

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 54

26 July 1943

Target: Nuehof Power Station, Hamburg, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 20

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 10 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb H.E. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 27,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 33,248 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 4 Destroyed

**H**amburg, Germany was again the target for the third mission of "Blitz Week." Five aircraft aborted the mission before reaching the target:

#42-29640 *Old Ironsides*, 359BS (**Pentz**); The heating equipment failed.

#42-5788 *A.O.G. Not in Stock*, 358BS (**Thompson**); The ship experienced a runaway prop No. 3 engine.

#42-5341 *Vicious Virgin*, 427BS (**Burch**); The waist gunner's heating rheostats malfunctioned.

#42-5257 *Miss Bea Haven*, 427BS (**Cote**); The tail gunner was ill with appendicitis.

#42-5434 *Lady Luck*, 358BS (**Lemmon**); The ship experienced low oil pressure.

Lead ship bombardier, Capt. Robert J. **Yonkman**, found that the primary target was obscured. He then sighted on the Neuhoof Electric Power Station and vicinity, about five and a half miles from the primary target. He determined that this was a better target than the city of Hamburg itself, which was the secondary target. Fourteen Group B-17s dropped on his manual salvo (his bomb racks would not release electrically) with 139 ANM-43 500-lb. bombs from 27,000 feet. One aircraft dropped its bombs on a boat in the Elbe River. The lead ship salvoed one bomb in the water due to a faulty release mechanism, and one aircraft returned with a bomb that could not be released.

Flak was moderate to intense and accurate. From 20 to 30 enemy fighters, mostly FW-190s, were reported. Group gunners claimed four destroyed. One aircraft sustained minor battle damage. There were no casualties. Three aircraft landed away from base because of fuel shortage.

Maj. **Calhoun** summed up the mission, "There was plenty of smoke on the target from the RAF and our raid of yesterday, but we saw it OK. There was a tremendous explosion as our bombs hit. There were fighters out there, about 25 to 30, but they didn't bother to come in at us. It was a fairly easy mission." His co-pilot, Capt. Glynn **Shumake** (The Hoss), Group Operations Officer, added, "They really got it today. There was quite a bit of smoke on the target, but we saw it and hit it. About fifteen minutes after we hit the target, I looked around and there was a hell of a large puff of black smoke coming up. It was OK."

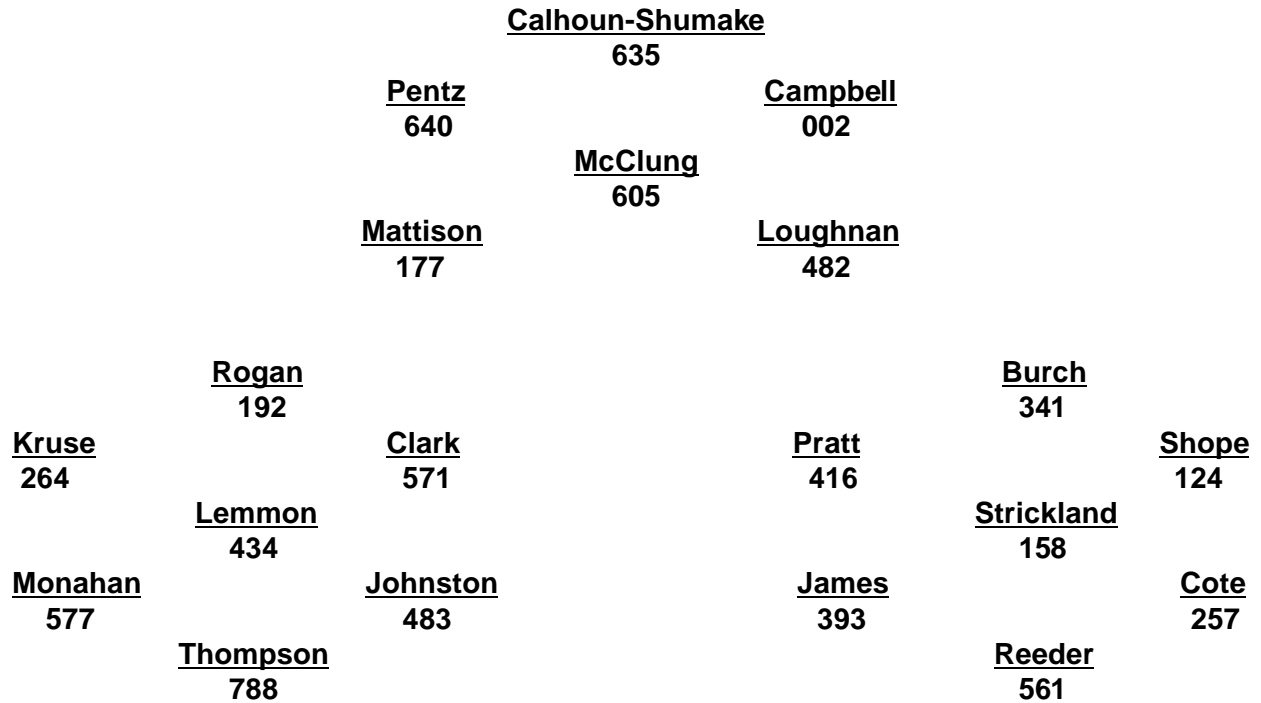
## Crew Reports of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

S/Sgt. Samuel S. Wright (561)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. Howard L. Abney (264)	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. Frank M. Mathews (571)	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. James K. Good (393)	FW-190	Destroyed



*Colonel Charles E. Marion with Captain Eddie Rickenbacher, famed WWI fighter ace. Rickenbacher and B/Gen Newton Longfellow of the VIII Bomber Command were visiting Molesworth. Col. Marion had just been reassigned to the 1st Bombardment Wing as Deputy Commanding Operations Officer.*

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Five (5) aircraft aborted this mission:

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Lt. Pentz in 640  | Lt. Thompson in 788 |
| Lt. Burch in 341  | Lt. Cote in 257     |
| Lt. Lemmon in 434 |                     |

### 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 #42-5264 Yankee Doodle Dandy**

P Kruse, Richard L., 1Lt  
 CP Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt  
 NAV McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt  
 BOM Webster, Richard E., 2Lt  
 ENG Biddle, Loran C., T/Sgt  
 LWG Doherty, John J., S/Sgt  
 RO Brown, James J., T/Sgt  
 BT Humphries, Olwin L., S/Sgt  
 TG Abney, Howard L., S/Sgt  
 RWG Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

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

P Clark, Elmo E., F/O  
 CP DeCamp, Donald F., 2Lt  
 NAV Haddock, Ralph M., 2Lt  
 BOM Galbraith, Robert E., 2Lt  
 ENG Hembree, William T., T/Sgt  
 RO Brooke, Curtis O., T/Sgt  
 RWG Doback, Charles R., S/Sgt  
 BT Mathews, Frank M., S/Sgt  
 TG Jenkins, William H., S/Sgt  
 LWG Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt

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

P Monahan, William J., 1Lt  
 CP Clark, Martin L., 2Lt  
 NAV Maher, William P., 2Lt  
 BOM Hargrove, Walter, 2Lt  
 ENG Ignaczewski, Marion D., T/Sgt  
 RWG Gasser, Walter, S/Sgt  
 RO Kimotek, Frank, T/Sgt  
 BT Buinicky, Alfred R., S/Sgt  
 TG Miller, David, S/Sgt  
 LWG Comer, James H., S/Sgt

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

P Lemmon, John V., 1Lt  
 CP Harper, William B., 2Lt  
 NAV Gust, Darrell D., 2Lt  
 BOM Stone, Elbert E., 2Lt  
 ENG Berzansky, Andrew, T/Sgt  
 RWG Beavers, Albert T., S/Sgt  
 RO Zeller, Caryl C., T/Sgt  
 BT Bagwell, Clayton R., S/Sgt  
 TG Brown, Virgil E., S/Sgt  
 LWG Briggs, Wayne E., S/Sgt  
 PHO Luman, Morton, Sgt  
 (Abortive)

### **B-17F #42-3192 (No Name)**

P Rogan, Dave L., 1Lt  
 CP Gamble, Donald, 1Lt  
 NAV McSween, William D., 2Lt  
 BOM Coburn, Ralph F., 2Lt  
 ENG Wagner, Clyde E., T/Sgt  
 LWG Vaughn, Norville, S/Sgt  
 RO Bland, Hugh N., T/Sgt  
 BT Scharch, Richard G., S/Sgt  
 TG Gilbert, Bill A., S/Sgt  
 RWG Schmeltzer, Charles S., Sgt

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

CP 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 Giassullo, Crizcienzo N., S/Sgt  
 LWG Cobb, Edward N., Sgt

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

P Thompson, Frank H., 1Lt  
 CP Emerson, Aubrey L., 2Lt  
 NAV McConnen, James R., 2Lt  
 BOM Solverson, Robert K., 2Lt  
 ENG Welch, James R., T/Sgt  
 TT Fulanovich, Charles J., S/Sgt  
 RO McGuire, Robert J., T/Sgt  
 RWG Wilson, Donald R., S/Sgt  
 BT Nakaniski, Ralph, S/Sgt  
 TG Aubrey, Eldred L., S/Sgt  
 (Abortive)

# 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

## **B-17F #42-3002 *The Old Squaw***

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P Campbell, Claude W., 1Lt  
CP Miller, Arthur W., 2Lt  
NAV Ririe, George M., 2Lt  
BOM Boutelle, Winston E., 2Lt  
ENG Hernan, Howard E., T/Sgt  
RO Kraft, Harold A., T/Sgt  
RWG Bachert, Kurt W., S/Sgt  
BT McCauley, Patrick N., Sgt  
TG Quick, George D., S/Sgt  
LWG Wilson, Benton, S/Sgt

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

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P Loughnan, Victor J., 2Lt  
CP Gredvig, Winfield H., 2Lt  
NAV Maxwell, James L., 2Lt  
BOM Robinson, John M., 2Lt  
ENG High, Eugene W., T/Sgt  
LWG Knorpp, Billy F., S/Sgt  
RO Daley, Russell M., T/Sgt  
BT McGee, Kenneth L., S/Sgt  
RWG Barr, Gordon E., S/Sgt  
TG McConaghy, Leo R., S/Sgt  
(Abortive Sortie)

## **B-17F #42-5177 *Fast Worker MK II***

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P Mattison, Robert L., 1Lt  
CP Case, Spencer F., 2Lt  
NAV Rich, David A., 1Lt  
BOM Shafer, John H., 1Lt  
ENG Green, Frederick J., T/Sgt  
RO Nordyke, Lloyd E., T/Sgt  
TG McEachern, David C., S/Sgt  
BT Schneider, James E., S/Sgt  
LWG Boling, Shuble A., Sgt  
TT Vogel, George W., S/Sgt

## **B-17F #41-24561 *The Duchess***

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P Reeder, D.M., 2Lt  
CP McLean, Ralph C., 2Lt  
NAV Salk, Harvey M., 2Lt  
BOM Vermillion, Earl E., 2Lt  
ENG Herod, Henry W., T/Sgt  
LWG Hayes, James J., S/Sgt  
RO Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt  
RWG Hull, Kenneth W., S/Sgt  
BT Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt  
TG Swan, Henry, S/Sgt

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

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P McClung, Guy H., 1Lt  
CP Bolsover, Harold S., F/O  
NAV Street, Benjamin B., 1Lt  
BOM Rothman, Theodore I., 2Lt  
ENG Traban, James J., S/Sgt  
RO Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt  
TT Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt  
TG Piatek, Casimir P., S/Sgt  
BT Joubert, Francis M., Sgt  
LWG Ryan, Francis J., S/Sgt

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

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P Calhoun, William R., Jr., Maj  
CP Shumake, Glynn F., Capt  
NAV Strickland, Joseph M., Capt  
BOM Yonkman, Robert J., Capt  
ENG Doran, Arnold S., T/Sgt  
TT Jordan, Lloyd L., T/Sgt  
RO McGee, Paul P., S/Sgt  
TG Halpin, Robert H., F/O  
BT Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt  
LWG Kerr, Joseph, S/Sgt  
PHO Kagey, Martin I., Jr., S/Sgt

## **B-17F #42-29640 *Old Ironsides***

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P Pentz, Arthur H., 1Lt  
CP Mulligan, Thomas E., 2Lt  
NAV Alloway, Hillard C., 2Lt  
BOM Philpitt, Russell O., 1Lt  
ENG Dougherty, John A., T/Sgt  
BT Edwards, Hurd L., Sgt  
RO Murray, Robert L., T/Sgt  
RWG Horvath, Robert A., S/Sgt  
TG Knudsen, Elmer T., Sgt  
LWG Howard, George Z., S/Sgt  
(Abortive)

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P James, Jacob C., Lt  
 CP Ness, Howard C., Lt  
 NAV Scroggins, Paul W., Lt  
 BOM Witt, Walter E., Lt  
 ENG Good, James K., S/Sgt  
 BT Johnson, Otto D., S/Sgt  
 RO Hamilton, A.J., S/Sgt  
 TG Misiak, Frank L., S/Sgt  
 LWG Kesky, Leonard A., S/Sgt  
 RWG Tripp, Jesse E., Sgt

### ***B-17F #41-24416 Black Diamond Express***

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P Pratt, James H., Lt  
 CP Bowling, William A., Lt  
 NAV Boner, Allen M., Lt  
 BOM Bierman, Leonard B., Lt  
 ENG Scheuerer, Joseph E., Sgt  
 RO Royar, Frederick J., S/Sgt  
 BT Allen, Glen R., Sgt  
 TG Johnston, Walter J., S/Sgt  
 LWG Schilling, D.E., Sgt  
 RWG Humphreys, Robert R., S/Sgt

### ***B-17 #42-5341 Vicious Virgin***

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P Burch, Armand F., Lt  
 CP Cardwell, Burt J., Lt  
 NAV Illgen, Frederick J., Lt  
 BOM Butt, Byron K., Lt  
 ENG Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt  
 BT Bourdon, Louis F., S/Sgt  
 RO Ashworth, George W., S/Sgt  
 RWG Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt  
 TG Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt  
 LWG Cooney, Robert M., Sgt  
 (Abortive)

### ***B-17F #42-3124 (No Name)***

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P Shope, George W., Jr., Lt  
 CP Ashwell, Silas B., Lt  
 NAV Doyle, Robert V., Lt  
 BOM Reeder, John J., Lt  
 ENG Walsh, Charles E., T/Sgt  
 BT Tambe, Angelo J., S/Sgt  
 RO Ratliff, Leonard E., T/Sgt  
 TG Hoover, G.W., S/Sgt  
 RWG Smith, Frank D., S/Sgt  
 LWG Burns, Arthur J., S/Sgt

### ***B-17F #42-3158 Max***

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P Strickland, Alexander C., Lt  
 CP Olsen, Curtis M., Lt  
 NAV Hokans, Carl A., Lt  
 BOM Lamme, Edwin G., Lt  
 ENG Strohsack, R.R., S/Sgt  
 BT Peck, Raymond R., S/Sgt  
 RO Jessee, Jesse J., T/Sgt  
 TG Sherg, Anthony W., S/Sgt  
 LWG McGill, Edward E., S/Sgt  
 RWG Baart, James C., T/Sgt  
 PAS Lame, Louis A., Capt

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

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P Cote, Addell A., Lt  
 CP Eckhart, Alan, Lt  
 NAV Barnhill, Wilbur R, Lt  
 BOM Hull, John W., Lt  
 ENG Arter, John R., T/Sgt  
 BT May, Cecil M., S/Sgt  
 RO Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt  
 TG Gunsauls, Paul, S/Sgt  
 LWG Micek, John M., S/Sgt  
 RWG Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt  
 (Abortive Sortie)