

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 65

31 August 1943

Target: Amiens-Gilsy Airdrome, Amiens, France

Crews Dispatched: 20

Crews Lost: Lt. W.J. Monahan, 1 KIA, 5 POW, 4 EVD

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 500 lb M-43 G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 23,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 7,259 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 1 Destroyed, 2 Probable

France was the target for today with 25 aircraft scheduled to bomb the Romilly-sur-Seine Air Depot. Five aircraft aborted the mission before reaching the target:

#41-24577 *Hell's Angels* 358BS (**Gamble**) - The ship turned back over Oxford when the No. 3 engine failed due to an oil leak.

#42-3131 *Flak Wolf* 427BS (**Cardwell**) - The ball turret gunner's electrical suit failed and the pilot turned back approximately 10 miles over the French coast.

#42-5393 *Thumper Again* 360BS (**Bradbury**) - The No. 4 supercharger failed over splasher No. 7.

#42-5257 *Miss Bea Haven* 427BS (**Brown**) - The supercharger failed over splasher No. 11.

#42-5260 *Yardbird II* 359BS (**Baker**) - The pilot turned back just past mid-channel when the formation broke up. Planes were all over the sky and he was unable to rejoin the formation. An excessive climb by the 384th BS(H) was blamed for the three 359BS abortions.

As a result of poor visibility at the primary target the Romilly-sur-Seine Air Depot was not attacked. The Amiens/Gilsy Airdrome was then selected as the last resort target. Due to a hasty run-up, a quick Group turn and a tumbled bomb sight gyro, lead bombardier 1Lt. B.K. **Butt** was unable to make a safe and accurate bomb run.

The pilot of the 359th BS deputy lead ship #41-24605 *Knockout Dropper*, 1Lt. R.L. **Mattison** and his bombardier 1Lt. J.H. **Shafer**, sensed that the lead bombardier was having trouble. The four 359th B-17s with four from the low 358th BS sighted the target and dropped their bombs directly on the airdrome. The five 427BS B-17s and one 358BS B-17 returned to Base with their bombs.

Approximately 12 enemy fighters were observed in the target vicinity, but with excellent fighter protection, none attacked the Group. No damage was caused by the moderate flak encountered.

Aircraft #42-29635 *Augerhead*, piloted by 1Lt. William J. **Monahan**, seemed to be having trouble keeping up with the formation returning from the target. The aircraft pulled out from the formation and was last seen heading toward the coast attempting to gain

cloud cover from attacking enemy fighters. It was reported going down over Abbeville (12 miles east) with two fighters attacking. Two parachutes were seen. 1Lt. **Monahan**, 1Lt. Louis M. **Benepe**, S/Sgt. Walter **Gasser**, S/Sgt. Alfred R. **Buinicky**, Sgt. Vernon E. **Olson** and S/Sgt. James H. **Comer**, Jr. were captured by the enemy and taken prisoner. 2Lt. William P. **Maher**, 2Lt. Walter **Hargrove**, Sgt. Barton V. **Pryor** and S/Sgt. Frank **Kimotek** were able to evade the enemy and capture.

After the war it was reported that a German officer had stated that S/Sgt. David **Miller** came down dead in his parachute with his legs blown off. He was buried in Abbeville Cemetery. Crewmen reported that they had been attacked by nine German aircraft and that some had fired at the descending parachutes. Sgt. **Miller** was later re-buried in the Normandy American Cemetery.

After S/Sgt Frank **Kimotek** returned to base on 6 November 1943, he made claims of fighters destroyed for himself and S/Sgt Alfred R. Brunicky, who was a POW. **Kimotek** reported an FW-190 destroyed and another probable for himself and a probable FW-190 for **Brunicky**.



WILLIAM J. MONAHAN CREW - 358th BS
 (crew assigned 358BS: 26 July 1943 - photo: 10 Aug 1943)

(Back L-R) T/Sgt M.D. Ignaczewski (E), S/Sgt Frank Kimotek (R-Evd), S/Sgt Walter Gasser (AE/RWG-POW), S/Sgt Alfred R. Buinicky (BT-POW), S/Sgt James H. Comer, Jr. (LWG-POW), S/Sgt David Miller (TG-KIA)

(Front L-R) 1Lt William J. Monahan (P-POW), Lt Martin L. Clark (CP), 2Lt William P. Maher (N-Evd), 2Lt Walter Hargrove (B-Evd)

(1Lt L.M. Benepe (CP-POW) was a substitute Clark, Sgt V.E. Olson (RWG-POW) was a substitute for Ignaczewski)



B-17F Winning Run #42-29944 (427BS) GN-E
103rd PBCW High - Pilot Capt A.C. Strickland / CoPilot Maj E.E. Snyder

Capt A.C. Strickland (P), Maj E.E. Snyder (CP), Lt P.W. Scroggins (N),
 Lt B.K. Butt (B), Capt L.M. Schulstad (TG-O)

