

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 76

9 October 1943

Target: Aircraft Component Plant, Anklam, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 20

Crews Lost: 2Lt B.J. Clifford - 10 KIA

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 55 minutes

Bomb Load: 3 x 1000 lb H.E. M-44 plus 5 x M47A1 incendiaries

Bombing Altitude: 13,600 ft

Ammo Fired: 52,280 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 3 Destroyed, 7 Probable, 2 Damaged

**C**rews ate breakfast at an early 0320 hours to make the 1,190 nautical mile trip to Anklam. The 303rd BG(H) led eight combat wings to the target, flying at a relatively low altitude of 13,000 feet.

## **OPERATION BRIEFING OF ANKLAM RAID**

1. Target today is Anklam - 70 miles north of Berlin.
2. Formation read out and pilots stand up when name is called - time schedule read off.
3. Bomb load is 3 x 1000 1/10 - 1/100 plus 5 M47A Inc. Bombs plus one bomb bay tank with 400 gallons gas.
4. We are leading the effort today to Anklam - 384th High Group and 379th Low Group.
5. Take off will be normal assembly at 1000' over field. High Squadrons will be stacked right. We are not going to waste any time around England, because this is a long haul, so as soon as Groups are assembled we will head out for the departure point on the East Coast, Splasher No. 5 at Cromer. Combat wing will assemble on this line and if Combat Wing does not assemble no time will be wasted, but Groups will proceed and attack target alone. 1st Combat Wing will follow us at a 3 minute interval.
- 6a. The Mediums are hitting the Lille Area and The Lowlands at zero hour minus 40 minutes.
- 6b. One Group F-47s will sweep Leeuwarden Area and then rendezvous with us at 54E N and 5' 30" E and give us withdrawal support.
- 6c. We are the 1st Air Task Force. The second Air Task Force is hitting Marienburg. The third Air Task Force is hitting Gydnia. The fifth Air Task Force is also hitting Gydnia. All these forces are following approximately our same route 40 minutes behind us so that as we are coming out of our target area, the other forces should pass near us on route to their targets. As near as I can figure there will be 21 Groups at least in there today.
7. Climb will begin at English Coast. We'll be 150 MPH at 100' per min. - 13,000' is bombing altitude and should be reached before making landfall. In no case will route over Denmark be flown below 12,000'. Get rid of gas

in bomb bay as soon as possible and 30 miles from landfall leader will open bomb doors and all ships will release tanks at same time. Be sure to clear the area beneath you before dropping. A loose formation will be flown - Groups in right echelon to a point 75 miles from enemy coast where normal Combat Wing Defensive Formation will be assumed. Navigators have been instructed to alter course slightly in Denmark in order to miss any flak installations.

8. In case Tutow or Rostock, our two alternate targets are selected by the Air Commander, we will have to climb to 19,000' to bomb because these places have quite a concentration of flak.
9. The Royal Navy is going to patrol the water route of our trip over the North Sea with Destroyers and Corvettes to aid in the Air-Sea-Rescue.
10. General Travis is Task Force Commander and will make the decision as to what target will be attacked and announce it over V.H.F. Strict radio discipline will be observed and all malfunctioning transmitters will be turned off. General Travis has been concentrating on the V.H.F. possibilities and difficulties and you can expect him to use it to the maximum advantage.
11. The visibility is expected to be poor, so all ships will use aldis lamps according to new SOP in all areas of low visibility. This is an 8 hour trip and at our altitude we should have a reserve of 400 gallons gas.
12. General Anderson has asked for a special effort for a good job today, because this day should show "JERRY" that no matter how far away he moves his factories we will go after them and destroy them and prove to him that all his efforts are in vain.

LEWIS E. LYLE,  
Lt. Col., AC,  
Deputy Group Commander

#42-5482 *Cat-O-Nine Tails* 358BS (**Phelps**) and #42-2973 *Iza Vailable* 360BS (**Heller**) aborted the mission with engine problems.

The conditions at the target were perfect for an attack. There was no flak and no fighters were encountered in the target area. The weather was superb with no clouds and unlimited visibility. Bomb results were clearly visible and results were excellent. The lead bombardier, 1Lt. Byron K. **Butt** reported, "A damn well-planned, well-executed mission by all concerned." The 303rd BG(H) dropped 27 tons of 1,000-lb. bombs and incendiaries.

