

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 145

30 April 1944

Target: Lyon/Bron Airdrome, France

Crews Dispatched: 20 + 2 Spares

Crewmembers Lost or Wounded: S/Sgt. Pesetsky injured

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 5 x 1000 lb M-44 G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 18,500 ft

Ammo Fired: 2,500 rounds

There were no failures to take-off or abortive aircraft, which is classified by the S-4 Maintenance Section as a "perfect mission." Twenty-B-17s plus two spares took off. The spares returned when there were no vacancies to be filled. All aircraft returned undamaged with no casualties.

One hundred 1,000-lb. M44 G.P. bombs were dropped on the primary target from 18,500 feet. A number of hits were made on the targeted airdrome. Meager flak was observed at a distance along the route, but at the target, no flak was experienced. One B-17 received friendly battle damage. Crews reported 10 to 50 enemy aircraft and friendly fighter support was excellent.

Weather at the target was good with high cirrus, a light haze and no clouds. S/Sgt. Paul W. **Pesetsky**, ball turret gunner on *Iza Vailable Too* #42-97254, 360BS-K, was injured while unloading his guns on returning from the mission.

Capt. Peter L.M. **Packard**, Group leader, said it was "a pretty good trip. We didn't have much opposition and managed to get in a 13-minute bomb run. I didn't get to see the results, but the boys said they were pretty good." 1Lt. Lawrence C. **Merthan**, lead navigator, said he saw a few fighters. "A few ME-109s started to come in to attack but our P-47s and P-51s rushed in and chased them away," **Merthan** reported. "There were dogfights all over the sky and I saw a couple of German fighters blow up." Lead Bombardier 1Lt. Charles C. **Armstrong** said, "Just as I was making my final correction on the aiming point, the bombs from the Group ahead blotted it out with smoke and dust. I let our bombs go into the smoke and strike photos should show good results." S/Sgt. Herb **Daniel**, a 45-year-old waist gunner, said the escort was extremely good. "We had wonderful fighter support over us and under us." S/Sgt. **Daniel** said, "One bunch of enemy fighters came by, but our escort was on their tails before they knew it and chased them out of sight."

There were two fighter claims made. Sgt Frederick A. **Thompson** in #42-31423 claimed an ME-109 as probable. It was confirmed as damaged. Sgt Cleveland W. **Whitten** (#42-31483) claimed an FW-190 as probable, but received no confirmed claim.

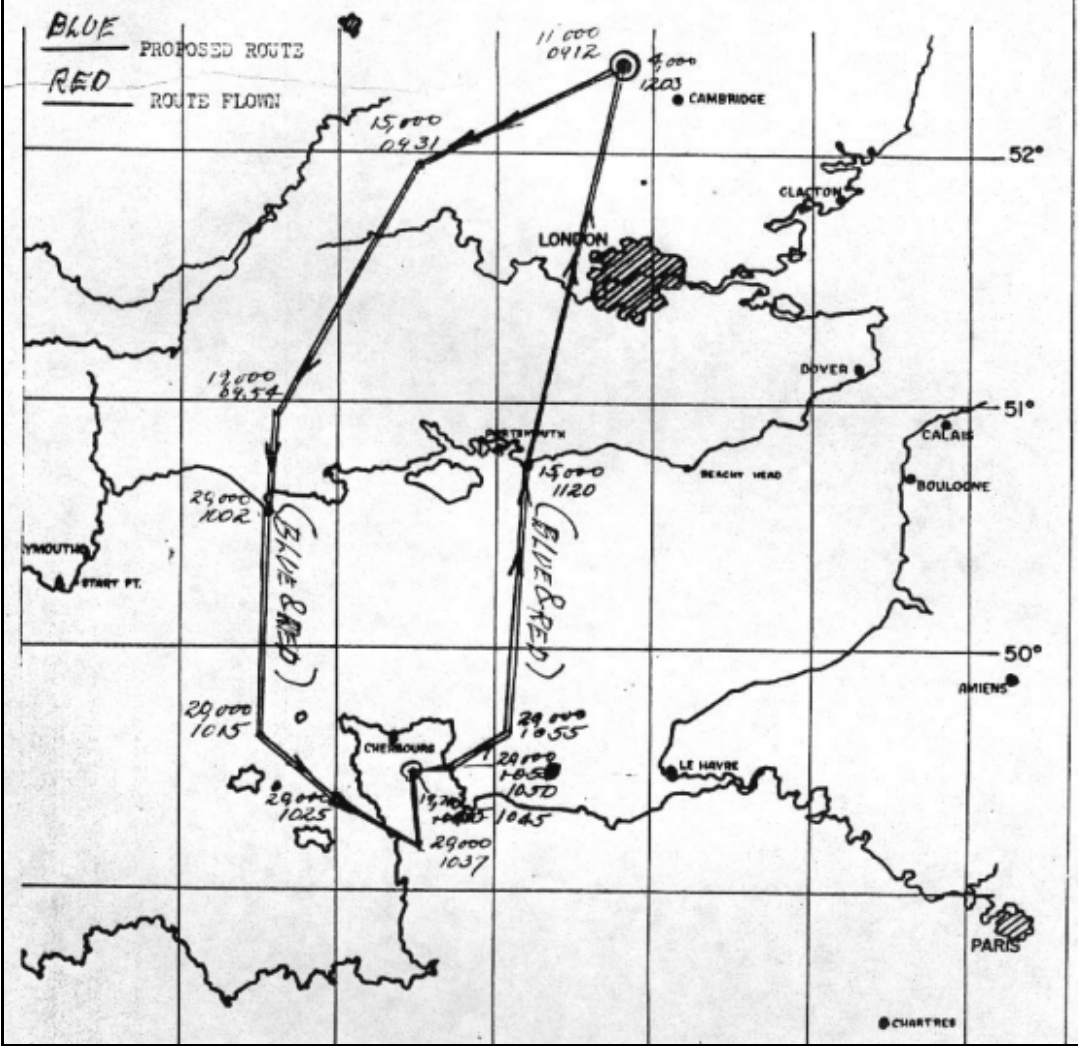
The lead crew received a First Air Division commendation for superior teamwork, and for the good quality of their attack execution and bombing.

7-27-44
 303RD BOM. GROUP
 F-736

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, 745005
 BY VSW NARA, DATE 5/18/88

TRACK CHART

DATE 27, APRIL, 1944 Route followed by 303RD. BOM. GROUP (H)
 --- SOTTEVAST, FRANCE ---
 --- PRIMARY TARGET ---



Route Map

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS 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 RESULTS OF MISSION 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

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Packard-Watson</u> 574			
		<u>Hall</u> 028		<u>Maxey</u> 9787	
			<u>Ferguson</u> 7787		
		<u>Cook</u> 002		<u>Determan</u> 224	
	<u>Thomas</u> 340			<u>Harrison</u> 096	
<u>O'Beirne</u> 187		<u>Miller</u> 147		<u>O'Hare</u> 875	<u>Knutson</u> 060
	<u>Williams</u> 483			<u>Jones</u> 423	
<u>Johnston</u> 254		<u>Cecchini</u> 183		<u>Meier</u> 206	<u>Daum</u> 050
	<u>Eisele</u> 284			<u>Hanselman</u> 386	
				<u>Fackler</u> Spare - 405	<u>Ames</u> Spare - 398



Ole George #42-31574 (358BS) VK-G
303rd BG Lead - Pilot 1Lt J.W. Watson / CoPilot Capt P.L.M. Packard
 1Lt J.W. Watson (P), Capt P.L.M. Packard (CP),
 1Lt L.C. Merthan (N), 1Lt C.C. Armstrong (B)
 T/Sgt R.W. Hoffman (E), S/Sgt R.W. McArthur (WG), T/Sgt C. Balzano (R),
 S/Sgt H.E. Daniel (WG), S/Sgt T.R. Czeczotka (BT), T/Sgt F.H. Stender (TG)
 (crewmen are not in order)

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-39787 *Wanton Woman*

P Maxey, Frank, 2Lt
 CP Lojewski, Telesphor, 2Lt
 NAV Shamban, Marcus F., 2Lt
 BOM Spatt, Arnold I., 2Lt
 ENG Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt
 LWG Johnston, Wendell B., Sgt
 RO Rabun, Clifford G., Sgt
 BT Swain, Norman F., Pvt
 TG Angelo, George L., S/Sgt
 RWG Hodgins, Robert A., Sgt

B-17G #42-97787 (No Name)

P Ferguson, Wendell Z., 1Lt
 CP Moody, James D., 2Lt
 NAV Brown, James F., 2Lt
 BOM Schmid, Ralph D., 2Lt
 ENG Matthews, David R., Sgt
 LWG Smithson, Clyde E., S/Sgt
 RO Phillips, Robert B., S/Sgt
 RWG Rogers, Thomas J., Sgt
 TG Brooks, Richard S., Sgt
 BT Rhodes, Kenneth G., Sgt

B-17G #42-107028 (No Name)

P Hall, Charles M., 2Lt
 CP McNamara, James F., Capt
 NAV Krouskup, Wayne E., 2Lt
 BOM Ney, Russell L., F/O
 ENG Rodgers, John E., S/Sgt
 RWG Mikola, Robert, Sgt
 RO Kustic, Mark S., S/Sgt
 TG Jones, John, Sgt
 BT Lappo, Teddy, Sgt
 LWG Wagner, William H., Sgt

B-17F #42-3398 *Mrs Satan/Queen of Hell*

P Ames, Walter J., Jr., 2Lt
 CP Way, Henry G., 2Lt
 NAV Sigurdson, Elden A., 2Lt
 BOM Bell, Julian P., 2Lt
 ENG Lynam, Stanley A., S/Sgt
 TT Paolino, Vincent C., Sgt
 RO May, James G., S/Sgt
 BT LaFleur, Paul L., Sgt
 TG Parks, Robert E., Sgt
 RWG Manning, Robert L., Sgt
 (Spare - Returned)

B-17G #42-31574 *Ole George*

P Watson, Jack W., 1Lt
 CP Packard, Peter L.M., Capt
 NAV Merthan, Lawrence C., 1Lt
 BOM Armstrong, Charles C., 1Lt
 ENG Hoffman, Robert W., T/Sgt
 RWG McArthur, Robert G., S/Sgt
 RO Balzano, Christopher, T/Sgt
 BT Czczotka, Theodore R., S/Sgt
 TG Stender, Francis H., T/Sgt
 LWG Daniel, Herbert A., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31224 *Hell in the Heavens*

P Determan, Alvin G., 2Lt
 CP Knight, R.A., 2Lt
 NAV Palmer, Jackson, Jr., 2Lt
 BOM Ledbetter, Lamar E., 2Lt
 ENG Hendrickson, Milton C., S/Sgt
 RWG Livingston, Acel E., Sgt
 RO Asman, Robert H., S/Sgt
 LWG Eubanks, James E., Sgt
 TG Carroccia, Albert R., Sgt
 BT Vasquez, Manuel, Sgt

B-17G #42-107002 *Mairzy Doats*

P Cook, John H., 2Lt
 CP Benham, Philip O., 2Lt
 NAV Hamilton, Bruce B., 2Lt
 BOM McCamy, James A., 2Lt
 ENG Van Drunen, Cornallius, S/Sgt
 RWG Garcia, Robert L., Sgt
 RO Downs, Reginald, S/Sgt
 BT Hill, Reginald L., Sgt
 TG Dellinger, Lenoir E., Sgt
 LWG Bonenberger, Robert E., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

P Daum, Maurice G., 2Lt
CP Gibbons, Donald L., 2Lt
NAV Forve, Frank F., 2Lt
BOM Grove, Terril M., 2Lt
ENG Matthews, Fred T., T/Sgt
RO McLaughlin, William G., S/Sgt
BT Jenkins, Crawford E., S/Sgt
TG Taylor, Burt W., S/Sgt
LWG Sampson, Dale A., S/Sgt
RWG Frederick, Lee W., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31405 *Wallaroo MK II*

P Fackler, David E., 2Lt
CP Paton, Wallace L., 2Lt
NAV Hogan, Paul G., 2Lt
BOM Nance, George H., 2Lt
ENG Schlottman, Jerome D., S/Sgt
RO Prendergast, Bert T., S/Sgt
BT McIntyre, Harold W., Sgt
TG Pohlman, Wilbert F., Sgt
LWG Brewer, Ray, Sgt
RWG Tipton, Bill B., Sgt
(Spare - Returned)

B-17G #42-31386 *Sky Duster*

P Hanselman, Charles F., 1Lt
CP Peterson, Edwin V., 2Lt
NAV Carey, William D., 2Lt
BOM Yelsky, Fred B., 2Lt
ENG Fouss, Howard E., T/Sgt
LWG Jaouen, Robert F., T/Sgt
RO Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt
RWG Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt
BT Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt
TG Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-107206 *Old Black Magic*

P Meier, Russell W., 2Lt
CP Reed, John W., 2Lt
NAV Counts, George H., F/O
BOM Smith, Ralph, 2Lt
ENG Danford, Emmett J., S/Sgt
RO Connors, Joseph Q., S/Sgt
LWG Henson, Archie H., Sgt
RWG Colley, Smith K., Sgt
BT Richard, Vernon, Sgt
TG Butler, Ashley A., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97187 *Miss Umbriago*

P O'Beirne, Nelson B., 2Lt
 CP Erickson, Roger W., 2Lt
 NAV Shipp, Gene K., 2Lt
 BOM Nebhut, Kenneth E., Sgt
 ENG Henselman, Miles A., S/Sgt
 RO Blumberg, Marvin R., S/Sgt
 BT Faraone, Sam S., Sgt
 TG Studt, Allo L., Sgt
 RWG Rogers, Winford E., Sgt
 LWG Cammack, Francis C., Sgt

B-17G #42-97284 *Ain't Misbehavin*

P Eisele, Roy, 1Lt
 CP Girard, Louis F., 2Lt
 NAV Schenker, Murray, 2Lt
 BOM Gladstone, Melvin, 2Lt
 ENG Cowley, Louis M., S/Sgt
 RWG Bell, Richard L., Sgt
 RO Millard, Ralph, S/Sgt
 LWG Friedman, Szymon A., S/Sgt
 BT Longoria, Efrain, Sgt
 TG Vallee, Edward J., S/Sgt