S/Sgt R.R. Strohsack (E), S/Sgt R.R. Peck (BT), T/Sgt A.E. Martel (R),
 S/Sgt E.E. McGill (WG), T/Sgt J.C. Baart (G)

(crewmen are not in order)

303 8-31-43
 6.2 AMIENS 1729

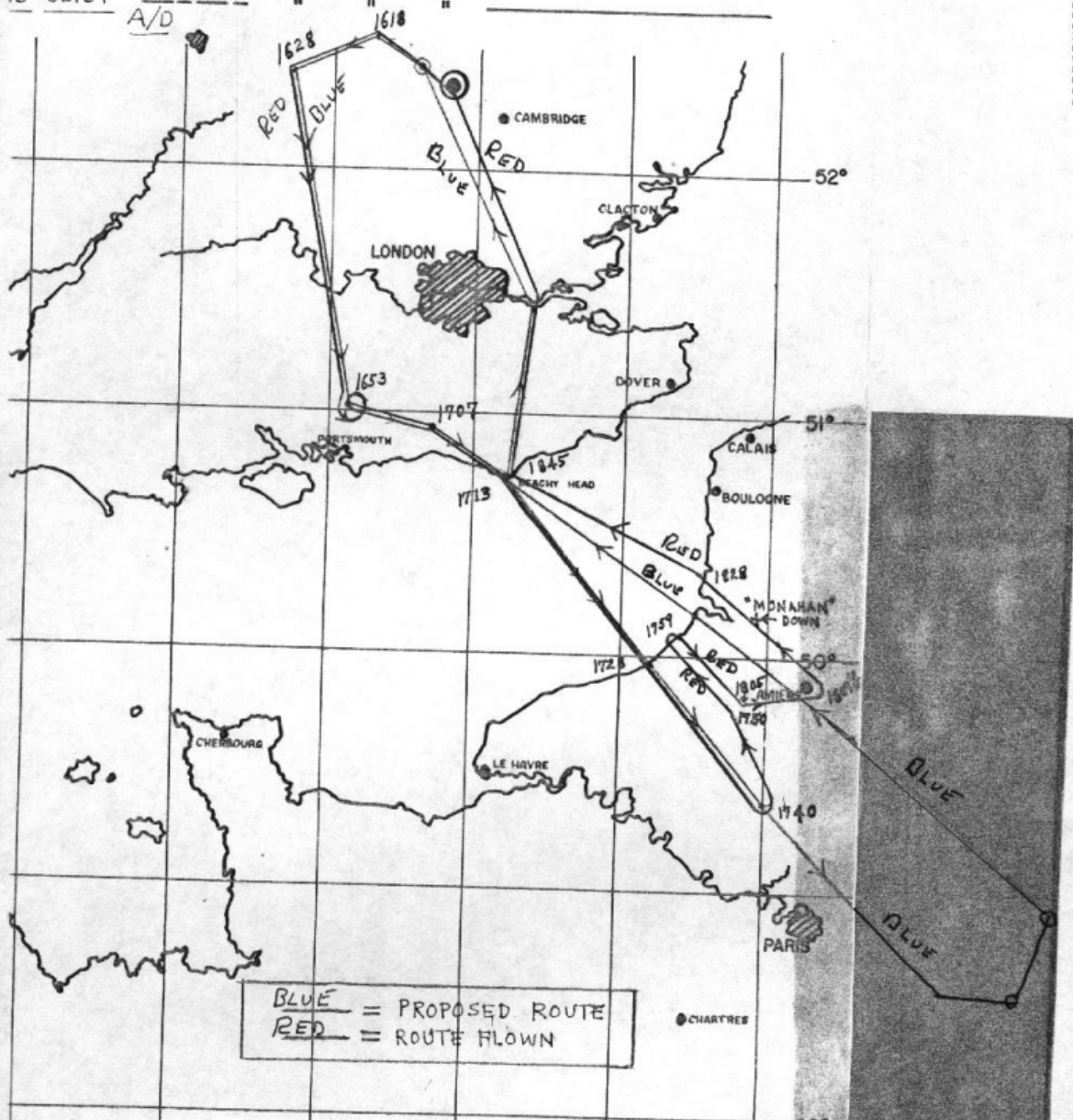
CLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, 745045
 By NND NARA, Date 2/19/82

TRACK CHART

31, 43 _____ Route followed by 303RD BOMB. GROUP (H)
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IS-GLISY

A/D



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Strickland</u> 944			
<u>Cardwell</u> 131	<u>James</u> 619		<u>Hullar</u> 587
<u>Cote</u> 788		<u>Shelhamer</u> 158	
<u>Lemmon</u> 664		<u>Mattison</u> 605	
<u>Clark</u> 571	<u>Thompson</u> 524	<u>Reeder</u> 561	<u>Phelps</u> 177
<u>Gamble</u> 577		<u>Loughnan</u> 846	
<u>Hendry</u> 360	<u>Monahan</u> 635	<u>Baker</u> 260	<u>Brown</u> 257
<u>Jokerst</u> 483		<u>Bradbury</u> 393	

