

## 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 69

9 September 1943

Target: Vitry-En-Artois Airdrome at Dovai, France

Crews Dispatched: 18

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 25 minutes

Bomb Load: 24 x 120 lb Fragmentation cluster bombs

Bombing Altitude: 22,650 ft

Ammo Fired: 1,684 rounds

**G**round haze and fog were closing in on the base, so the 303rd BG(H) aircraft took off five minutes early. There were no abortives and no losses.

All Group aircraft bombed the target with 26 tons of A2 M1A1 120 lb. fragmentation cluster bombs from 22,500 feet. Bombing results were excellent. Meager and fairly accurate flak was encountered, but no enemy aircraft were seen. All aircraft returned safely to Molesworth with no casualties.

The mission was perhaps the easiest one yet flown by the 303rd BG(H) crews. Capt. **Stallings**, finishing his 25th mission, summed up the raid by stating, "There was absolutely nothing to it. We just flew over, dropped our bombs and came home." The mission was one of the very welcomed 303rd BG(H) "milk runs."

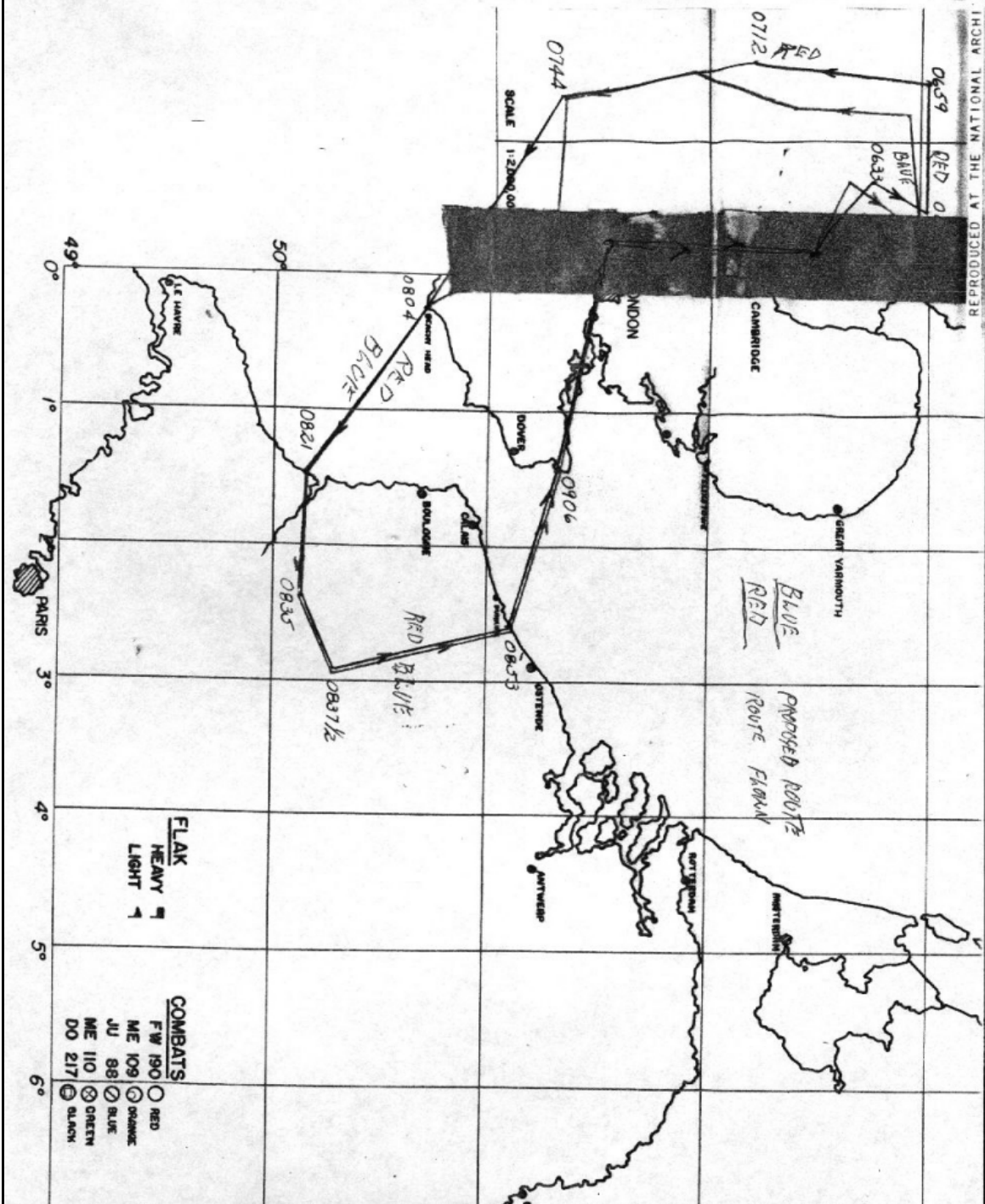
The VIII Bomber Command dispatched a record 377 heavy bombers; 330 of these planes bombed eight French airfields being used by German fighters. Fighter support for the VIII BC bombers was given by 215 P-47s. In addition, 217 B-26s of the 3rd Bomb Wing were dispatched to bomb the coastal defenses at Boulogne, France. The B-26 operation was "D-Day" for operation STARKEY (a rehearsal for the invasion of France). STARKEY was a disappointment as the German refused to commit their fighter defenses on a large scale. This prevented the 8th Air Force from possibly destroying many German aircraft, which the Allied Air Forces had hoped to accomplish.

