-KIA)

***FLAMES - AND EMPTY BUNKS IN OUR NISSEN HUT***  
**Unusual Experiences of T/Sgt Eddie Deerfield-Radio Operator**

Harold "Red" Timm and I are the only known surviving members of the original 360<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron crew, piloted by Bob Cogswell. Bob was killed in action on B-29's during the Korean War. Alvin "Pappy" Etheredge lies in the American Cemetery at Cambridge, England. Dwight Kennedy, Gil Bengston and P. J. Davis have passed on. We have been unable to trace Ed Cobb, Paul Tippet and Gus Brundage.

I used to puzzle over "the luck of the draw" in aerial combat. Why was it that some of us gave our lives, some were shot down and taken prisoner, others were wounded or suffered through the roughest of missions, and still others breezed through tours with barely a flak dent in their B-17? It serves no purpose to dwell on this. We need to thank whatever Gods may be for having had the privilege of serving our country, and to go on honoring the memories of lost comrades.

Our Cogswell bunch earned the unenviable tag of "jinx crew" almost from the time of our first mission on 10 July 1943. We ditched before the end of July, barely managed an emergency landing at an RAF base a month later and bailed out four weeks after that. Throw Hamburg and Schweinfurt into the mix of those first 13 missions, and it was a recipe for disaster.

Let me tell you about the mission to Watten on 27 August 1943. Our favorite B-17 "Iza Vailable" was heavily damaged by deadly accurate anti-aircraft fire and we barely made it back to England for an emergency landing at a coastal RAF base. As we walked around the aircraft, checking damage, we counted more than 200 flak holes, yet none of us was wounded. Tragically, "Shangri-La Lil" flying nearby in our 360<sup>th</sup> formation took a direct hit and blew up. We saw only four parachutes.

Later, on a mission to strike Nantes, France, on 26 September 1943, that was recalled because of cloud cover over the target, our crew had a narrow escape. On our return, approaching Southampton on the southern coast of England, Bob Cogswell was unable to feather a runaway prop. When the engine began pouring smoke, he ordered the crew to bail out. We came down on rooftops, in trees and on farmer's fields in the vicinity of Alresford and Winchester. "Lady Luck" crashed in a lake, and the only fatalities were six grazing cows. Ironically, we didn't even get credit for a mission!

Cogswell was injured in the bailout, and the original crew drifted apart after that. I went on to complete 30 missions, flying with four different crews. Twelve of those missions were with Joe Stevens at the controls. A flak burst smashed a hole in the wall of my radio room on the Saarbrucken mission, and my face was cut up by metal fragments.

My most vivid memories, however, even after all these years, are the B-17's exploding in flames and the empty bunks that night in our Nissen hut.



**Satan's Workshop #42-29931 (360BS) PL-U**

**103rd PBCW Lead (360BS) - Pilot Maj W.R. Calhoun / CoPilot Col J.K. Lacy**

Maj W.R. Calhoun (P 359th), Col J.K. Lacey (CP - CO 384th BG),  
Lt N.N. Jacobsen (N), Lt E.F. Effinger (N), Lt J.B. Fawcett (B)

T/Sgt H.S. Carnathan (E), S/Sgt C.A. Frost (WG), T/Sgt A. Calco (R),  
S/Sgt T.S. Ponder (BT), S/Sgt J.E. Gray (WG), Lt J.L. Garvey (TG)