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

P Williams, John T., 2Lt
 CP Coats, Niel, 2Lt
 NAV Fazio, Joseph J., 2Lt
 BOM Grunseth, Roald J., 2Lt
 ENG Schwenke, Howard A., S/Sgt
 RO Barber, Stewart, L., S/Sgt
 BT Whitten, Cleveland W., Sgt
 TG Ott, John E., Sgt
 RWG Northam, James W., Sgt
 LWG Mitchell, John B., Sgt

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

P Cecchini, Anthony J., 2Lt
 CP Fisher, Stanley L., 2Lt
 NAV Veigel, Edward J., 2Lt
 BOM McDevitt, Theodore D., 2Lt
 ENG Bachman, Clifford D., S/Sgt
 RO Smith, Benjamin H., Jr., S/Sgt
 BT Kepics, George, Sgt
 TG Hudson, Ward A., Sgt
 RWG Cogdell, Clarence L., Sgt
 LWG O'Hearn, Robert J., Sgt

B-17G #42-97254 *Iza Vailable Too*

P Johnston, Donald M., 2Lt
 CP Heussler, Robert W., 2Lt
 NAV Schultz, Milo R., 2Lt
 BOM Huddleston, D.O., S/Sgt
 ENG Barnum, Abraham E., M/Sgt
 RO Treece, Charles E., S/Sgt
 BT Pesetsky, Paul W., Sgt
 TG Nestok, Frank, Sgt
 RWG Smith, Herbert L., Sgt
 LWG Turner, Kenzie H., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-107147 *Sweet Melody*

P Miller, Edgar C., 2Lt
 CP Francis, John R., 2Lt
 NAV Cotner, Nyle E., 2Lt
 BOM Parrilla, Rufe H., 2Lt
 ENG Kuczewski, William J., Sgt
 RO Tibbetts, Arthur P., S/Sgt
 BT Britt, Jack E., S/Sgt
 TG Elmore, Kenneth L., Sgt
 LWG Lobenherz, Ernest P., Sgt
 RWG Howald, Hans, Sgt

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

P Thomas, Earl N., 1Lt
 CP Spindler, Benjamin L., 2Lt
 NAV Walenta, Clarence V., 2Lt
 BOM Scott, Harold L., 2Lt
 ENG Mason, John W., T/Sgt
 RWG Flenniken, William, S/Sgt
 RO DeWitte, Victor W., S/Sgt
 TG Harvey, Roy D., S/Sgt
 BT Johnston, Harold A., Sgt
 LWG Books, Carl O., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31423 *Jigger Rooche*

P Jones, Wilbur H., 2Lt
CP Wallace, Walstein W., 2Lt
NAV Schweitzer, Jerome D., 2Lt
BOM Biedanski, Edmund J., 2Lt
TT Duerr, William P., S/Sgt
BT Calnon, Frederick N., S/Sgt
RO Kosher, Albert J., Sgt
TG LaFrenier, James E., S/Sgt
RWG Thompson, Frederick A., Sgt
LWG Byers, William R., Sgt

B-17G #42-37875 *Empress of D Street*

P O'Hare, Phil W., 2Lt
CP Sayers, Darwin D., 2Lt
NAV Cronin, Ernest L., 1Lt
BOM Fontaine, Clifford F., S/Sgt
TT Souder, Lee F., Jr., Sgt
RO DuBray, Ernest D., Sgt
BT McMahan, Bonnar P., S/Sgt
TG McLaughlin, Jesse W., S/Sgt
LWG Doyle, Edward J., Sgt
RWG Sutton, Marvin A., Sgt

B-17G #42-97096 (No Name)

P Harrison, Emmittes S., Jr., 1Lt
CP Bastean, Stephen B., 2Lt
NAV Skarsten, Albert B., 2Lt
BOM Kennedy, William J., 2Lt
ENG Rombach, Joseph H., T/Sgt
BT Dye, James W., S/Sgt
RO Volmer, Lawrence O., T/Sgt
TG Sullens, Tom C., S/Sgt
LWG Campbell, Kenneth H., S/Sgt
RWG Hawk, Kenneth L., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31060 *Poque Ma Hone*

P Knutson, Wilmer A., 2Lt
CP Mitchell, Fred E., 2Lt
NAV Shupe, John W., 2Lt
BOM Isaac, Kenneth W., 2Lt
TT Weed, Lowrey A., Jr., T/Sgt
BT Grant, Thomas V., S/Sgt
RO Parr, Joe A., S/Sgt
RWG Heathershaw, Charles L., S/Sgt
TG Underwood, Clifford B., S/Sgt
LWG Carpenter, Robert R., Sgt