

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 233

27 August 1944

Target: Airfield at Esbjerg, Denmark

Crews Dispatched: 37

Crews Lost: Lt. Yarnall, 8 KIA, 1 POW; Lt. Hallum, 1 KIA, 8 B/O

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 55 minutes

Bomb Load: 5 x 1,000 lb G.P. M44 & 10 x 500 lb M17 Incendiary

Bombing Altitudes: 20,800 & 19,700 ft

Ammo Fired: 43,825 rounds

Thirty-seven 303rd BG(H) aircraft took off to attack the Focke-Wulf assembly plant at Johannisthal, near Berlin. Berlin was the target if PFF bombing was used. The secondary target was Rechlin/Lars airfield, Germany, and the last resort targets were the Perleburg and Sohwer airfields in Germany. No aircraft returned early. The 303rd BG(H) furnished the weather B-17.

High clouds made it impossible to reach any of the assigned targets. Over Denmark there were 6/10 to 8/10 towering cumulus clouds. The target, the Esbjaerg, Denmark airfield, was bombed through a break in the undercast. Aircraft dropped 115 1,000-lb. G.P. M44 and 10 500-lb. M17 incendiary bombs from 20,800 and 19,700 ft. The lead Group hit in a hangar area, while the low Group hit a railroad track west of the airfield. Only one B-17 in the high Group dropped its bombs. B-17G #43-37590 *Neva - The Silver Lady*, 359BS (Lt. **Whittall**), failed to bomb because the bomb bay switches were not turned on.

No enemy aircraft were seen and friendly fighter support was excellent. Chaff did not break up properly and had very little effect. Moderate and accurate flak was encountered at the target. Two aircraft sustained major and thirteen, minor battle damage. Returning B-17s contained one wounded crewman. Two Fortresses received direct hits by flak.

#43-37629 (*No Name*), 360BS, piloted by 1Lt. Winfield L. **Yarnall**, was flying in the No. 1 position, low Squadron, low Group. It received a direct hit in the fuselage just back of the wings near Esbjaerg, Denmark. It immediately broke in half and fell away in two pieces. No parachutes were seen. Lt. **Yarnall**, 2Lt. Louis A. **Bertich**, 2Lt. Isaac N. **Sanford**, Jr., 2Lt. Harry B. **Britter**, T/Sgt. Anthony **Fidares**, T/Sgt. Albert W. **Baker**, Jr., S/Sgt. Rubin **Taxon** and S/Sgt. Dominick **DiSalvo** were all killed. T/Sgt. **Baker** is buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium. S/Sgt. Melvin **Birenbach** was captured by the enemy and became a POW.

#42-37841 *Banshee*, 360BS, piloted by 1Lt. Bertrand **Hallum**, Jr., was hit over Esbjaerg and the tail was blown off, including the rudder, parts of the elevators, and a little bit of the stabilizer. The tail gunner, S/Sgt. Milt I. **Ross**, was killed when the whole tail section was blown off in small pieces. Lt. **Hallum** was able to fly the aircraft back to England. Near Middlesham, he ordered the crew to bail out and let the B-17 crash. All bailouts were successful. The B-17 was on its 97th mission—a record at that time for any 303rd BG(H) aircraft. The B-17 crashed at Badingham, U.K.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Travis-Lynch</u> 557 - PFF		
		<u>Whittall</u> 590	<u>Hahn</u> 125 - PFF	
	<u>Lee</u> 574		<u>Brabant</u> 484	
<u>Goering</u> 298		<u>Graham</u> 065	<u>Parker</u> 483	<u>Virag</u> 177
	<u>Paullin</u> 191		<u>McConnell</u> 200	
<u>Mayer</u> 176		<u>White</u> 945		
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WINFIELD L. YARNALL CREW - 360th BS
(crew assigned 360BS: 22 June 1944)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Brown-Caldwell</u> 544			
		<u>Crawford</u> 739		<u>Hallum</u> 841	
	<u>Yarnall</u> 629			<u>Jenkins</u> 781	
<u>Mehlhoff</u> 949		<u>Connelly</u> 861		<u>Lorentz</u> 076	<u>Gould</u> 7206
	<u>Baehr</u> 8206			_____	
<u>Bennett</u> 329		<u>Michaelis</u> 187		_____	_____
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BERTRAND HALLUM, JR. CREW - 360th BS
(crew assigned 360BS: 30 June 1944 - photo: 27 July 1944)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

		<u>Flesh-Cable</u> 281		
		<u>Caplinger</u> 057	<u>Ackerman</u> 885	
	<u>Bliss</u> 311			<u>Walker</u> 537
<u>Davis</u> 186		<u>Newton</u> 238	<u>Baltes</u> 944	<u>Underdown</u> 830
	<u>Griggs</u> 323			
<u>Eisenwinter</u> 9875		<u>Dubose</u> 248		



Formation over the channel. B-17G #44-6076 Liberty Run 359BS (BN-Y) in foreground.

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38191 *Shasta*

P	Paullin, James R., 2Lt
CP	Hinton, William B., 2Lt
NAV	Hunt, John W., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Simons, Robert A., 2Lt
ENG	Johnson, James P., S/Sgt
BT	Biestek, Stanley H., Sgt
RO	Thomas, Henry T., S/Sgt
WG	Woodward, Thomas J., Sgt
TG	Butler, Woodley O., Sgt

B-17G #42-97298 *The Floose*

P	Goering, Werner G., 2Lt
CP	Rencher, Jack P., 2Lt
NAV	Markt, Rex H., F/O
BOM	Sachau, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Gustafson, Orall R., Sgt
BT	LaPerch, William J., Sgt
RO	Brodzinski, Chester, Sgt
WG	Houseman, Clarence W., Sgt
TG	Mahan, Welson T., Sgt

B-17G #43-38200 *(No Name)*

P	McConnell, John, 1Lt
CP	Thomas, Charles E., 2Lt
NAV	Atwood, Thomas M., 2Lt
BOM	Bennett, Robert W., 2Lt
ENG	Johnson, Jack M., S/Sgt
WG	Schneider, Lawrence J., Sgt
RO	Rego, Charles J., S/Sgt
TG	Krebs, Henry R., Sgt
BT	Messerich, Jerome P., S/Sgt

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

P	Lee, Gareth G., 1Lt
CP	Bowman, William E., F/O
NAV	Sweig, Morris, 2Lt
BOM	Carloss, Earl W., 2Lt
ENG	Leimgruebler, Victor H., S/Sgt
WG	Olive, Martin, Sgt
RO	Adkinson, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Newman, Gerald D., Sgt
BT	Grundon, Joseph D., Sgt

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS 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 RESULTS OF MISSION 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 cuntry 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 - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-38065 *Princess Pat 2*

P	Graham, Edward, Jr., 2Lt
CP	Lay, William P., 2Lt
NAV	Lasker, Robert M., 2Lt
BOM	Bohannon, Jackson R., 2Lt
ENG	Miller, Ray A., Sgt
WG	Hasper, Donald T., Sgt
RO	Kane, Fred E., Sgt
TG	Gillespie, Henry F., Sgt
BT	Kedzierski, Edward P., Sgt

B-17G #43-37590 *Neva The Silver Lady*

P	Whittall, Ernest A., 2Lt
CP	Grisham, Rufus W., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Hartel, Gale E., 2Lt
BOM	Celich, Nicholas J., 2Lt
ENG	Scheuermann, Edwin P., S/Sgt
BT	Loessin, Gerhard W., Jr., Sgt
RO	Post, Harry R., Sgt
WG	Buie, Ben M., Sgt
TG	Willis, Arnold, Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #43-38176 *Bouncing Betty II*

P	Mayer, Walter J., 2Lt
CP	Gradle, Raymond B., 2Lt
NAV	Poehlman, Robert L., 2Lt
BOM	Rogers, Oron J., 2Lt
ENG	Hicks, Douglas E., S/Sgt
WG	Withers, Frederick J., Sgt
RO	Jennings, Archie R., T/Sgt
BT	Vanderhoff, Grant W., Sgt
TG	Gendron, Ernest J., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-102945 *Sweet Pea*

P	White, Franklin F., 2Lt
CP	Petersen, John N., 2Lt
NAV	Kaufman, Seymour, F/O
BOM	Ross, Robert M., 2Lt
ENG	Adams, William J., S/Sgt
WG	Hein, Monroe C., Sgt
RO	Vesely, Henry L., S/Sgt
BT	Gilman, Frederick S., S/Sgt
TG	Campbell, James R., Sgt

B-17G #42-97557 - PFF

CMP	Travis, Robert F., BGen
P	Lynch, Robert J., Capt
NAV	Steely, Hobart H., Capt
NAV	Hunt, Jackson H., 2Lt
NAV	Garrett, Robert M., 2Lt
BOM	Wilson, Claud, 1Lt
ENG	Haskell, Whitney, T/Sgt
WG	Munn, Charles F., S/Sgt
RO	Balzano, Christopher, T/Sgt
TG	Douglass, Earl B., 2Lt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31177 *Lonesome Polecat*

P Virag, Andy R., 2Lt
CP Beck, Edward R., 2Lt
NAV Harrison, Hertzell, 2Lt
BOM Hanley, Bernard A., 2Lt
ENG Jeter, James E., Jr., S/Sgt
RO Vrabel, Cyril A., S/Sgt
BT Gurka, Stanley, Jr., Sgt
TG Bowman, John H., Sgt
WG Schlottmann, Jerome D., T/Sgt

B-17G #44-6076 *Liberty Run*

P Lorentz, Arthur, 2Lt
CP Scott, Robert H., 2Lt
NAV Smith, William A., 2Lt
BOM Hewitt, LeRoy A., 2Lt
ENG Kreager, Jon B., Sgt
RO Ringen, Walter E., Sgt
BT Ingalls, Earl F., Cpl
TG Greenwald, Paul L., Sgt
WG Gonser, Dwight W., Cpl