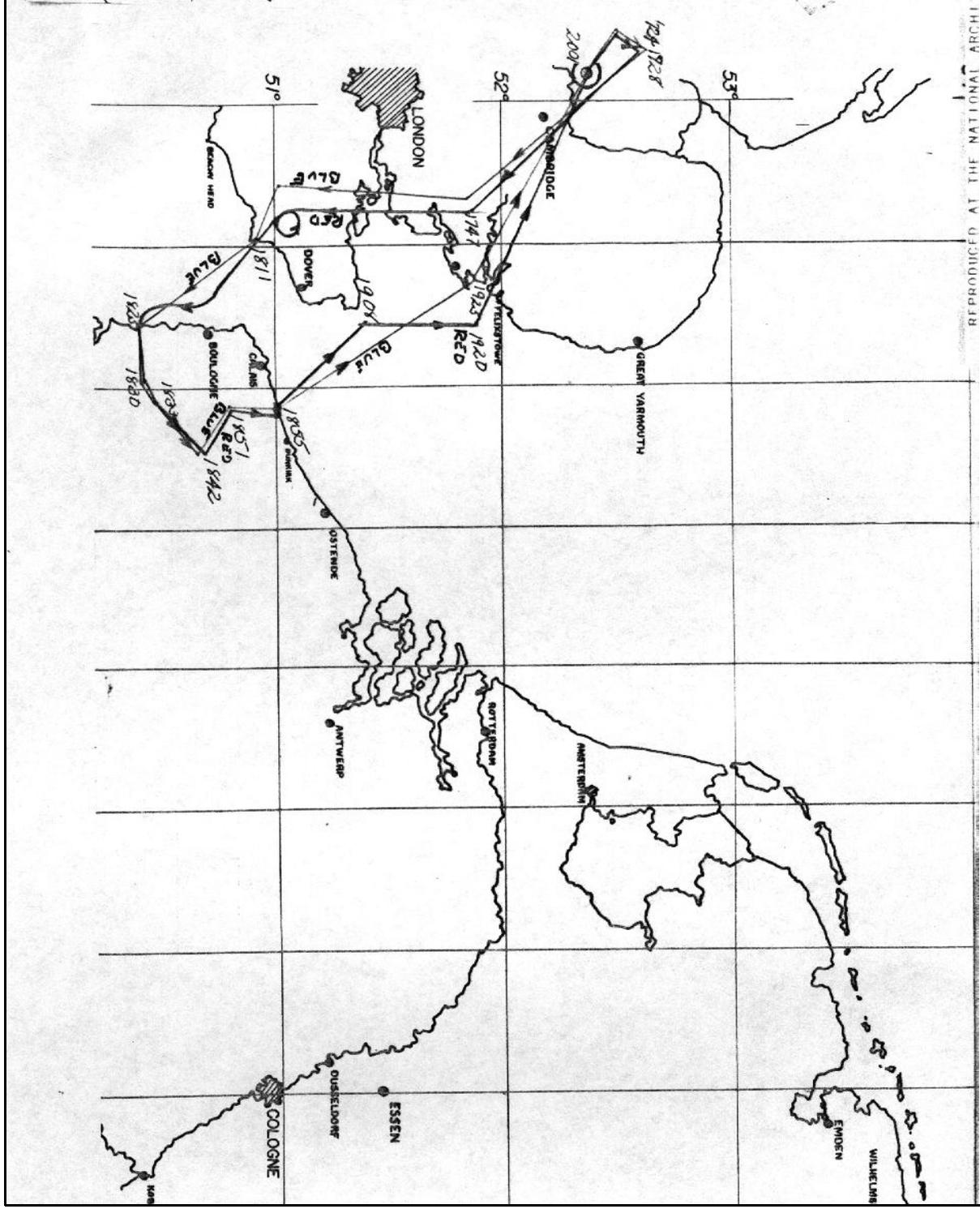
(crewmen are not in order)

Lt. J.L. Garvey had a claim of an FW-190 damaged.

303  
867  
8-27-43  
WATTEN  
(FRANCE)  
L.S.T.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, 745005

By NAD NARA, Date 2/19/88



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Route Map

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

Calhoun-Lacey  
931

Crockett                      Jokerst  
754                                      483

Clifton  
434

Baker                              Cogswell  
260                                      973

Mattison                              Strickland  
605                                      341

Bradbury                              Manning                              Olsen                              Cardwell  
393                                      565                                      221                                      131

Loughnan                              James  
482                                      944

Johnston                              Reeder                              Monahan                              Hullar  
064                                      561                                      577                                      081

Hendry                              Thompson  
571                                      635

