

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 137

19 April 1944

Target: FW-190 Aircraft Factory, Kassel, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 20 + 2 spares

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: One crewman wounded by flak

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 30 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x AN-43 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 20,400 ft

Ammo Fired: 2,100 rounds

The Eighth Air Force dispatched six forces of heavy bombers with fighter escort to attack German Air Force installations. The 1st Bombardment Division (force of three B-17 Combat Wings) had FW-190 components and assembly plants at Kassel as its objective. The 2nd Bombardment Division (one Combat Wing of B-24s escorted by fighters) was assigned a military installation in the Pas de Calais area. The 3rd Bombardment Division (four forces of two B-17 Combat Wings each, and one force of two B-24 Combat Wings) was assigned five air parks in western-central Germany.

All of the assigned primary targets were hit although scattered clouds in the Kassel and Eschwege areas caused some of the formations to become separated and subsequently attack secondary targets. Enemy air opposition was surprisingly weak and enemy aircraft were not aggressive. Anti-aircraft fire in the Kassel area was intense and accurate, but generally weak and inaccurate along the routes and in other target areas.

A total of 8 aircraft were lost — 5 B-17s to enemy aircraft, 1 B-24 to flak in the Pas de Calais area, 1 P-51 to enemy action and 1 P-51 to unknown reasons. The fighters claim 16-1-2 from aerial combats in addition to the destruction and damaging of ground installations by ground strafing attacks.

Twenty 303rd BG(H) B-17s, plus two spares, took off between 0840 and 0854 hours to bomb an aircraft factory near Kassel. The secondary target was the Giessen airfield, and last resort, any German military objective. There was one abortive aircraft, #42-31583 *Clover Leaf*, 358BS-C (**Hofmann**). The navigator's oxygen pressure gauge leak caused pressure to drop. They turned back after climbing 14,000 feet over Molesworth. One of the spare aircraft filled in for the abortive ship and the other spare returned to base.

At the target, there were 4/10s stratus clouds with tops at 5,000 feet plus some cirrus clouds. Visibility was unlimited and there were no contrails. Twenty aircraft dropped 190 500-lb. A.N. M43 bombs from 20,400 feet. Bombing results

were unobserved due to smoke from previous bomb Group attacks. One B-17 dropped 50 parcels of USG 35 leaflets over the primary target.

Only two enemy aircraft were reported, but there were no attacks on the 303rd BG(H) formation. Friendly fighter support was good. Flak was intense and accurate over the target and inaccurate at five other points along the mission route. One crewman was wounded and sixteen aircraft suffered flak damage, 2 major and 14 minor. Chaff had little effect on the anti-aircraft gunfire. All aircraft returned safely to Molesworth between 1303 and 1338 hours, a six-and-one-half hour mission.

Capt. George T. **Mackin** reported, "We had a one-minute bomb run in fairly good visibility, but couldn't see the results because of the thick smoke. The flak was pretty rough at the time, but we weren't bothered at all by fighters. We had perfect fighter escort all of the way." 1Lt. C.C. **Armstrong**, a bombardier, said, "If the lead group hit the target, we did, too. There was too much smoke and flames from their bombs to see clearly, so we dropped our bombs in the middle of the smoke."



**Bombs Away!**





## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-31669 *Shoo Shoo Baby***

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P Larson, Roy A., 2Lt  
 CP Duncan, Ronald E., 2Lt  
 NAV Schmid, Ralph D., 2Lt  
 NG Czczotka, Theodore R., S/Sgt  
 ENG Campbell, Thomas J., Sgt  
 BT Brim, Lee R., Sgt  
 RO Culp, Everett E., Sgt  
 LWG Schinker, Arthur W., Sgt  
 TG Hodge, Herman L., Sgt  
 RWG Thayer, Duane P., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-107002 *Mairzy Doats***

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P Hall, Charles M., 2Lt  
 CP Stewart, Paul C., 2Lt  
 NAV Moller, Robert C., 2Lt  
 BOM Manze, Dario J., F/O  
 ENG Coe, Thomas E., Jr., S/Sgt  
 RWG Cast, James L., Sgt  
 RO Jones, Drackart L., Sgt  
 TG Cadlolo, Raymond E., Sgt  
 BT Jasinski, Joseph T., Sgt  
 LWG Sable, Roy A., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31739 *Pugnacious Peter***

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P Ferguson, Wendell Z., 1Lt  
 CP Moody, James D., 2Lt  
 NAV Brown, James F., 2Lt  
 NG Loveland, William H., S/Sgt  
 ENG Matthews, David R., Sgt  
 LWG Basteau, Edward L., 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 #42-97622 *Paper Dollie***