Five (5) aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Gamble in 577	Lt. Cardwell in 131
Lt. Bradbury in 393	Lt. Brown in 257
Lt. Baker in 260	

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

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

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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 #42-29571 *Charley Horse*

P	Clark, Elmo E., F/O
CP	DeCamp, Donald F., 2Lt
NAV	Haddock, Ralph M., 2Lt
BOM	Galbraith, Robert E., 2Lt
ENG	Hembree, William T., T/Sgt
RO	Tudor, Mark E., T/Sgt
RWG	Hitt, William T., Sgt
BT	Mathews, Frank M., S/Sgt
TG	Giassuloo, Criscienzo N., S/Sgt
LWG	McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt

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

P	Monahan, William J., 1Lt	POW
CP	Benepe, Louis M., 1Lt	POW
NAV	Maher, William P., 2Lt	EVD
BOM	Hargrove, Walter, 2Lt	EVD
ENG	Gasser, Walter, S/Sgt	POW
RWG	Olson, Vernon E., Sgt	POW
RO	Kimotek, Frank, S/Sgt	EVD
BT	Buinicky, Alfred R., S/Sgt	POW
TG	Miller, David, S/Sgt	KIA
LWG	Comer, James H., Jr., S/Sgt	POW
PHO	Pryor, Barton V., Sgt	EVD

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	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 Sortie)	

B-17F #42-29524 *Meat Hound*

P	Thompson, Frank H., 1Lt
CP	Campbell, Paul M., 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
(Abortive Sortie)	

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

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
RWG	Vaughn, Norville, S/Sgt
RO	Bland, Hugh N., T/Sgt
BT	Scharch, Richard G., S/Sgt
TG	Gilbert, Bill A., S/Sgt
LWG	Schmeltzer, Charles S., S/Sgt
PHO	Luman, Morton, Sgt
(Abortive)	

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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	Hull, Kenneth W., S/Sgt
BT	Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt
TG	Swan, Henry, S/Sgt

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

P	Brown, Malcolm E., 2Lt
CP	Szelwian, Felix T., 2Lt
NAV	Alloway, Hillard C., 2Lt
BOM	Schreidell, Matthew, 2Lt
ENG	Kress, Beryl W., T/Sgt
RO	Cirello, Ralph T., T/Sgt
LWG	Boucher, Henry C., S/Sgt
BT	Wernet, Charles E., Sgt
TG	Boggs, Calvin E., S/Sgt
RWG	Wright, Malcolm, S/Sgt
	(Abortive)

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

P	Mattison, Robert L., 1Lt
CP	Case, Spencer F., 1Lt
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

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

P	Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Bolsover, Harold S., F/O
NAV	Johnson, Lloyd S., 2Lt
BOM	Gordon, LeRoy V., 1Lt
ENG	Doran, Arnold S., T/Sgt
TT	Jordan, Lloyd L., S/Sgt
RO	McGee, Paul P., S/Sgt
BT	Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt
TG	Perryman, Jack L., Sgt
LWG	Kerr, Joseph, S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29846 (*No Name*)

P	Loughnan, Victor J., 1Lt
CP	Gredvig, Winfield H., 2Lt
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

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., Lt
NG	Mitchell, John B., 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	Borror, Norwood D., S/Sgt
LWG	Pierson, Lawrence C., Sgt

(Abortive)

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

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	Stephens, 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 #42-5393 *Thumper Again*

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

(Abortive)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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
(Abortive Sortie)	

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

P	Cardwell, Burt J., Lt
CP	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
NAV	Lamme, Edwin G., 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
(Abortive Sortie)	

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

P	Strickland, Alexander C., Capt
CP	Snyder, Edgar E., Jr., Maj
NAV	Scroggins, Paul W., Lt
BOM	Butt, Byron K., Lt
ENG	Strohsack, R.R., S/Sgt
BT	Peck, Raymond R., S/Sgt
RO	Martel, Albert E., Jr., T/Sgt
TG	Schulstad, Louis M., Capt
LWG	McGill, Edward E., S/Sgt
RWG	Baart, James C., T/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)	

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

P	Cote, Addell A., Lt
CP	Eckhart, Alan, Lt
NAV	Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM	Hull, John W., Lt
ENG	Arter, John R., T/Sgt
BT	Tambe, Angelo J., S/Sgt
RO	Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt
TG	Humphreys, Robert R., S/Sgt
LWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt
RWG	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)	

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

P	James, Jacob C., Lt
CP	Ness, Howard C., Lt
NAV	Doyle, Robert V., Lt
BOM	Witt, Walter E., Lt
ENG	Watts, William A.
BT	Longo, Angelo L., S/Sgt
RO	Jessee, Jesse J., S/Sgt
RWG	Misiak, Frank L., S/Sgt
LWG	Fleming, William W., S/Sgt
TG	Tripp, Jesse E., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)	

B-17F #42-3158 *Max*

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
RO	Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
BT	Garrett, Frank O., Sgt
TG	Sherg, Anthony W., S/Sgt
LWG	Valis, William, S/Sgt
RWG	Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt