

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 71A

26 September 1943

Recall Mission

Target: Port Area, Nantes, France

Take-off was scheduled for 1446 hours with return at 2010 hours. The mission took off on schedule, but was recalled by the 1st Bombardment Division at 1635 hours.

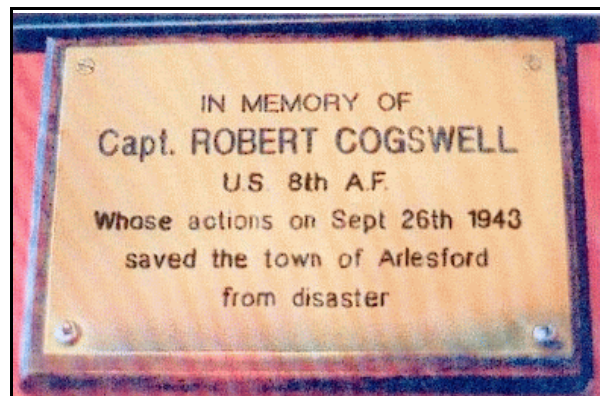
The return trip was marred by the crash of #42-5434 *Lady Luck* 360BS (sometimes known as *Bob's Boudoir*). The aircraft suffered a runaway prop and fire in the No. 4 engine, which the pilot Lt. Robert W. **Cogswell** was unable to feather. When it appeared that the wing had come loose, Lt. **Cogswell** ordered his crew to bail out at 10,000 feet. The ten 500-lb. demolition bombs on board couldn't be jettisoned because the B-17 was already over England. After nine of the crew had parachuted, Lt. **Cogswell** rode his B-17 down to a few thousand feet to make sure that the aircraft, with its full bomb load, didn't crash in a populated area. The now unlucky *Lady Luck* crashed near the Medstead Airdrome in the vicinity of Winchester. The bombs didn't explode. Lt. **Cogswell** bailed out so late and at such a high rate of speed that when his parachute opened it tore ligaments in his back. He was medically grounded after aborting a mission on 4 October 1943. He was promoted to Captain and finished the war in Group/Squadron operations.

Capt. **Cogswell**, promoted to Major, stayed in the Air Force following WWII. He flew B-29s with the 301st BG (VH) during the Korean War. His B-29 crashed in the Sea of Japan with the loss of all aboard. A plaque to the memory of Capt. **Cogswell** was unveiled at the Globe Inn, Alresford, England in November 1943.

The crews on this mission are not shown other than the new "Caterpillar Club" members of the *Lady Luck*.

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

P	Cogswell, Robert W., Capt	BO/WIA
CP	Kendall, Dallas E., F/O	BO
NAV	Cobb, Edward L., Lt	BO
BOM	Kulesa, Frank E., Lt	BO
ENG	Bengston, Gilbert E., T/Sgt	BO
RO	Deerfield, Eddie, T/Sgt	BO
BT	Deffinger, John P., S/Sgt	BO
LWG	Peterson, Elmer L., Sgt	BO
RWG	Oxendine, Simeon, Sgt	BO
TG	Davis, Paul J., S/Sgt	BO



Memorial Plaque at the Globe Inn, Alresford, England