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P McClure, Thomas R., 1Lt  
 CP Cook, John H., 2Lt  
 NAV Brady, Joseph E., 2Lt  
 BOM Stavast, James A., 2Lt  
 ENG Swift, Herbert E., S/Sgt  
 LWG Kent, Amos, Sgt  
 RO Frazee, Francis L., Sgt  
 RWG Rowe, Thomas M., Sgt  
 TG Senheiser, George A., Sgt  
 BT Duncan, George T., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-38204 (No Name)**

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P Seddon, John R., 2Lt  
 CP Burks, Charles D., 2Lt  
 NAV Levy, Herbert E., Jr., 2Lt  
 BOM Meldrich, Walter A., 2Lt  
 ENG Rogers, Edward E., S/Sgt  
 LWG Nemchick, John, Sgt  
 RO Hess, John C., S/Sgt  
 RWG Holcomb, I.L., Sgt  
 TG Mummery, William T., Sgt  
 BT Maloney, Donald F., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31574 *Ole George***

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P Mackin, George T., Capt  
 CP Watson, Jack W., 1Lt  
 NAV Minkowitz, Samuel, 1Lt  
 BOM Armstrong, Charles C., 1Lt  
 ENG Hoffman, Robert W., T/Sgt  
 RWG Daniel, Herbert A., S/Sgt  
 RO Balzano, Christopher, T/Sgt  
 BT Hickey, Thomas P., Sgt  
 TG Stender, Francis H., T/Sgt  
 LWG Miller, Victor R., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31583 *Clover Leaf***

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P Hofmann, Raymond, 2Lt  
 CP Miller, Campbell, 2Lt  
 NAV Williams, Jack N., 2Lt  
 BOM Israelson, Elmer P., 2Lt  
 ENG Blakeney, William R., Jr., S/Sgt  
 BT Crenshaw, Ollie G., Sgt  
 RO Berman, Seymour, S/Sgt  
 RWG Miller, David I., Sgt  
 LWG Bahr, John W., Sgt  
 TG Hendin, Bernard J., Sgt  
 (Abortive)

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-31483 *Bonnie B***

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P	Daub, Leroy E., 1Lt
CP	Sassone, Joseph C., 2Lt
NAV	Walsh, Myles J., 2Lt
BOM	Joyce, John D., 2Lt
ENG	Carter, Edward K., S/Sgt
RO	Kelly, Victor S., T/Sgt
RWG	McKenna, Robert I., S/Sgt
LWG	Haman, Ray T., S/Sgt
BT	Gilmore, Charles E., T/Sgt
TG	Considine, Louis W., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird***

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P	Marsh, Richard K., 2Lt
CP	Meier, Russell W., 2Lt
NAV	Livermore, William D., 1Lt
TOG	Moening, Herman G., Sgt
ENG	Davis, Eugene B., S/Sgt
RO	Minks, George A., S/Sgt
BT	Munson, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Moessner, Raymond J., S/Sgt
RWG	Rogers, Warren G., Sgt
LWG	Dean, Raymond N., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31830 *Marie***

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P	Daum, Maurice G., 2Lt
CP	Gorecki, Victor T., 2Lt
NAV	Forve, Frank F., 2Lt
BOM	Grove, Terril M., 2Lt
ENG	Matthews, Fred T., T/Sgt
RO	McLaughlin, William C., 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 #42-39807 *Nero***

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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

### **B-17G #42-97284 *Ain't Misbehavin***

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P	Newell, Noel N., 1Lt
CP	Donalson, Douglas C., 2Lt
NAV	Bates, Robert L., 2Lt
BOM	Yelsky, Fred B., 2Lt
ENG	Freinwald, Earl C., T/Sgt
RWG	McGee, Richard, S/Sgt
RO	Weepie, Robert F., T/Sgt
LWG	Mendel, Myron R., S/Sgt
BT	Hart, Edgar B., S/Sgt
TG	Atkinson, William E., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31213 *Pistol Packin' Mama***

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P	Moser, Clinton A., 2Lt.
CP	Lux, Andrew L., 2Lt
NAV	Andreasen, Rolf W., 2Lt
BOM	Campbell, Frank P., 2Lt
ENG	Mays, Pearl E., S/Sgt
RO	Zionkoski, John T., S/Sgt
BT	Parrish, Vernon, Sgt
TG	Seelock, Joseph J., Sgt
TT	Duffey, Willis A., Sgt
LWG	Raines, Donald E., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97272 *Duchess' Daughter***

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P	Edwards, Kenneth C., 1Lt
CP	Peterson, Edwin V., 2Lt
NAV	Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
BOM	Kolling, Arthur J., S/Sgt
ENG	Johnson, Kenneth V., S/Sgt
RO	Kennedy, Herbert W., S/Sgt
BT	Guzman, Abel G., Sgt
RWG	Wike, Leonard L., S/Sgt
TG	Kowalk, Francis H., S/Sgt
LWG	Abernathy, Fay S., S/Sgt
PHO	Green, William H., T/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97254 *Iza Vailable Too (360BS)***

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P	Johnston, Donald M., 2Lt
CP	Heussler, Robert W., 2Lt
NAV	Schultz, Milo R., 2Lt
BOM	Davis, Paul J., 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., Sgt

(Spare - returned, 360BS B-17 and crew)

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-38020 V-Packet**

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P	Shope, George W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Greenwood, Ernest G., 2Lt
NAV	Meagher, Robert W., 2Lt
BOM	Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt
TT	Relyea, Ralph R., T/Sgt
RO	Cohen, Leo, T/Sgt
BT	Plante, Royal F., S/Sgt
TG	Underwood, Clifford B., S/Sgt
LWG	O'Neil, Austin J., Sgt
RWG	Hadley, Owen W., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97096 (No Name)**

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P	Sullivan, Francis X., 1Lt
CP	Brangwin, Kenneth R., 2Lt
NAV	Peacock, Lawrence A., 1Lt
BOM	Umphress, F.E., Jr., 1Lt
TT	Frey, James L., S/Sgt
BT	Latta, Thomas B., T/Sgt
RO	Sullivan, James J., T/Sgt
TG	Stone, Vernon W., S/Sgt
RWG	Swanson, Charles A., S/Sgt
RWG	Keely, Eugene F., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31200 Old Crow**

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P	Wood, Vere A., 1Lt
CP	Knutson, Wilmer A., 2Lt
NAV	Pinnette, William S., 2Lt
BOM	Brown, Thomas G., 1Lt
TT	Tevis, John E., S/Sgt
BT	Grant, Thomas V., S/Sgt
RO	Brooks, Winnie R., T/Sgt
RWG	Heathershaw, Charles L., S/Sgt
TG	Helton, Edward, S/Sgt
LWG	Musashe, Michael, S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-32027 Betty Jane**

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P	Oranges, Chester N., 2Lt
CP	Lawrenson, George C., 2Lt
NAV	Whitman, John H., 2Lt
ENG	Wright, Edgar A., S/Sgt
TT	Eisenhauer, James A., Sgt
BT	Gentry, Richard A., Sgt
RO	Sorese, Leonard V., S/Sgt
TG	Franklin, Robert E., Sgt
RWG	Korpi, Walfred J., S/Sgt
LWG	Ward, Homer J., Jr., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-37875 Empress of D Street**

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P	Savage, Gilbert T., 2Lt
CP	Belknap, Robert W., 2Lt
NAV	Coffey, John B., 2Lt
BOM	Coughlin, George A., 2Lt
TT	Kelly, J.D., S/Sgt
BT	Holt, Richard R., Sgt
TG	Paul, Samuel D., S/Sgt
TG	Stover, Edward J., Sgt
RWG	Layton, Wilber A., Sgt
LWG	Jefferson, Arthur G., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-38051 My Yorkshire Dream**

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P	Estes, Shirley W., Lt
CP	Byers, Ballard T., Lt
NAV	Shemwell, John T., 2Lt
BOM	Clapp, Keith W., 2Lt
TT	Price, Jack J., S/Sgt
BT	Teno, James R., S/Sgt
RO	Wagner, Wayne, S/Sgt
TG	Ross, Samuel C., S/Sgt
RWG	Silrum, Orvis K., Sgt
LWG	Ford, Thomas P., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-39885 Sweet Rose O'Grady**

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P	O'Hare, Phil W., 2Lt
CP	Schwolow, John C., 2Lt
NAV	Cronin, Ernest L., 1Lt
BOM	Bawol, Walter S., 1Lt
TT	Souder, Lee F., Jr., Sgt
RO	Kosher, Albert J., S/Sgt
BT	McMahan, Bonnar P., S/Sgt
TG	McLaughlin, Jesse W., S/Sgt
LWG	Kossin, Jack, S/Sgt
RWG	Rider, Wilbert, Sgt