A second mission was scheduled to be flown on 9 September, but was scrubbed before any aircraft took off. This was the first time that the VIII Bomber Command ordered two missions on the same day.

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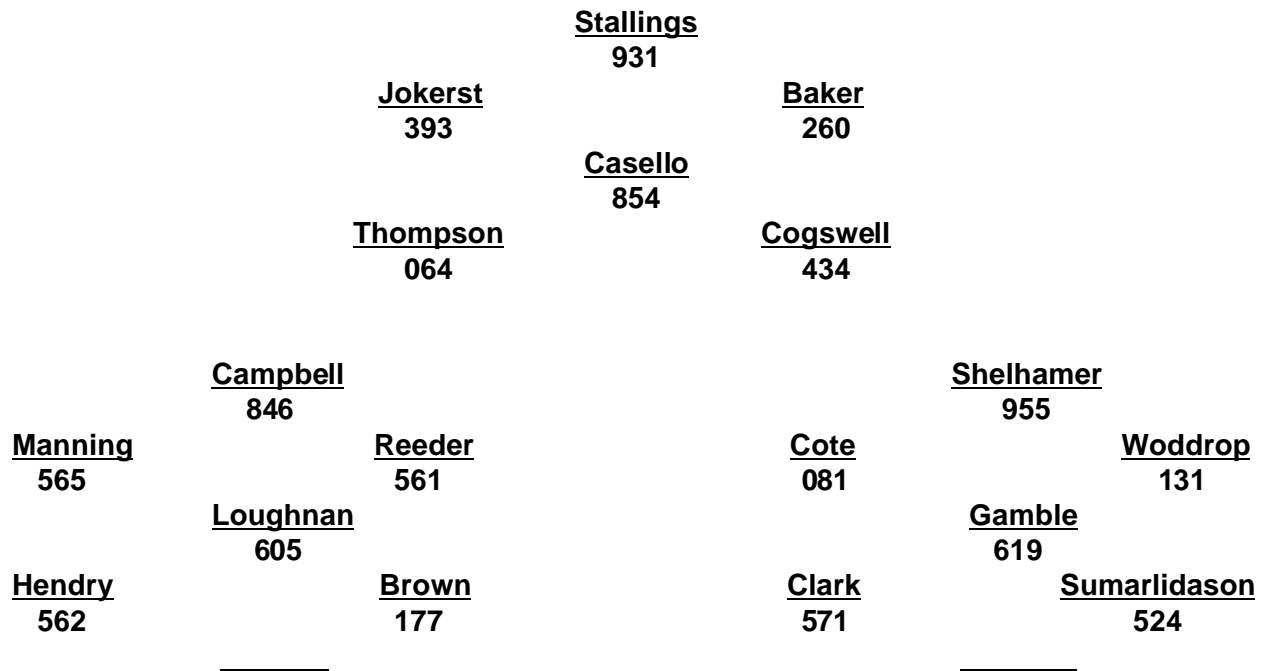
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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, 745005  
 BY--VSW-----NARA, DATE-2/19/88



Route Map

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><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</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><b><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u></b>                  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 #41-24562 *Sky Wolf***

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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  
TG Doherty, John J., S/Sgt  
RO Brown, James J., T/Sgt  
BT Hargrave, Alfred J., Sgt  
RWG Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt  
LWG Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

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

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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 King, Robert E., Sgt  
LWG Hitt, William T., Sgt  
BT Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt  
TG Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt  
RWG McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-3064 *Star Dust***

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P Thompson, Frank H., 1Lt  
CP Sanders, Roy C., 2Lt  
NAV Wood, Gordon W., 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 #42-29524 *Meat Hound***

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P Sumarlidason, Arni L., 1Lt  
CP Clark, Martin L., 2Lt  
NAV Gust, Darrell D., 1Lt  
BOM Stone, Elbert E., 1Lt  
ENG Backiel, Stanley J., T/Sgt  
RWG Wisniewski, Alexander, Sgt  
RO McGuire, Robert J., Sgt  
BT Brooks, John W., Sgt  
TG Giassullo, Criscienzo N., S/Sgt  
LWG Hoy, James F., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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 Newman, John F., S/Sgt  
BT Wernet, Charles E., Sgt  
TG Boggs, Calvin E., S/Sgt  
RWG Wright, Malcolm, S/Sgt  
PHO Luman, Morton, S/Sgt

### **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  
RWG Hayes, John J., S/Sgt  
RO Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt  
LWG Hull, Kenneth W., S/Sgt  
BT Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt  
TG Swan, Henry, S/Sgt

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

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P Loughnan, Victor J., 1Lt  
CP Mackin, George T., Capt  
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

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

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P Campbell, Claude W., 1Lt  
CP Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Capt  
NAV Ririe, George M., 1Lt  
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

### **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  
LWG McKenna, Robert I., Sgt  
RO Fitzsimmons, Kenneth P., T/Sgt  
RWG 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  
BOM Kulesa, Frank E., Lt  
ENG Fielder, Neal F., T/Sgt  
RWG Bowman, Vergil E., S/Sgt  
RO Bonn, Charles J., Sgt  
BT Dioquardo, Fred J., Sgt  
TG Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt  
LWG Pierson, Lawrence C., Sgt

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

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P Casello, John J., Lt  
CP Garvey, John L., Lt  
NAV Davis, Darius R., Lt  
BOM Rice, Bernard, 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

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

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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 Tharp, Willard L., S/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 #42-29931 *Satan's Workshop***

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P Stallings, George V., Jr., Capt  
CP Shayler, Walter K., Maj  
NAV Wright, Howard R., Capt  
BOM Fawcett, Jack B., Lt  
ENG Watson, James A., T/Sgt  
RWG Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt  
RO Morrison, Eugene D., T/Sgt  
BT Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt  
TG Ward, Robert C., Lt  
LWG Levin, Meyer, T/Sgt

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

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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 Oxendine, Simeon, Sgt  
RO Deerfield, Eddie, S/Sgt  
TG Stickler, John J., S/Sgt  
LWG Peterson, Elmer L., Sgt  
BT Deffinger, John P., Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Cote, Addell A., Lt  
CP Eckhart, Alan, Lt  
NAV Doyle, Robert V., 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

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

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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 Knight, Frederick B., S/Sgt  
RWG Valis, William, Sgt  
LWG Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt

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

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P Woddrop, Edward M., Lt  
CP Barker, John C., Lt  
NAV Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt  
BOM Bierman, Leonard B., Lt  
ENG Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt  
BT Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt  
RO Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt  
LWG Cooney, Robert M., Sgt  
TG Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt  
RWG Priestly, Van B., S/Sgt

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

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P Gamble, Donald, Lt  
CP Ness, Howard C., Lt  
NAV McSween, William D., Lt  
BOM Witt, Walter E., Lt  
ENG Watts, William A.  
BT Longo, Angelo L., S/Sgt  
RO Hamilton, A.J., S/Sgt  
RWG Misiak, Frank L., S/Sgt  
LWG Martel, Albert E., Jr., T/Sgt  
TG Tripp, Jesse E., Sgt