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>CREW POSITIONS</b><br/>                 CMP - Command Pilot<br/>                 P - Pilot<br/>                 CP - Co-Pilot<br/>                 NAV - Navigator<br/>                 ANV - Ass't. Navigator<br/>                 MNV - Mickey Navigator<br/>                 ENG - Engineer<br/>                 BOM - Bombardier<br/>                 RO - Radio Operator</p> | <p>TOG - Toggler<br/>                 BT - Ball Turret Operator<br/>                 TT - Top Turret Operator<br/>                 TG - Tail Gunner<br/>                 NG - Nose Gunner<br/>                 RG - Radio Gunner<br/>                 WG - Waist Gunner<br/>                 LWG - Left Waist Gunner<br/>                 RWG - Right Waist Gunner<br/>                 GUN - Gunner</p> | <p>VI - Voice Interpreter<br/>                 OBS - Observer<br/>                 PAS - Passenger<br/>                 PHO - Photographer</p> <p><b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b><br/>                 KIA - Killed in action<br/>                 WIA - Wounded in action<br/>                 MIA - Missing in action<br/>                 POW - Prisoner of war</p> | <p>DOW - Died of wounds<br/>                 EVD - Evaded the enemy<br/>                 INT - Interned in neu cuntry<br/>                 REP - Repatriated<br/>                 RES - Rescued<br/>                 ESC - Escaped<br/>                 BO - Bailed out<br/>                 DCH - Ditched<br/>                 CR-L - Crashed on land<br/>                 CR-S - Crashed at sea</p> |
|---|--|--|---|

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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 Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt  
RWG Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29635 *Augerhead***

---

P Thompson, Frank H., 1Lt  
CP Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt  
NAV McConnen, James R., 2Lt  
BOM Spencer, Charles W., 2Lt  
ENG Welch, James R., T/Sgt  
TT Fulanovich, Charles J., S/Sgt  
RO Baxter, Jack, Sgt.  
RWG Wilson, Donald R., S/Sgt  
BT Nakaniski, Ralph, S/Sgt  
TG Aubrey, Eldred L., S/Sgt

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

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P Monahan, William J., 1Lt  
CP Clark, Martin L., 2Lt  
NAV Maher, William P., 2Lt  
BOM Hargrove, Walter, 2Lt  
RWG Gasser, Walter, S/Sgt  
ENG Knuth, Leland M., T/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 #42-3064 *Star Dust***

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CP Johnston, John R., 1Lt  
CP Lake, Lester A., Jr., 2Lt  
NAV Karraker, William H., 2Lt  
BOM Sweet, William D., 2Lt  
ENG Lopez, Rudolph S., T/Sgt  
RWG Mills, James E., S/Sgt  
RO King, Robert E., Sgt  
BT Griffin, Edward W., S/Sgt  
TG Moody, John P., S/Sgt  
LWG Cobb, Edward N., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Reeder, D.M., 1Lt  
CP McLean, Ralph C., 2Lt  
NAV Salk, Harvey M., 2Lt  
BOM Vermillion, Earl E., 2Lt  
ENG Herod, Henry W., T/Sgt  
LWG Robichaud, Joseph E., Sgt  
RO Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt  
RWG Carver, William H., Sgt  
BT Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt  
TG Swan, Henry, S/Sgt  
PHO Luman, Morton, Sgt

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

---

P Loughnan, Victor J., 1Lt  
CP Mackin, George T., 1Lt  
NAV Maxwell, James L., 2Lt  
BOM Robinson, John M., 2Lt  
ENG High, Eugene W., T/Sgt  
RWG Knorpp, Billy F., S/Sgt  
RO Daley, Russell M., T/Sgt  
BT McGee, Kenneth L., S/Sgt  
LWG Barr, Gordon E., S/Sgt  
TG McConaghy, Leo R., S/Sgt  
PHO Gredvig, Winfield H., 2Lt

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

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P Mattison, Robert L., 1Lt  
CP Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Capt  
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 Boling, Shuble A., Sgt  
TT Vogel, George W., S/Sgt  
PHO Case, Spencer F., 1Lt

