

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 99

14 January 1944

Target: Special Construction Works at Le Maillard & Gueschart, France
(Crossbow Targets)

Crews Dispatched: 18

Crews Lost: 1 crew - Capt. Hungerford, 11 POW

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 5 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 500 lb A.N. M-43 G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 12,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 7,860 rounds

The 8th Air Force attacked twenty-one "Crossbow" targets. "Crossbow" was the RAF and USAAF code name for operations against missile-launching sites. The object of the operations was to delay the completion of a maximum number of "Crossbow" sites which were in the most advanced state of construction, rather than to concentrate on the complete destruction of a limited number of sites.

Seventeen Group B-17s took off carrying twelve 500-lb. G.P. bombs. Six of the bombs in the lead aircraft of each Squadron had delayed-action fuses. Lt. **Lake** (358BS) had to change aircraft. He had a delayed takeoff in #42-2973 *Iza Vailable* 360BS-K and was unable to catch up with his group. He bombed Gueschart with the 379BG.

The lead Squadron was on its bomb run for the primary target at Gueschart when intense flak was encountered. Violent evasive action caused the bombsight gyro to tumble. On the second bomb run, the formation was on a collision course with the 379BG formation. They turned and bombed the low Squadron's target, on their briefed course. Bombing was done from 11,700 feet. The low Squadron bombed its briefed target from 12,000 feet. Weather at the target was good with no cloud cover and visibility at 25 to 30 miles, limited by some ground haze. No enemy fighters were encountered.

The No. 3 aircraft in the lead flight, #42-3029 *Wallaroo* 359BS-N, piloted by Capt. Merle R. **Hungerford**, Jr., sustained a direct flak hit in the vicinity of Foret-De-Crecy, France. The control cables were severed and the aircraft went out of control, spiraled toward the ground and exploded. The entire crew made successful parachute jumps and watched their B-17 crash near their landing area. It crashed near the anti-aircraft gun that shot them down, ten miles east-north-east of St. Valery-sur-Somme and ten miles north of Abbeville. Capt. **Hungerford**, 2Lt. Karl B. **Arundale**, 2Lt. Joe B. **Vogel**, 2Lt. James F. **Barlow**, S/Sgt. Charles C. **Finch**, S/Sgt. Richard A. **Davis**, Sgt. Robert L. **Clink**, Sgt. Angelo P. **Petix**, Sgt. James T. **Elovich**, Sgt. Joseph F. **Fertitta** and Sgt. Arthur C. **Nilson**, Jr. were captured immediately by nearby soldiers. Capt. **Hungerford**, Lt. **Arundale**, Lt. **Vogel** and Lt. **Barlow** were imprisoned at Stalag Luft I.

The lead Squadron received most of the anti-aircraft fire. Seven lead aircraft and one aircraft in the low Squadron were damaged. Lead Pilot Capt. **Lemmon** said, "I thought it was going to be a milk run, but that damned flak changed my opinion. It was short and sweet, but quite to the point." Low Squadron leader, 1Lt. Edward M. **Woddrop**, was flying

his 29th mission and remarked, "It was a good trip with excellent results. The flak was bad, but, fortunately it didn't last long." Radio Operator T/Sgt. John **Mulholland**, who finished his tour of operations stated, "Everything went off as smooth as silk. It's the kind of a last mission a gunner dreams about." Bombardier 2Lt. Chester **Cecot**, flying on 359BS *Bad Penny*, said the bombing was good. "The target was already covered with smoke when our plane got there," he said. "I dropped my bombs right in the middle of it all."



ORIGINAL KARL B. ARUNDALE CREW - 358th BS
(crew assigned 358BS: 16 Nov 1943)

(Back L-R) 2Lt Karl B. Arundale (P-POW), 2Lt Clayton C. David (CP),
2Lt James F. Barlow (B-POW), 2Lt Joe B. Vogel (N-POW)

(Front L-R) S/Sgt Charles C. Finch (E-POW), Sgt James T. Elovich (WG-POW),
Sgt Angelo P. Petix (WG-POW), S/Sgt Richard Davis. Jr. (R-POW),
Sgt Joseph F. Fertitta (TG-POW), Sgt Theodore R. Czeczotka (BT)

Capt Merle R. Hungerford (P-POW) was flying as an instructor pilot with the newly assigned Arundale Crew. 2Lt Clayton David was shot down on the previous mission and Sgt Czeczotka was replaced by Sgt Robert L. Clink (BT-POW).
Sgt Arthur C. Nilson, Jr. (PHO-POW) was also on this mission.

303rd 01-14-44
 99 MEILLARD/
 GUESCHART 1-734

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12256, SECTION 3.3, 745005
 BY VSW NARA, DATE 5/18/88

TRACK CHART

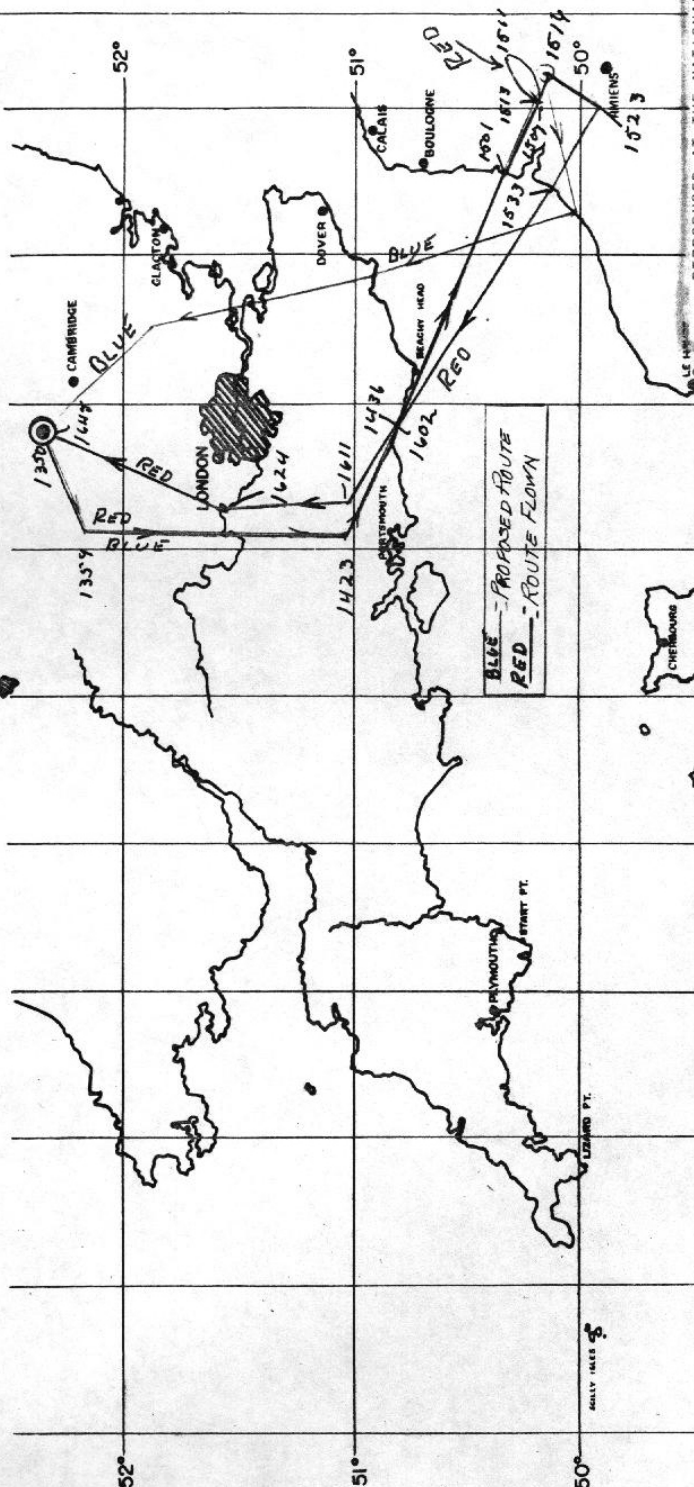
TARGET
 Primary
 Secondary
 Last Resort

LEMEILLARD-FRANCE

DATE 14 JAN, '44

303rd BOMB GROUP (H)
 358th LEAD SQDN

Route followed by
 " " " " " " " " " " " "



