

# 303rd BG(H) Combat Mission No. 25

22 March 1943

Target: Port Docking Area, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 18

Crewmen Wounded: 4 - Names not available

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 5 x 1000 lb H.E. M44 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 27,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 38,637 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 3 Destroyed

**M**aj. **Green** and Capt. **Gabbert** conducted the briefing. Eighteen B-17s took off. Capt. W.R. **Calhoun**, Jr., CO 359BS, flew the lead B-17 in the High Squadron in #41-24605, *Knockout Dropper*.

Three aircraft aborted the mission:

#41-24587, *Bad Check*, 427BS (**Southworth**). The cylinder head cracked on the No. 3 engine. The engine lost all of its oil and was smoking and vibrating.

#42-4260, *Yardbird II*, 360BS (**Farrar**). The entire interphone system went out.

#42-5432, *The Hunting Club*, 358BS (**McDonald**). The No. 1 engine was out and No. 3 engine was running away.

Fifteen aircraft reached the target at 27,000 feet. There was no cloud cover with 10 to 15 miles visibility. A successful bombing run was made, dropping 37 1/2 tons of 1,000 lb. H.E. M44 bombs. The target area was so enveloped in smoke and flames from bombs dropped by the leading Groups that it was impossible for the 303rd BG(H) crews to observe their actual hits. Bombardiers claimed, however, that their run was perfect, their aiming good, and most bombs were seen going into the target area. A smoke screen was observed in operation around the target area, but was more accurate for the height of the Groups ahead.

Flak was intense over the target area, but was more accurate for the height of the Groups ahead. Most of the observed bursts were below and to the rear of 303rd BG(H) planes.

From 25 to 30 enemy aircraft were seen--FW-190s, ME-109s, ME-110s, and JU-88s. Most of them flew along the sides of the Group formation to keep away from the German flak. Only a few attacked the formation until the forts got over the target. From there on, they kept a running fight for about forty minutes, attacking from all sides. In many instances, they flew right through the B-17 formation. Four enemy aircraft were claimed as destroyed, with three confirmed. These "kills" were credited as follows: T/Sgt. R.R. **Zaorski**, an ME-109; Lt. **Shiveley**, an FW-190; Lt. **Grant**, an ME-109; and T/Sgt. F.G. **Hinds**, an ME-110.

All Group aircraft returned safely. In spite of the heavy enemy air attacks there was very little battle damage to the Group B-17s. Minor injuries were suffered by three crew members. Another was seriously wounded in the arm by flak. The returning aircraft landed between 1710 and 1735 hours.

Maj. **Wurzbach** was quick to claim a successful trip. When asked about the mission, he remarked, "It was a good show. The boys were stacked in good formation. We saw a lot of fighters, but they didn't bother us too much. I didn't see too much of the bombing myself, but the 'Russian,' 2Lt Frank E. **Zasadil** and the 'Goon,' 1Lt Hubert **Miller**, told me that the bombs were right where they were supposed to be."

Capt. Edgar E. **Snyder**, making his first trip over Germany, had this to say, "It was all right. The boys ahead seemed to be getting most of the flak, but their bombing was good and so was ours." Capt. **Snyder**, Squadron Operations Officer, flew as co-pilot for Capt. Donald **Stockton** of the 427th BS(H). Capt. William R. **Calhoun** and Lt. James S. **Nix**, pilot and co-pilot of *Knockout Dropper*, claimed that they got quite a kick out of their tail gunner, S/Sgt. Willard W. **Stephen**. He gave out information over the interphone, "One, two, three, four, five, here comes the sixth, and they missed again." Sgt. **Stephen** counted the flak bursts from a six-gun battery below. "They almost caught us with No. 6 several times, but they couldn't quite make the grade. I was really sweating it out, though." 1Lt. Ercil F. **Eyster**, co-pilot of *Holy Mackerel*, who was celebrating his birthday, said, "We gave the Germans a present today—some nice 1,000-pounders instead of my receiving any." A crewman of 'Horse Breaker,' S/Sgt. Harry J. **Brody**, remarked, "It was O.K. I'm pretty sure that I got an ME-110. He was in flames and going down, but I didn't see him hit, so I'm not claiming him, but he won't fly anymore."



**FARRAR CREW - 360th BS**  
**B-17F Yardbird #41-24602 (PU-A)**  
**(original crew assigned 360BS: 03 Feb 1942 - photo: 14 Oct 1942)**  
(Back L-R) 1Lt John W. Farrar (P), 2Lt Joseph E. Trojan (CP), 2Lt Rictor H. Auman (N),  
2Lt Jack W. Stewart (B) - (Front L-R) M/Sgt Mike Cimbalos (E), T/Sgt Kenneth C. Hassler (E),  
Sgt George N. Dillard (WG), S/Sgt Kenneth J. "Joe" Kurtenbach (TG)

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Wurzbach</u> 562		
	<u>McDonald</u> 432		<u>Nolan</u> 573	
		<u>Baldwin</u> 577		
	<u>Shaeffer</u> 081		<u>Oxridner</u> 482	
	<u>Fredericks</u> 483		<u>Calhoun</u> 605	
<u>Farrar</u> 260		<u>Bartlett</u> 559	<u>Johnson</u> 430	<u>Smith</u> 243
	<u>Southworth</u> 587		<u>Stockton</u> 619	
<u>Burch</u> 520		<u>Griffin</u> 434	<u>Broussard</u> 382	<u>Eyster</u> 609

Three (3) aircraft aborted this mission:  
 Capt. Southworth in 587  
 Lt. Farrar in 260  
 Lt. McDonald in 432

## 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
--	---	---	---

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

---

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

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

---

P Wurzbach, Clemens K., Maj  
CP Morales, Carl H., 1Lt  
NAV Miller, Hubert E., 1Lt  
BOM Zasadil, Frank E., 2Lt  
ENG Hinds, Francis G., T/Sgt  
BT Shellman, Carl E., S/Sgt  
RO Burns, Francis J., T/Sgt  
LWG Hill, John E., S/Sgt  
TG Blake, Robert C., S/Sgt  
RWG Westfall, Max M., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5432 *The Hunting Club***

---

P McDonald, James M., 1Lt  
CP Rogan, Dave L., 1Lt  
NAV Clement, Richard W., 1Lt  
BOM Montgomery, James H., Jr., 2Lt  
ENG Fanning, David D., T/Sgt  
RWG Hardacre, Charles F., S/Sgt  
RO Carpenter, Glenn S., T/Sgt  
BT Bruskotter, James E., S/Sgt  
TG Sterling, Robert W., S/Sgt  
LWG Martin, James C., S/Sgt  
(Abortive Sortie)

### **B-17F #42-29573 *Two Beauts***

---

P Nolan, Robert J., 1Lt  
CP Kruse, Richard L., 2Lt  
NAV Anderson, William J., 2Lt  
BOM Hopper, Richard R., 2Lt  
ENG Hively, Roy J., T/Sgt  
BT Johnson, Byron W., S/Sgt  
RO Hamill, Milton, Sgt  
TG Zioance, John, S/Sgt  
RWG Isham, Lawrence W., S/Sgt  
LWG Goff, James P., Sgt

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

---

P Oxrider, George J., 1Lt  
CP Hurlburt, Donald W., 2Lt  
NAV Grant, Donald L., 2Lt  
BOM Steele, Earl A., 2Lt  
ENG Ziemer, Frederick B., T/Sgt  
BT Smith, Robert H., S/Sgt  
RO Dasher, Everett A., T/Sgt  
RWG Maxwell, Samuel P., S/Sgt  
TG Sadler, James K., S/Sgt  
LWG Heaps, Theodore C., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5430 Pappy/Good Snuf**

P Johnson, Hans C., 1Lt  
CP Gibson, Charles E., 1Lt  
NAV Henson, Walter C., 2Lt  
BOM Owen, Jedediah G., 1Lt  
ENG Dickinson, Paul A., S/Sgt  
RWG Broyles, Harold D., S/Sgt  
RO McCoy, Gordon K., Sgt  
BT Burry, Robert L., Sgt  
LWG McKagan, Azzon C., S/Sgt  
TG Treon, John E., Sgt

### **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 Dunham, Harold J., T/Sgt  
RO Thornton, Edmund R., Sgt  
RWG Morton, George T., Sgt  
BT Nicosia, Eugene A., Sgt  
LWG Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt  
NG Altizer, Robert C., T/Sgt  
TG Bauer, Floyd E., S/Sgt

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

P Smith, Sanford T., 1Lt  
CP Farrell, Lawrence E., 2Lt  
NAV Summers, Thomas E., 1Lt  
BOM Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt  
ENG Hardaway, Sidney T., Sgt  
LWG Adams, Ralph B., S/Sgt  
RO York, Robert F., T/Sgt  
BT Tibbles, Russell F., Sgt  
TG Howard, Earl R., S/Sgt  
RWG Perryman, Jack L., Sgt

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

P Calhoun, William R., Jr., Capt  
CP Nix, James S., 2Lt  
NAV Strickland, Joseph M., 1Lt  
BOM Shoup, John R., Jr., 2Lt  
ENG Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt  
LWG Fortunak, Richard C., S/Sgt  
RO Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt  
BT Beringer, John L., Jr., Sgt  
TG Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt  
RWG Murphy, Murel A., S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5434 *Lady Luck***

---

P Griffin, Loyd D., Lt  
CP Swanson, Walter C., Lt  
NAV Preston, William M., Lt  
BOM Taylor, Robert L., Lt  
ENG Eason, William M., T/Sgt  
BT Edwards, Samuel L., S/Sgt  
RO Schwartz, Vernon E., T/Sgt  
TG Wiegand, Lynwood D., S/Sgt  
RWG Plummer, Robert, S/Sgt  
LWG Hamilton, Claude A., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5483 *Red Ass***

---

P Fredericks, Jacob W., Capt  
CP Way, Arthur C., Lt  
NAV Hoyt, Otis A., Lt  
BOM Fonorow, Milton S., Lt  
ENG Hlastala, Michael S., T/Sgt  
LWG Semonick, Martin A., S/Sgt  
RO Smith, Richard J., T/Sgt  
BT Nardine, Howard H., S/Sgt  
TG Murray, Gilbert A., Jr., S/Sgt  
RWG Collins, Harvie L., Sgt

### **B-17F# 42-5260 *Yardbird II***

---

P Farrar, John W., 1Lt  
CP Trojan, Joseph E., Lt  
NAV Auman, Rictor H., 2Lt  
BOM Kulesa, Frank E., Lt  
ENG Hassler, Kenneth C., T/Sgt  
RWG Prescott, Paul H., S/Sgt  
RO Lindewall, Erick K., T/Sgt  
BT Sunderlin, Joseph R., S/Sgt  
TG Bartlett, Frank W., S/Sgt  
LWG Compo, Anthony, S/Sgt  
(Abortive Sortie)

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

---

P Bartlett, Keith O., Lt  
CP Fitzsimmons, Kent M., Lt  
NAV Anderson, Samuel H., Lt  
NAV Stevens, Walter T., Lt  
BOM Currie, Herman C., Lt  
ENG Smith, Gene K., T/Sgt  
LWG Bradford, Edward A., S/Sgt  
RO Balcombe, Clayton S., T/Sgt  
BT Sangster, Robert H., S/Sgt  
TG Smith, Woodrow W., S/Sgt  
RWG McGiffin, Tom, Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5081 *Luscious Lady***

---

P Shaeffer, Earl A., Lt  
CP Stone, Arthur M., Lt  
NAV Stugard, F., Jr., Lt  
BOM Fec, A.D., Lt  
ENG Murray, G.F., T/Sgt  
BT Harris, M.L., Sgt  
RO Penley, D.B., T/Sgt  
TG Vance, F.S., S/Sgt  
LWG Groves, R.W., S/Sgt  
RWG Vassel, Warren T., Sgt

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

---

P Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt  
CP Mackin, George T., Lt  
NAV Smith, Abbott M., Jr., Lt  
BOM Roberts, Sumner L., Lt  
ENG Gray, J.R., T/Sgt  
RO Doughty, Edward J., S/Sgt  
RWG Brandt, Waldo B., Sgt  
BT Belk, Jack, S/Sgt  
LWG Peklinsky, Anthony J., Sgt  
TG Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt  
(Abortive)

### **B-17 #42-29520 (*No Name*)**

---

P Burch, Armand F., Lt  
CP Cardwell, Burt J., Lt  
NAV Noblin, John D., Lt  
BOM Carlson, Robert C.A., Lt  
ENG Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt  
BT Bourdon, Louis F., S/Sgt  
RO Ashworth, George W., S/Sgt  
LWG Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt  
TG Brown, Howard T., S/Sgt  
RWG Johnson, Otto D., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5382 *The Witches Tit***

---

P Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Lt  
CP Le Fevre, William G., Lt  
NAV Bradshaw, John W., 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 Clapshaw, Keith L., Sgt  
RWG Storer, Charles R., S/Sgt  
TG Jurosek, Bernard, Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24619 *S for Sugar***

---

P Stockton, Donald E., Capt  
CP Snyder, Edgar E., Jr., Capt  
NAV Grant, Lawrence H., 2Lt  
BOM Shirley, Lloyd A., 2Lt  
ENG Smith, Roy Q., S/Sgt  
RO Amos, Lee H., S/Sgt  
RWG Coomes, Clarence S., S/Sgt  
TG Koch, Vernon E., S/Sgt  
LWG Longo, Angelo L., Sgt  
BT Jenkins, Robert R., Sgt