

## 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

**T**here 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.

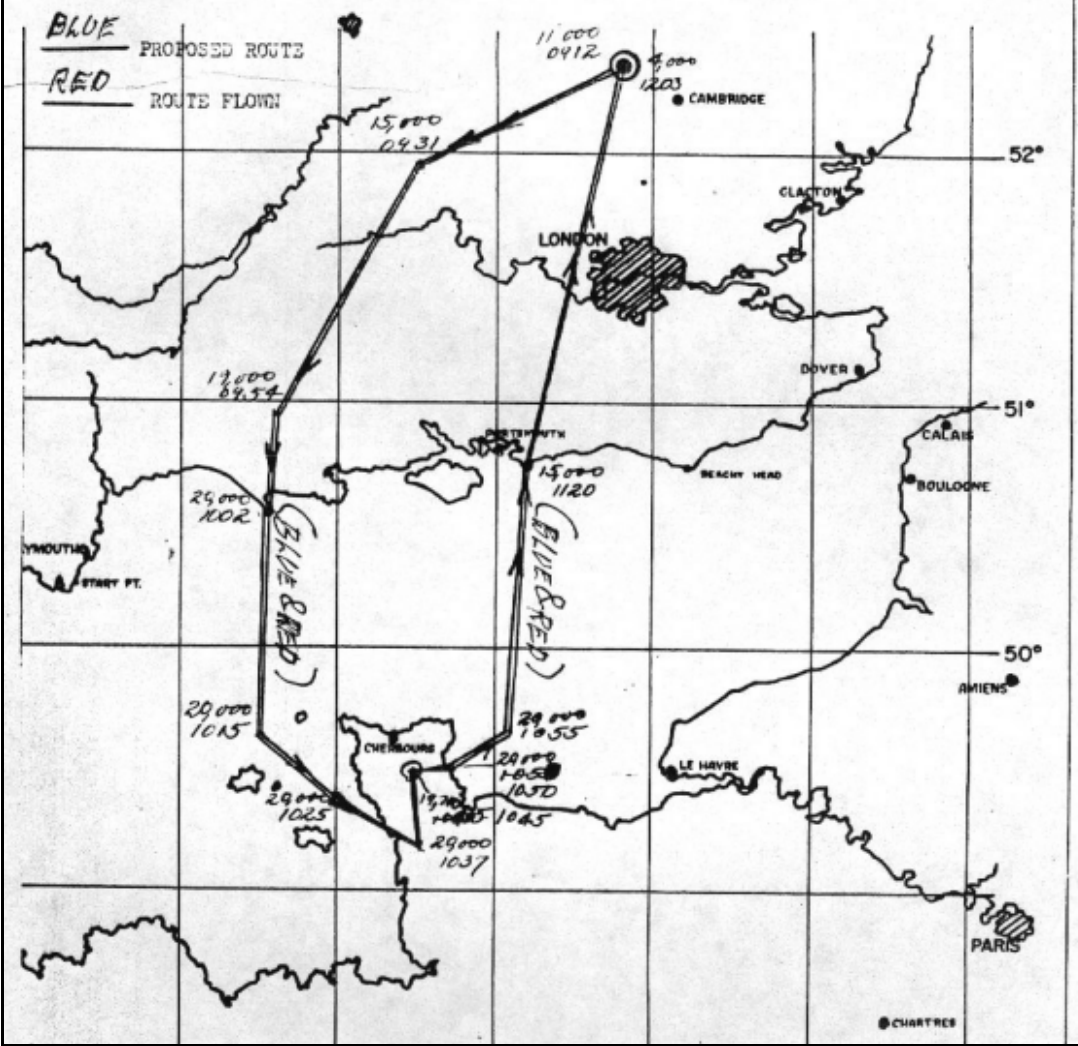
The lead crew received a First Air Division commendation for superior teamwork, and for the good quality of their attack execution and bombing.

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**

<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

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 A., 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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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***

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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)**

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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***

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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