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE

Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

	<u>Voorhees-Lemmon</u> 635	
<u>Litman</u> 629		<u>Lake</u> 973
	<u>Kyse</u> 785	
<u>Worthley</u> 854		<u>Hungerford</u> 029
	<u>Lawlor</u> 055	
<u>Underwood</u> 841		<u>Parrott</u> 340
_____		<u>Davey-Woddrop</u> 341
_____		<u>Klint</u> 052
_____		<u>Wood</u> 241
_____		<u>Goolsby-Campbell</u> 483
	<u>Shoup</u> 605	<u>McManus</u> 183
		<u>Hanselman</u> 306
	<u>Young</u> 807	<u>Stoullil</u> 257



The '8' Ball Mk II #41-24635 (359BS) BN-O
41st CBW High (358BS) - Pilot Capt J.V. Lemmon / CoPilot LtCol B.K. Voorhees

Capt J.V. Lemmon (P back, right), LtCol B.K. Voorhees (CP), Lt F.T. Clark (B),
 Lt H.H. Steely (N back, left), Lt D.R. Davis (N), Sgt V.D. Swank (TG-O),
 S/Sgt D.L. Wilson (E), S/Sgt J.C. McLawhorn (WG),
 S/Sgt D.F. Gilmore (R), Sgt M.D. Garcia (TG), Sgt F.J. Mirenda (BT)
 (crewmen are not in order)

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-39785 *Thru Hel'en Hiwater*

P Kyse, Walter R., 2Lt
 CP Taylor, James B., 2Lt
 NAV Minkowitz, Samuel, 2Lt
 BOM Mack, Austin J., 2Lt
 ENG Jones, Douglas L., S/Sgt
 BT Kennard, Royal G., Sgt
 RO Dulin, Woodroe G., S/Sgt
 RWG Schweinebraten, Leslie H., Sgt
 TG Cox, James B., S/Sgt
 LWG Hitt, William T., S/Sgt
 PAS Bolley, Leo, Capt

B-17F #42-3029 *Wallaroo CR-L*

P Hungerford, Merle R., Capt BO/POW
 CP Arundale, Karl B., 2Lt BO/POW
 NAV Vogel, Joe B., 2Lt BO/POW
 BOM Barlow, James F., 2Lt BO/POW
 ENG Finch, Charles C., S/Sgt BO/POW
 RWG Elovich, James T., Sgt BO/POW
 RO Davis, Richard A., S/Sgt BO/POW
 BT Clink, Robert L., Sgt BO/POW
 LWG Petix, Angelo P., Sgt BO/POW
 TG Fertitta, Joseph F., Sgt BO/POW
 PHO Nilson, Arthur C., Jr., Sgt BO/POW

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

P Worthley, Joe R., 2Lt
 CP Crook, Kenneth D., 2Lt
 NAV Ratay, Joseph B., 2Lt
 BOM Blum, Eugene C., 2Lt
 ENG Johnson, Edwin D., S/Sgt
 BT Vanderhoff, Grant W., Sgt
 RO Egan, Harry R., S/Sgt
 RWG Malherbe, Benjamin F., S/Sgt
 TG Lawson, Fred B., Sgt
 LWG Robinson, Ray I., Sgt

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

P Lake, Lester A., Jr., 1Lt
 CP Snyder, Robert W., 2Lt
 NAV Tielman, William A., 2Lt
 BOM Morrison, James P., 2Lt
 ENG Haggerty, Jerome J., S/Sgt
 LWG Delaney, Jessie L., Sgt
 RO Rumpf, Charles W., S/Sgt
 RWG Balzano, Christopher, Sgt
 TG Hunt, John L., Sgt
 BT Chadick, Neal T., Sgt

B-17F #42-29629 *Connecticut Yankee*

P Litman, Arnold S., 2Lt
 CP Gorman, Quentin J., 2Lt
 NAV Merthan, Lawrence C., 2Lt
 BOM Stravinsky, Albert W., 2Lt
 ENG Smith, George A., S/Sgt
 RWG Lawson, Tracy W., Sgt
 RO Ebbighausen, Francis R., T/Sgt
 BT Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt
 TG Castillo, Buenaventura L., Sgt
 LWG Miller, Victor R., Sgt

