

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

Ground 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."

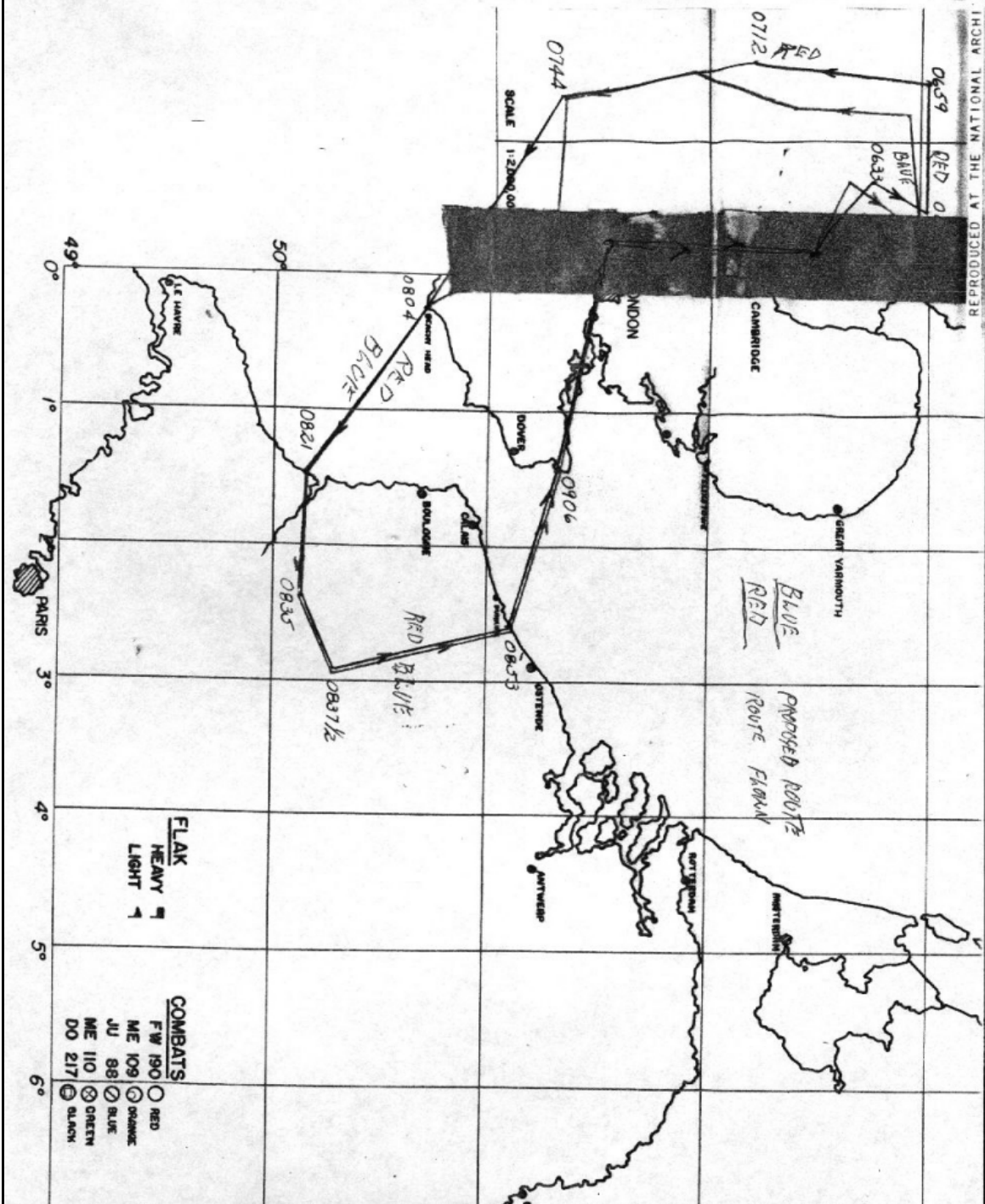
The VIII Bomber Command dispatched a record 377 heavy bombers; 330 of these planes bombed eight French airfields being used by German fighters. Fighter support for the VIII BC bombers was given by 215 P-47s. In addition, 217 B-26s of the 3rd Bomb Wing were dispatched to bomb the coastal defenses at Boulogne, 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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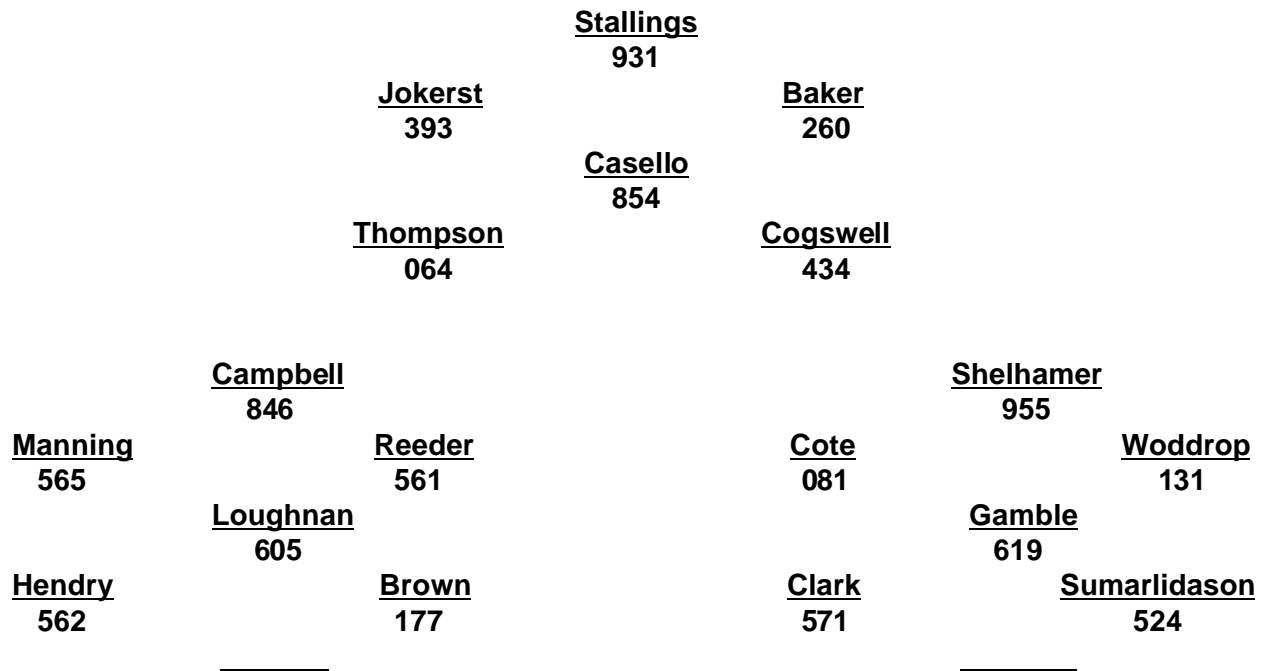
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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, 745005
 BY--VSW-----NARA, DATE-2/19/88



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><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 #41-24562 *Sky Wolf*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*)

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*

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*

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*

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*

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 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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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