

303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 14

4 February 1943

Target: Industrial Targets NW of Osnabruck, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 13

Crews Lost: Capt. Cole - 3 KIA, 6 POW, 1 WIA/POW/DOW

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 1 WIA

Length of Mission: 5 hours plus

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lbs M43

Bombing Altitude: 19,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 20,991 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 8 Destroyed, 1 Probable, 2 Damaged

The primary target was the Hamm, Germany, marshalling yards; secondary, Osnabruck, Germany marshalling yards; and last resort, any industrial plant. Fourteen aircraft prepared for take-off. Lt. **Schulstad's** B-17 #42-2973, *Iza Vailable*, failed to take off because of brake failure. Thirteen B-17s took off between 0902 and 0910.

Six aircraft aborted the mission:

#41-24635, *The '8' Ball MK II*, 359BS (Capt. **Calhoun**). The tail, ball turret, waist, nose, and radio guns were all frozen. The waist gunner, S/Sgt. **Owen**, experienced frozen feet and hands.

#41-24558, *Hunga Dunga*, 358BS (Lt. **Nolan**). Seven guns were frozen and the fingertips of the radio operator, T/Sgt. **Hamill** were frozen.

#42-5243, *FDR's Potato Peeler Kids*, 359BS (Lt. **Bales**). The solenoids of the ball turret guns went out.

#42-5260, *Yardbird II*, 360BS (Lt. **Farrar**). Runaway supercharger on the No. 3 engine.

#41-24587, *Bad Check*, 427BS (Capt. **Southworth**). The No. 2 and No. 3 superchargers were erratic, the No. 1 manifold pressure was erratic, and the engine was rough.

#41-24559, *Ooold Soljer*, 360BS (Lt. Col. **Marion**). Bombs would not release, but completed the full flight.

Six aircraft reached the target area and found 8/10 to 10/10 cloud cover and poor visibility at 21,000 feet. The last resort target was bombed by five aircraft with 15 tons of 500 lb. bombs. No results could be observed. Slight to heavy intense black flak was encountered at unidentified points. Temperatures over the target were -40E centigrade--the limit of the B-17's thermometer.

Twenty-five to fifty enemy aircraft were observed: single-engine ME-109s and FW-190s and, for the first time, twin-engine ME-110s and JU-88s. There were five to twenty encounters over the mainland and far out to sea. Eight aircraft were claimed as destroyed, one as a probable, and two damaged. Eight crewmen were injured--five from frostbite and three from enemy machine gun and flak fire. None were hospitalized.

There was one aircraft lost. B-17F #41-24569, *Memphis Tot*, 427BS-V, was last seen turning out of formation somewhere near Leeuwarden. The crew later reported that most of their guns froze while over the Netherlands en route to the target. The aircraft left the formation to return to base and was soon attacked by ME-109s and FW-190s. Badly damaged, the B-17 ditched in the Zuider Zee off the coast of the Netherlands. It broke in two parts upon contact with the water. The co-pilot, 2Lt. **McCune**, was shot and killed before the crash. The pilot, Capt. **Cole**, caught a 20mm shell in his left hip. He later lost his leg and died in a POW camp from injury complications. He is buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium. Two other crewmen, S/Sgt. **Pennington** and Sgt. **Van Etten**, were lost in the ditching. S/Sgt. **Pennington** is buried in Netherlands American Cemetery at Martgratten, Netherlands. Sgt. **Van Etten** and Lt. **McCune** are listed on the Wall of missing at Martgratten. The surviving members of the crew were picked up by a Dutch fishing boat, transferred to a German Marine boat, and turned over to German authorities and made POWs.

#42-5360, *Old Faithful*, 358BS, suffered a direct hit from FW-190 cannon fire shortly after the ship had dropped its bombs. The bombardier, Lt. R.O. **Schieble**, was manning his guns as fighters were coming in from all angles. Lt. **Schieble's** 45-caliber pistol was resting on a shelf just above his left shoulder. There was a terrific explosion directly beside his head, stunning him for a moment. When he regained his composure, he decided to find out what happened and immediately spotted what was left of his pistol. A 20mm shell from the FW-190 had made a direct hit on the hammer of the pistol. The hit tore the grip from the right side of the gun butt and tore the gun holster apart. The gun slide was dented and nicked. Shrapnel from the shell almost tore the nose compartment apart. The bomb sight gyro was pierced. The parachute Lt. **Schieble** was wearing on his back was torn to ribbons. With all the damage the shell had done, Lt. **Schieble** and the navigator, Lt. R.W. **Clement**, were untouched. There was no doubt that the 45-caliber pistol saved the life of Lt. **Schieble** by deflecting the shrapnel.

The pilot of *Old Faithful*, Lt. J.M. **McDonald**, saw enemy planes coming in to attack from his left. He instinctively ducked forward when the planes started firing. A 20mm shell entered the cockpit right at the spot where his head would normally be. The shell tore a gaping hole in the side of the cockpit and exploded inside. Lt. **McDonald** was untouched by the explosion, but the co-pilot, Lt. D.L. **Rogan**, received a severe laceration of the back and cuts in his face from the shrapnel. Another 20mm shell entered the tail of the plane, knocking out the tail guns which S/Sgt. R.W. **Sterling** was operating. Sgt. **Sterling** also came through this encounter without a scratch.

A fourth 20mm shell exploded in the vertical stabilizer of the B-17, tearing it apart. All told, about 20 shells entered the plane which returned safely to Molesworth.

Lt. **Schieble**, manning his right nose gun, and T/Sgt. D.D. **Fanning**, top turret gunner, fired at a FW-190 that was attacking *Old Faithful*. They observed pieces flying off its cowling, right aileron and part of its right wing.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Marion-Lyle</u> 559		
<u>Broussard</u> 610		<u>Southworth</u> 587
	<u>Cole</u> 569	
<u>Farrar</u> 260		<u>Schulstad</u> 973
	<u>Smith</u> 605	
		<u>Calhoun</u> 635
	<u>Eyster</u> 609	<u>Bales</u> 243
		<u>Baldwin</u> 577
	<u>McDonald</u> 360	<u>Morales</u> 562
		<u>Nolan</u> 558

Six (6) aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Nolan in 558	Lt. Bales in 243
Capt. Calhoun in 635	Lt. Col. Marion in 559
Capt. Southworth in 587	Lt. Farrar in 260 (no crew list)

Lt. Schulstad in 973 failed to take off

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><u>CREW POSITIONS</u> CMP - Command Pilot P - Pilot CP - Co-Pilot NAV - Navigator ANV - Ass't. Navigator MNV - Mickey Navigator ENG - Engineer BOM - Bombardier RO - Radio Operator</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer</p> <p><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war</p>	<p>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</p>
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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Baldwin, Irl E., Capt
CP Joy, Ripley W., 2Lt
NAV Thornton, Leonard E., 1Lt
BOM Bone, Donald R., 1Lt
ENG Rodriguez, James E., Jr., T/Sgt
RWG Harker, Wayne E., Sgt
RO Warren, Russell M., Sgt
BT Brody, Harry J., S/Sgt
LWG Weiskopf, Dennis, Sgt
TG Godwin, Harold E., Sgt

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

P Morales, Carl H., 1Lt
CP Swaffer, Calvin A., 2Lt
NAV Miller, Hubert E., 1Lt
BOM Zasadil, Frank E., 2Lt
ENG Hinds, Francis G., T/Sgt
BT Carroll, Albert V., S/Sgt
RO Burns, Francis J., S/Sgt
RWG Hill, John E., Sgt
TG Blake, Robert C., Sgt
LWG Westfall, Max M., Sgt

B-17F #41-24558 *Hunga Dunga*

P Nolan, Robert J., 1Lt
CP Kruse, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV Anderson, William J., 1Lt
BOM Hopper, Richard R., 2Lt
ENG Hively, Roy J., T/Sgt
BT Kinney, Jesse R., Sgt
RO Hamill, Milton, S/Sgt
RWG Heaps, Theodore C., Sgt
TG Taylor, Claude P., S/Sgt
LWG Goff, James P., Sgt
(Abortive)

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

P McDonald, James M., 1Lt
CP Rogan, Dave L., 2Lt WIA
NAV Clement, Richard W., 1Lt
BOM Schieble, Robert O., 1Lt
ENG Fanning, David D., T/Sgt
RWG Haney, James E., S/Sgt
RO Carpenter, Glenn S., S/Sgt
BT Bruskotter, James E., S/Sgt
TG Sterling, Robert W., S/Sgt
LWG Martin, James C., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24609 *Holy Mackerel*

P Eyster, Ercil F., 1Lt
CP Hayward, Fred H., 2Lt
NAV Shanks, John D., 2Lt
BOM Cargill, William D., 2Lt
ENG Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt
RO Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt
GUN Davis, Marcus K., S/Sgt
BT Nicosia, Eugene A., Sgt
TG Bauer, Floyd E., S/Sgt
RWG Altizer, Robert C., T/Sgt
LWG Brown, Houston B., Jr., Sgt

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

P Smith, Sanford T., 1Lt
CP Farrell, Lawrence C., 2Lt
NAV Elliott, Jesse H., 2Lt
BOM Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt
ENG Audiss, Eldon W., T/Sgt
BT Hardaway, Sidney T., S/Sgt
RO York, Robert F., S/Sgt
LWG Adams, Ralph B., S/Sgt
TG Howard, Earl R., S/Sgt
RWG O'Reilly, Francis W., Sgt

B-17F #42-5243 *FDR's Potato Peeler Kids*

P Bales, Ross C., 1Lt
CP Dooley, Walter E., 2Lt
NAV Browning, Richard C., 2Lt
BOM Thomas, Paul M., 2Lt
ENG Winter, Raymond K., Jr., Sgt
TT Perkins, Homer T., Sgt
BT Zsampar, Joseph G., Sgt
RO Kilgore, Raymond H., T/Sgt
TG Snell, Jack D., S/Sgt
RWG Van Ravenstein, Edward A., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Calhoun, William R., Jr., Capt
CP Nix, James S., 2Lt
NAV Strickland, Joseph M., 2Lt
BOM Yonkman, Robert J., 1Lt
ENG Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt
BT Mulgrew, William G., S/Sgt
RO Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt
LWG Tupper, Theron S., S/Sgt
TG Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt
RWG Owen, Calvin H., S/Sgt
(Abortive)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew List

B-17F #41-24559 *Ooold Soljer*

P Marion, Charles E., LtCol
CP Lyle, Lewis E., Capt
NAV Moore, Paul G., Capt
BOM Saiz, Reinaldo J., Lt
OBS Bartlett, Keith O., 1Lt
ENG Smith, Gene K., T/Sgt
RWG Bradford, Edward A., Sgt
RO Balcombe, Clayton S., S/Sgt
BT Sangster, Robert A., S/Sgt
TG McGiffin, Tom, Sgt
LWG Brud, Robert P., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
CP	Dillinger, John L., 2Lt
NAV	Schueler, Jon R., 2Lt
BOM	Conver, Milton K., 2Lt
ENG	Means, Lucian W., Jr., T/Sgt
RO	Doughty, Edward J., S/Sgt
LWG	Brandt, Waldo B., Sgt
BT	Belk, Jack, S/Sgt
RWG	Fleming, William W., S/Sgt
TG	Henderson, George W., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24569 *Memphis Tot DCH*

P	Cole, Lloyd R., Capt	WIA/POW/DOW
CP	McCune, Robert N., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Driggs, Robert P., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Bryant, Edward N., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Purinton, Bliss D., S/Sgt	POW
RO	Miller, George D., T/Sgt	POW
TG	Callery, Phillip J., S/Sgt	POW
BT	Witte, Arch, Jr., S/Sgt	POW
LWG	Pennington, James L., S/Sgt	KIA
RWG	Van Etten, James R., Sgt	KIA

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24610 *Joe Btfsplk*

P	Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Lt
CP	Le Fevre, William G., Lt
NAV	Soha, Walter M., Lt
BOM	Sherwood, Lyle D., Lt
ENG	Smock, Edmund L., T/Sgt
RO	Karanson, William A., Jr., T/Sgt
BT	Choice, Hudson, S/Sgt
LWG	Bridges, Alvin A., Sgt
TG	Harmon, Edward Z., Sgt
RWG	Jurosek, Bernard, Sgt