B-17F #41-24635 *The '8' Ball MK II*

P Lemmon, John V., Capt
 CP Voorhees, Burton K., LtCol
 NAV Davis, Darius R., Lt
 NAV Steely, Hobart H., 1Lt
 BOM Clark, Fred T., Lt
 ENG Wilson, David L., S/Sgt
 LWG McLawhorn, Jerry C., S/Sgt
 RO Gilmore, Daniel F., S/Sgt
 BT Mirenda, Frank J., Sgt
 TG Swank, Verden D., Sgt
 RWG Garcia, Mario D., Sgt

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS			
CMP - Command Pilot	TOG - Toggler	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

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31183 *Bad Penny*

P	McManus, Henry, F/O
CP	Bishop, Robert F., 2Lt
NAV	Carroll, Charles P., 2Lt
BOM	Cecot, Chester R., 2Lt
ENG	Row, Robert A., S/Sgt
RO	Colburn, Robert R., S/Sgt
RWG	Doezema, Albert, Sgt
LWG	Jewett, William B., Sgt
BT	Munson, James E., Sgt
TG	Cowles, Clifton G., Sgt

B-17G #42-39807 *Nero*

P	Young, Elmer W., 2Lt
CP	Assenheimer, Edwin H.P., 2Lt
NAV	Schoner, George R., 2Lt
BOM	Yelsky, Fred B., 2Lt
ENG	Steele, John C., S/Sgt
RO	Dulick, Steve, S/Sgt
BT	Lebeck, Richard H., Sgt
RWG	Rohaly, Andrew, Jr., Sgt
LWG	Withrow, John W., Sgt
TG	Stapelton, Bill, Sgt

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

P	Shoup, Noel E., 2Lt
CP	Litherland, James, 2Lt
NAV	Howlett, Oscar D., 2Lt
BOM	Ulbricht, Walter E., 2Lt
ENG	Bragg, Ben W., S/Sgt
RWG	Gribble, Robert F., Sgt
RO	Mouser, Lloyd C., S/Sgt
LWG	Asvestos, Nick, S/Sgt
BT	Hostetter, William L., Jr., Sgt
TG	Ross, Harry C., Sgt
PHO	Mahaffey, William D., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5306 (*No Name*)

P	Hanselman, Charles F., 1Lt
CP	Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt
NAV	Ramsey, Elijah W., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Livermore, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Fouss, Howard E., T/Sgt
LWG	Hayes, John J., S/Sgt
RO	Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt
LWG	Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt
BT	Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt
TG	Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt

B-17G # 42-31483 *Bonnie B*

P	Campbell, Claude W., Capt
CP	Goolsby, Billy M., 2Lt
NAV	Towberman, P.E., 2Lt
BOM	Van Zandt, Roland, 2Lt
ENG	Bumgarner, Donald, T/Sgt
LWG	Rothrock, Harry J., S/Sgt
RO	Greenhalgh, Chester W., T/Sgt
BT	Chraniuk, William, S/Sgt
TG	Strobel, William A., S/Sgt
RWG	Cueto, Frank Z., S/Sgt

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

P	Stoullil, Donald W., 2Lt
CP	Callahan, Edward F., 2Lt
NAV	Susskind, Harold A., 2Lt
BOM	Trawicki, George J., 2Lt
ENG	Romer, Eugene A., Sgt
LWG	Brown, William F., Jr., Sgt
RO	Owen, James C., Sgt
BT	Holder, Kenneth L., Sgt
RWG	Greene, George P., Jr., Sgt
TG	Turkington, Calvin G., Sgt
PHO	Green, William H., T/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-37841 *Banshee*

P	Underwood, George E., Lt
CP	Doering, Creighton G., Lt
NAV	Parker, Duane C., Lt
BOM	Riley, Milton S., Lt
ENG	Daniels, Mack E., S/Sgt
RWG	Rike, Thomas L., Jr., Sgt
RO	Phipps, Charles F., S/Sgt
BT	Dinneen, Thomas E., S/Sgt
LWG	Casselman, Glen L., Sgt
TG	Meyer, Gregory C., Sgt

B-17G #42-31340 *Miss Liberty*

P	Parrott, John H., Lt
CP	McGrath, Leo B., Lt
NAV	Volk, Anthony D., Lt
BOM	Walter, George M., Lt
ENG	Levin, Meyer, T/Sgt
LWG	Green, Jack E., S/Sgt
RO	Crowder, Gayther B., T/Sgt
BT	Mayfield, James E., Sgt
RWG	Huddleston, D.O., Sgt
TG	Laible, Gilbert N., Sgt

B-17G #42-31055 *Aloha*

P	Lawlor, John C., Jr., Lt
CP	Hicks, David F., Lt
NAV	Munroe, Linton S., Jr., Lt
BOM	Barker, Havelock W., Lt
ENG	Tower, Jack W., S/Sgt
RWG	Baker, Nelson, Sgt
RO	Esposito, Frank B., S/Sgt
LWG	Krenek, Joe W., Sgt
BT	Kuntashian, Warren V., Sgt
TG	Butler, Raymond K., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
CP	Davey, Kenneth W., Capt
NAV	Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM	Orvis, George T., Jr., Lt
ENG	Watts, William A., S/Sgt
BT	Plante, Royal F., S/Sgt
RO	Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
TG	Sayers, Darwin D., Lt
RWG	Baggs, Charles C., T/Sgt
LWG	Vateckas, Coster R., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5052 *Mizpah*

P	Klint, Wilbur, Lt
CP	Jenkins, Elton L., Lt
NAV	Eccleston, Edward F., Lt
BOM	Meagher, Robert W., Lt
ENG	McGrew, Robert H., S/Sgt
BT	Knight, Frederick B., S/Sgt
RO	Benevento, Andrew G., Sgt
TG	Noah, Norbert O., Sgt
LWG	Ford, Thomas P., Sgt
RWG	Hadley, Owen W., Sgt

B-17G #42-31241 *Spirit of Wanette*

P	Wood, Vere A., Lt
CP	Knutson, Wilmer A., Lt
NAV	Pinnette, William S., Lt
BOM	Brown, Thomas G., Lt
ENG	Tevis, John E., Sgt
BT	Grant, Thomas V., S/Sgt
RO	Brooks, Winnie R., S/Sg
TG	Helton, Edward, Sgt
RWG	Heathershaw, Charles L., Sgt
LWG	Snider, Otto L., Sgt



20 January 1944 - B17F #41-24577 *Hell's Angels* Returned to the USA

The 303rd BG(H)'s most famous aircraft returned to the USA under an archway of flares fired by an outpouring of 303rd Bomb Group members who stayed behind to continue the fight against the Nazi war machine.

Twelve men were aboard *Hell's Angels* for the trip home:

Capt John R. Johnston (P)	M/Sgt Fabian Folmer (Crew Chief)
Capt Donald F. Decamp (CP)	T/Sgt Edward A. West, Jr. (Ground Crew)
Capt Richard E. McElwain (N)	S/Sgt Kasmer Wegrzyn (Ground Crew)
1Lt Lawrence E. McCord (B)	S/Sgt Ernest Touhey (Ground Crew)
M/Sgt Caryl Zeller (RO)	Sgt Wilson K. Fairfield (Ground Crew)
T/Sgt Wayne E. Briggs (E)	Sgt John R. Kosilla (Ground Crew)

The Fortress departed with hundreds of names scrawled in white paint all over the fuselage following a brief farewell ceremony. At the ceremony were B/Gen **Robert Travis**, CG 41st Combat Wing, **Robert B. Williams**, CG 1st Bombardment Division and LtCol **Ben Lyons**. Col Lyons was a Public Relations officer from 8th Air Force who had starred in the 1930 Howard Hughes' film, *Hell's Angels*.

On 14 May 1943 *Hell's Angels* became the first 8th Air Force bomber to complete 25 missions. The Fortress *Memphis Belle*, frequently credited as the first to complete 25 missions, gained this recognition on 19 May 1943. *Memphis Belle*'s only claim to fame was that it was the first B-17 to return to the US after completing 25 missions with a return crew that flew some missions in the Belle.