After bombing and leaving the target, the first flak was encountered at Rostock. It was intense and accurate. From the target to Rostock, enemy fighter attacks were spasmodic. They then became persistent until about 100 miles from the Keil Peninsula. Gen. **Travis** reported 169 ME-110s and FW-190s, and some ME-210s and JU-88s in this area. The P-47 fighters that were supposed to meet the bombers failed to make their rendezvous.

Aircraft #42-5221 *Son* 427BS, piloted by 2Lt. Bernard J. **Clifford**, was seen to be hit by 20mm cannon fire from a formation of three FW-190s flying abreast. The approximate position was at the Danish coast. It was last seen at 8,000 feet, with its No. 3 engine on fire and feathered. When the wheels were let down, the fighter attacks ceased. The entire crew was on their fourth combat mission. The B-17 crashed in the Baltic Sea south of Lolland, Denmark. Lt. **Clifford**, 2Lt. Charles O. **Jahn**, 2Lt. Charles M. **Stata**, 2Lt. Robert V. **Bruce**, S/Sgt. A. E. **Horning**, T/Sgt. F.G. **Hartzog**, S/Sgt. Charles L. **Gale**, S/Sgt. J.L. **McLarty**, T/Sgt. Andrew A. **Dyke** and S/Sgt. W.O. **Heller** were all killed in action. Lt. **Bruce** and T/Sgt. **Dyke** are buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium.

"It is the best bombing we have had," Gen. **Travis** reported. "Our bombs hit right on the target perfectly. We watched them go down and if there is any target left, I don't believe it. I never saw so many fighters in my life. It was a very active day." Maj. **Calhoun**, flying on his 27th mission said, "The fighters were really rough. They started at the front of the formation and went right through. Our ship was hit a couple of times, but no one got hurt. We won't have to go back there. That thing is finished."

S/Sgt. Charles C. **Baggs**, waist gunner on *Flak Wolf* said, "There wasn't enough ammunition left to kill a tea bag. And even then we were waiting until we saw the whites of their eyes before we started shooting." T/Sgt. William T. **Hembree**, engineer of *Charley Horse* claimed one enemy fighter. "I got one ME-210 that tried to cross over us," Sgt. **Hembree** said. "I let him have a long burst and the plane started to break up. He went down out of control and I saw a 'chute' come out." Other gunners claimed one destroyed, two probables, and six damaged enemy aircraft.

### Crew Reports on Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

S/Sgt. John P. Moody (562)	ME-109	No Claim
S/Sgt. Austin J. O'Neill (052)	ME-109	Probable
S/Sgt. V.F. Stoddard (264)	ME-110	Probable
T/Sgt. Howard E. Hernan (635)	FW-190	Damaged
T/Sgt. Rudolph S. Lopez (562)	ME-109	No Claim
S/Sgt. Charles J. Dove (264)	ME-109	Damaged
Sgt. Bernard J. Sutton (577)	ME-110	Damaged
Lt. F.T. Clark (788)	FW-190	Damaged
S/Sgt. J.B. Reynolds (029)	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. William T. Hembree (571)	ME-210	Damaged
S/Sgt. Edward J. Cassidy (524)	ME-109	Damaged
Sgt. Leon J. Witherwax (571)	JU-88	Destroyed

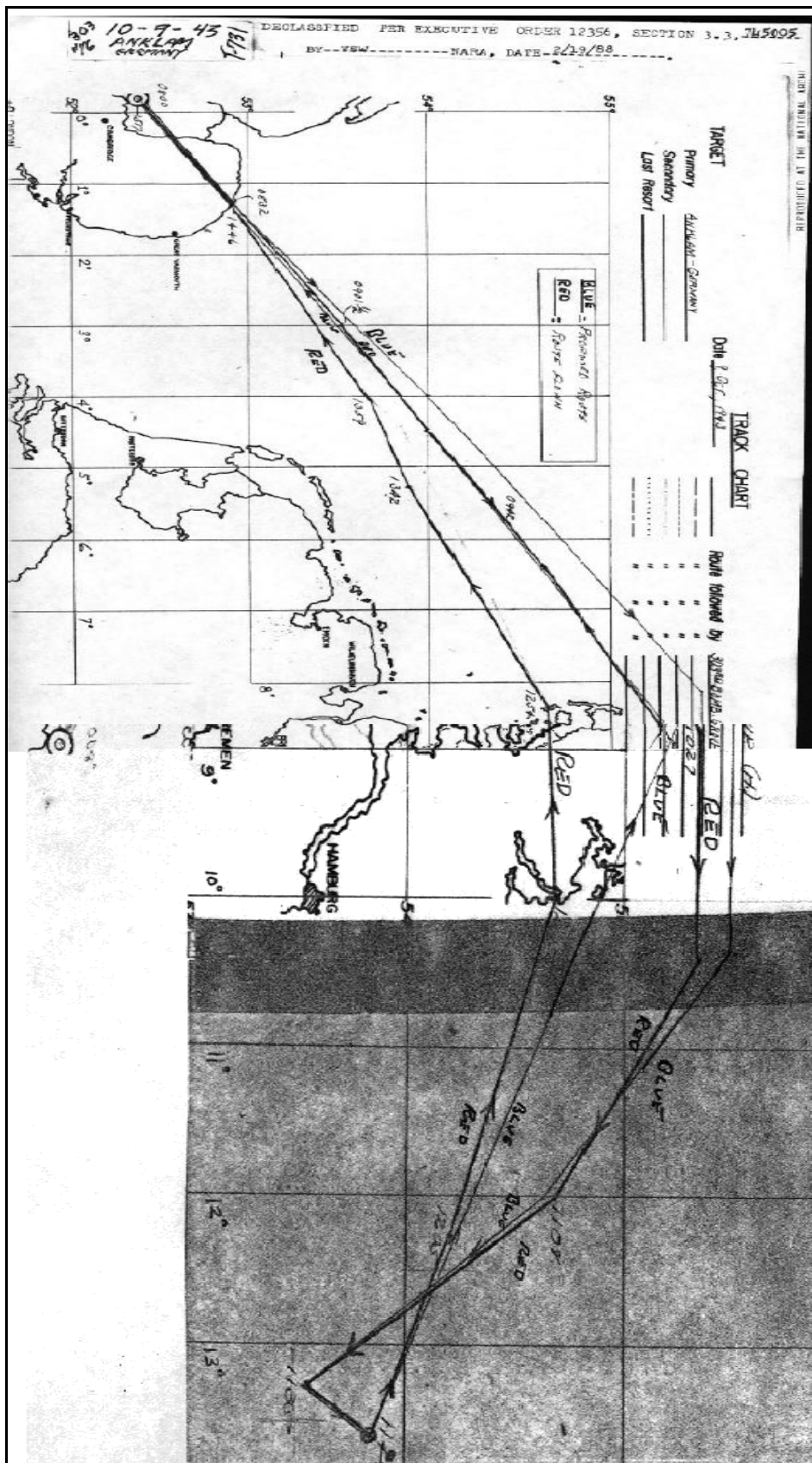


The '8' Ball Mk II #41-24635 (359BS) BN-O  
1st BD Lead (359BS) - Pilot W.R. Calhoun, Jr. / CoPilot B/Gen R.F. Travis

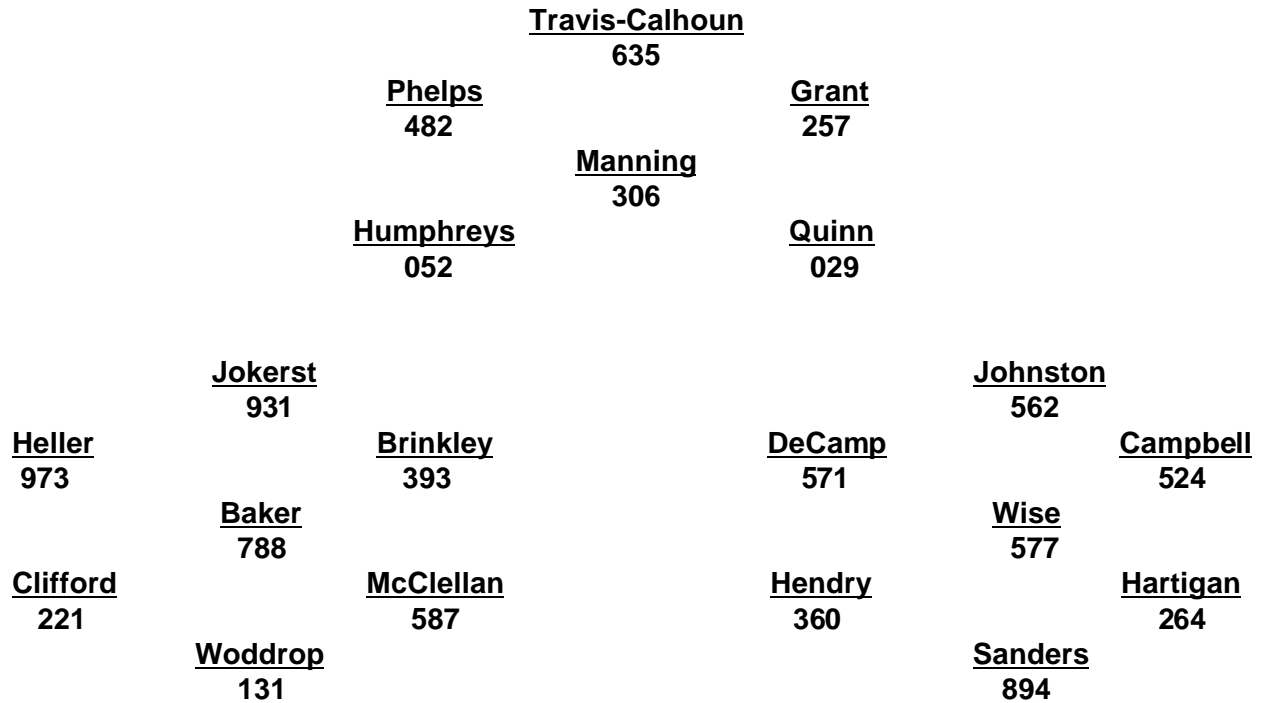


#### VIDEO CLIP

This 4 1/2 minute video clip is from the film *Target For Today – The Mighty 8th Over Germany*. The film was made in mid 1944, recreating the 9 October 1943 mission to Anklam, Germany — from the planning stages through analyzing the photos at its completion. Part of the video was shot at Molesworth, including the Briefing Room scene shown here. Captain **Claes E. Johnson**, S-2 Intelligence officer, conducted the original briefing for Anklam. We are not certain who is conducting this recreation. Several men are recognizable in the scene, including **Vern L. Moncur** and **David K.S. Chang**.



## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Two (2) aircraft aborted this mission:  
 Lt. Phelps in 482  
 Lt. Heller in 973

### 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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## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-29571 *Charley Horse***

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P DeCamp, Donald F., 1Lt  
 CP Emerson, Aubrey L., 2Lt  
 NAV Haddock, Ralph M., 2Lt  
 BOM Galbraith, Robert E., 2Lt  
 ENG Hembree, William T., T/Sgt  
 RO King, Robert E., Sgt  
 LWG Hitt, William T., Sgt  
 BT Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt  
 TG Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt  
 RWG McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29894 *Baltimore Bounce***

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P Sanders, Roy C., 1Lt  
 CP Nogash, Henry F., 2Lt  
 NAV Wood, Gordon W., 2Lt  
 BOM Dorsey, Bernard F., 2Lt  
 ENG Rozek, Joseph A., T/Sgt  
 RWG Carll, Martin V., Sgt  
 RO Mouser, Lloyd C., Sgt  
 BT Kremer, Mathias J., S/Sgt  
 TG Cockrum, Alfred E., S/Sgt  
 LWG Smith, Riker K., S/Sgt  
 PHO Hunter, Robert G., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24562 *Sky Wolf***

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P Johnston, John R., 1Lt  
 CP Lake, Lester A., Jr., 2Lt  
 NAV Karraker, William H., 2Lt  
 BOM Sweet, William D., 2Lt  
 ENG Lopez, Rudolph S., T/Sgt  
 RWG Mills, James E., S/Sgt  
 RO Matthews, James O., T/Sgt  
 BT Griffin, Edward W., S/Sgt  
 TG Moody, John P., S/Sgt  
 LWG Cobb, Edward N., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29524 *Meat Hound***

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P Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt  
 CP Clark, Martin L., 2Lt  
 NAV Barnhill, Wilbur R., 1Lt  
 BOM Spencer, Charles W., 2Lt  
 ENG Backiel, Stanley J., T/Sgt  
 RWG Wisniewski, Alexander, S/Sgt  
 RO McGuire, Robert J., S/Sgt  
 BT Brooks, John W., Sgt  
 TG Cassidy, Edward J., S/Sgt  
 LWG Hoy, James F., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24577 *Hell's Angels***

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P Wise, Calder L., 2Lt  
 CP Fort, William C., Jr., 2Lt  
 NAV Nothstein, John P., 2Lt  
 BOM Halliburton, J.B. Lewis, 2Lt  
 ENG Mullins, Grover C., S/Sgt  
 RWG Pleasant, James H., S/Sgt  
 RO Supple, James C., S/Sgt  
 BT Zeitner, Howard H., Sgt  
 TG Sutton, Bernard J., Sgt  
 LWG Viszneki, John G., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5264 *Yankee Doodle Dandy***

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P Hartigan, William R., 2Lt  
 CP Goddard, Edward N., 2Lt  
 NAV Douthett, Lorin F., 2Lt  
 BOM Fee, George H., Sgt  
 ENG Resto, Clement, T/Sgt  
 LWG Guhr, Delbert E., Sgt  
 RO Ward, Robert L., T/Sgt  
 RWG Dove, Charles J., S/Sgt  
 BT Stoddard, Val F., S/Sgt  
 TG Ince, James T., S/Sgt  
 PHO Martin, Wallace G., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5360 *Old Faithful***

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P Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt  
 CP Harper, William B., 2Lt  
 NAV McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt  
 BOM Webster, Richard E., 2Lt  
 ENG Biddle, Loran C., T/Sgt  
 TG Doherty, John J., S/Sgt  
 RO Brown, James J., T/Sgt  
 BT Hargrave, Alfred J., Sgt  
 RWG Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt  
 LWG Arasin, John C., S/Sgt  
 PHO Moffett, Ralph M., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Quinn, Thomas J., F/O
CP	Eisenhart, William E., F/O
NAV	Howlett, Oscar D., 2Lt
BOM	Van Zandt, Roland, 2Lt
ENG	Holper, Ralph M., T/Sgt
RWG	Kalafut, Joe J., S/Sgt
RO	Vieira, Joseph, T/Sgt
BT	Bergman, Harvey F., S/Sgt
LWG	Reynolds, James B., S/Sgt
TG	Pelkey, Elwood R., S/Sgt

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

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P	Calhoun, William R., Jr., Maj
CP	Travis, Robert F., B/Gen
NAV	Jacobsen, Norman N., 1Lt
NAV	Ririe, George M., 1Lt
BOM	Butt, Byron K., 1Lt
ENG	Hernan, Howard E., T/Sgt
RWG	Bachert, Kurt W., T/Sgt
RO	Kraft, Harold A., T/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, Benton F., T/Sgt
BT	McCauley, Patrick N., S/Sgt
TG	Halpin, Robert H., 2Lt

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

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P	Grant, Ambrose G., 2Lt
CP	Hall, Franklin C., 2Lt
NAV	Berger, James F., 2Lt
BOM	Blackburn, Marion D., 2Lt
ENG	Jaouen, Robert F., T/Sgt
TT	Kujawa, Tony T., S/Sgt
RO	Sexton, Edward J., T/Sgt
TG	Anderson, Francis D., S/Sgt
RWG	Greenlee, Woodrow W., S/Sgt
BT	Petrosky, Chester, S/Sgt

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

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P	Manning, John P., 1Lt
CP	Blossom, George H., 2Lt
NAV	Antman, Jack, 2Lt
BOM	Boutelle, Winston E., 1Lt
ENG	Keesling, George R., T/Sgt
TG	Jennings, Harley F., S/Sgt
RO	Fitzsimmons, Kenneth P., T/Sgt
LWG	Santella, Albert C., S/Sgt
BT	Mace, LeRoy L., S/Sgt
RWG	Nordyke, Loyd E., T/Sgt
PAS	Barrett, Jesse M., Maj
PHO	Mahaffey, William D., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5482 Cat-O-Nine Tails**

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P	Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Bolsover, Harold S., F/O
NAV	Johnson, Lloyd S., 2Lt
BOM	Rothman, Theodore I., 1Lt
ENG	Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt
TT	Robb, Charles W., Sgt
RO	Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt
BT	Joubert, Francis M., S/Sgt
TG	Perryman, Jack L., Sgt
LWG	Robichaud, Joseph E., S/Sgt

(Abortive)



## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### ***B-17F #42-5393 Thumper Again***

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P Brinkley, Pharis C., Lt  
CP Parrott, John H., Lt  
NAV Becker, Sylvester J., Lt  
BOM Petrolino, James S., Lt  
ENG Worthington, Arthur J., T/Sgt  
LWG Lance, Guy A., S/Sgt  
RO Snyder, Richard N., T/Sgt  
RWG Ferguson, Charles R., S/Sgt  
BT Reid, Harold C., S/Sgt  
TG Rein, William E., S/Sgt

### ***B-17F #42-5788 A.O.G. Not in Stock***

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P Baker, William T., 1Lt  
CP Gahimer, Loyd D., 2Lt  
NAV McLane, Joseph T., Lt  
BOM Clark, Fred T., Lt  
ENG Fielder, Neal F., T/Sgt  
RWG Bowman, Vergil E., S/Sgt  
RO Bonn, Charles J., Sgt  
BT Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt  
TG Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt  
LWG Pierson, Lawrence C., S/Sgt

### ***B-17F #42-29931 Satan's Workshop***

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P Jokerst, Leonard E., Lt  
CP Jackson, Theodore M., Lt  
NAV Noland, James B., Lt  
BOM DeFeis, Robert N., Lt  
ENG Serwa, Alphonse B., T/Sgt  
RWG Stephens, William H., S/Sgt  
RO Cline, Leroy, T/Sgt  
BT Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt  
LWG Wilson, George W., S/Sgt  
TG Appleton, Vernon R., S/Sgt

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

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P Heller, William C., Lt  
CP Coppom, John F., Lt  
NAV Zwayer, James P., Lt  
BOM DeSousa, John, Jr., Lt  
ENG Huston, William J., T/Sgt  
RWG Payne, George S., S/Sgt  
RO Spoerri, Felix, T/Sgt  
LWG Lanier, Leo, Jr., S/Sgt  
BT Schultz, Melvin E., S/Sgt  
TG Laurinitis, Anthony, S/Sgt  
(Abortive)

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #41-24587 *Bad Check***

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P	McClellan, George S., Jr., Lt
CP	Greenwood, Ernest G., Lt
NAV	Kaliher, John C., Lt
BOM	Cornish, Merlin L., Lt
ENG	Tempesta, David, T/Sgt
RWG	Chiles, Alfred B., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Callihan, George A., T/Sgt
BT	Yarian, Robert G., S/Sgt
LWG	Madak, Edward P., S/Sgt
TG	Dugan, Charles E., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-3131 *Flak Wolf***

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P	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
CP	Henderson, Grover C., Lt
NAV	Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM	Witt, Walter E., Lt
ENG	Watts, William A., Sgt
BT	Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt
RO	Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
LWG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt
TG	Valis, William, S/Sgt
RWG	Priestly, Van B., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5221 *Son CR-S***

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P	Clifford, Bernard J., Lt	KIA
CP	Jahn, Charles O., Lt	KIA
NAV	Stata, Charles M., Lt	KIA
BOM	Bruce, Robert V., Lt	KIA
ENG	Dyke, Andrew A., T/Sgt	KIA
RWG	Horning, A.E., S/Sgt	KIA
RO	Hartzog, F.G., T/Sgt	KIA
BT	Gale, Charles L., S/Sgt	KIA
TG	Heller, W.O., S/Sgt	KIA
LWG	McLarty, J.L., S/Sgt	KIA

### **B-17F #42-5052 *Mizpah***

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P	Humphreys, Fred C., Lt
CP	Clemons, James H., Lt
NAV	Culpin, John J., Jr., Lt
BOM	Orvis, George T., Jr., Lt
ENG	Janisch, Ferdinand J., T/Sgt
LWG	Beach, Russell F., S/Sgt
RO	Woods, Arthur H., T/Sgt
BT	Ross, Madison H., S/Sgt
RWG	Dare, Melvin M., S/Sgt
TG	O'Neill, Austin J., S/Sgt