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

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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 Mace, LeRoy L., Sgt  
TG Jennings, Harley F., S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | Baker, William T., 1Lt     |
| CP  | Gahimer, Loyd D., 2Lt      |
| NAV | McLane, Joseph T., Lt      |
| NG  | Stout, Otis T., S/Sgt      |
| ENG | Fielder, Neal F., T/Sgt    |
| RWG | Bowman, Vergil E., S/Sgt   |
| RO  | Crowder, Gayther B., T/Sgt |
| BT  | Dioquardo, Fred J., Sgt    |
| TG  | Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt  |
| LWG | Pierson, Lawrence C., Sgt  |

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

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|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | Bradbury, Joseph E., 1Lt   |
| CP  | Fyler, Carl J., 1Lt        |
| NAV | Gibson, Steve M., 2Lt      |
| BOM | Stamper, William B., M/Sgt |
| ENG | Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt    |
| LWG | Fisher, George C., S/Sgt   |
| RO  | Jillson, John S., S/Sgt    |
| BT  | Ford, Ray D., S/Sgt        |
| TG  | Sawicki, Joseph R., S/Sgt  |
| RWG | Stachowiak, Martin G., Sgt |

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

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|     |                               |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| P   | Clifton, David S., 1Lt        |
| CP  | Huguenin, Wesley V., Lt       |
| NAV | Molnar, George, Lt            |
| BOM | Currie, Herman C., Lt         |
| ENG | Doss, Carroll P., T/Sgt       |
| LWG | Yattaw, Robert H., 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 |

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

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|     |                              |     |
|-----|------------------------------|-----|
| P   | Crockett, George W., Jr., Lt | POW |
| CP  | Barsam, Merian A., Jr., Lt   | KIA |
| NAV | Millner, Israel, Lt          | POW |
| BOM | Cramsie, William J., Lt      | KIA |
| ENG | Tepper, Morris, T/Sgt        | KIA |
| RWG | Homer, Eddie D., Sgt         | POW |
| RO  | Jaynes, Allen D., T/Sgt      | POW |
| BT  | Clarke, Benjamin, Jr., S/Sgt | POW |
| LWG | Williams, Eugene F., S/Sgt   | POW |
| TG  | Burke, James C., S/Sgt       | POW |

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

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|     |                             |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| P   | Cogswell, Robert W., Lt     |
| CP  | DeWall, Hershel R., 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 | Peterson, Elmer L., Sgt     |
| TG  | Timm, Harold R., S/Sgt      |

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

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|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | Jokerst, Leonard E., Lt    |
| CP  | Bergeron, Willard H., Lt   |
| NAV | Noland, James B., 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 |

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

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|     |                               |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| P   | Calhoun, William R., Jr., Maj |
| CP  | Lacey, J.K., Col (CO 384BG)   |
| NAV | Jacobsen, Norman N., 1Lt      |
| NAV | Effinger, Lawrence E., Lt     |
| BOM | Fawcett, Jack B., Lt          |
| ENG | Carnathan, Hugh S., T/Sgt     |
| LWG | Frost, Carlyle A., S/Sgt      |
| RO  | Calco, Anthony, T/Sgt         |
| BT  | Ponder, Truly S., S/Sgt       |
| TG  | Garvey, John L., Lt           |
| RWG | Gray, Johnnie E., S/Sgt       |

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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

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

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P Olsen, Curtis M., Lt  
CP Ashwell, Silas B., 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  
RWG Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt  
LWG Jessee, Jesse J., T/Sgt  
TG Good, James K., T/Sgt

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

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P Strickland, Alexander C., Lt  
CP Dubell, Richard P., 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  
PAS Williams, Robert B., Bgen (CG 1BW)

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

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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 Watts, William A.  
BT Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt  
RO Hamilton, A.J., S/Sgt  
RWG Misiak, Frank L., S/Sgt  
LWG Fleming, William W., S/Sgt  
TG Tripp, Jesse E., Sgt

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

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P Cardwell, Burt J., Lt  
CP Woddrop, Edward M., Lt  
NAV Noblin, John D., Lt  
BOM Bierman, Leonard B., Lt  
ENG Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt  
BT Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt  
RO Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt  
LWG Cooney, Robert M., Sgt  
TG Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt  
RWG Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt