

# 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. Czczotka (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 Czczotka was replaced by Sgt Robert L. Clink (BT-POW).  
Sgt Arthur C. Nilson, Jr. (PHO-POW) was also on this mission.



# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

## Voorhees-Lemmon

635

Litman  
629

Lake  
973

Kyse  
785

Worthley  
854

Hungerford  
029

Lawlor  
055

Underwood  
841

Parrott  
340

Davey-Woddrop  
341

Klint  
052

Wood  
241

Goolsby-Campbell  
483

Shoup  
605

McManus  
183

Hanselman  
306

Young  
807

Stoullil  
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

<b>CREW POSITIONS</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	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	VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer  <b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b> KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war	DOW - Died of wounds EVD - Evaded the enemy INT - Interned in neu cntry REP - Repatriated RES - Rescued ESC - Escaped BO - Bailed out DCH - Ditched CR-L - Crashed on land CR-S - Crashed at sea
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## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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***

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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***

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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*)**

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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 Wegrain (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.