B-17G #42-102484 *Heller's Angel*

P Brabant, Patrick H., 1Lt
CP Judy, Ira J., 2Lt
NAV Heatherly, Phillip P., 1Lt
BOM Cooney, Thomas E., 2Lt
ENG Hodge, Dana A., T/Sgt
RO Cohen, Seymour T., Sgt
BT Marquez, Robert P., S/Sgt
TG Millek, John P., S/Sgt
WG Valentine, Robert J., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-107206 *Old Black Magic*

P Gould, Graham C., 1Lt
CP Lasker, Yale, 2Lt
NAV Leigh, Thomas W., Jr., 2Lt
TOG Reynolds, Ralph J., 2Lt
ENG Mogck, Leonard, T/Sgt
RO Anderson, Augustus C., S/Sgt
BT Thompson, Val E., S/Sgt
TG Gloria, Tony N., Sgt
WG Bandy, Peter C., Sgt

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

P Parker, John W., 2Lt
CP Bergeron, Arthur A., 2Lt
NAV Wodinsky, Abraham, 2Lt
TOG Arendt, John L., S/Sgt
ENG Davis, Eugene B., T/Sgt
RO Carman, Nolan, W., Sgt
BT Stephan, Kenneth R., S/Sgt
TG Turkington, Calvin G., S/Sgt
WG Nichols, Dalbee, S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97944 *Daddy's Delight*

P Baltus, George E., 1Lt
CP Marble, Robert A., 2Lt
NAV Macaulay, Edward H., 2Lt
BOM Glover, Fred E., 2Lt
ENG Stenger, John J., Jr., S/Sgt
RO Giltenboth, Charles L., S/Sgt
BT Kanz, Milton C., Sgt
TG Posluszny, Branislaw B., Sgt
WG Godsey, Austin C., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P Underdown, Sidney L., 2Lt
CP Knolle, William C., 2Lt
NAV Kenny, John P., 2Lt
BOM Tyree, Joseph C., 2Lt
ENG Kuwik, John J., S/Sgt
RO Posada, Frank G., S/Sgt
BT Guptill, Walter R., Sgt
TG Stevens, Richard G., Sgt
WG Botton, Pius L., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #43-37537 *Queen of Hearts*

P Walker, Lewis M., 1Lt
CP Doyle, Joseph J., 2Lt
NAV Donovan, James R., 2Lt
BOM Beers, Donald, 2Lt
ENG Sublett, James W., S/Sgt
RO Lunday, Albert J., S/Sgt
BT Hundley, Walter L., Sgt
TG Reckert, Arthur C., Sgt
WG Mathis, Henry C., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-97781 *The '8' Ball MK III*

P Jenkins, Harry F., 2Lt
CP Blanchard, Samuel B., 2Lt
NAV Nute, Gordon B., 2Lt
BOM Protzman, John W., 2Lt
ENG Gillespie, Norton A., S/Sgt
RO Loosemore, Wesley G., S/Sgt
BT Fydrychowski, John J., Sgt
TG Cregan, John M., Sgt
WG Allen, Charles G., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Crawford, William C., 1Lt
CP	Kidd, Warren D., 2Lt
NAV	Orenstein, Harold A., 2Lt
BOM	Woodbury, Benton R., 2Lt
ENG	LeRoux, Lyle W., T/Sgt
RO	Miller, William L., T/Sgt
BT	Whitney, Daniel F., S/Sgt
TG	Barder, Emmett R., S/Sgt
WG	Patton, Nelson R., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-8125 *Sparky - PFF*

P	Hahn, James T., 1Lt
CP	Fulks, James O., 2Lt
NAV	Edwards, Frank A., 1Lt
BOM	Charlton, Rufus S., 2Lt
ENG	Sudderth, Ralph M., 1Lt
RO	Conkling, John R., S/Sgt
BT	Darbowski, Andrew, Sgt
TG	Howald, Hans, S/Sgt
WG	Lusk, Robert F., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-37841 *Banshee CR-L*

P	Hallum, Bertrand, Jr., 2Lt	BO
CP	Romstad, Alfred M., 2Lt	BO
NAV	Olson, Charles F., 2Lt	BO
BOM	Fetzko, John, Jr., 2Lt	BO
ENG	Young, Horace B., S/Sgt	BO
RO	Botkin, Jack S., S/Sgt	BO
BT	Ax, Heinz R., Sgt	BO
TG	Ross, Milt I., Sgt	KIA
WG	Stroud, George E., Jr., Sgt	BO

B-17G #42-97187 *Miss Umbriago*

P	Michaelis, Arthur D., 2Lt
CP	Johnson, Danny D., 2Lt
NAV	Lillig, Thomas J., 2Lt
BOM	Schobert, William A., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Jones, Donald E., S/Sgt
RO	Jensen, Dale E., S/Sgt
BT	Barth, Harry W., Sgt
TG	Healy, Edward P., Sgt
WG	Hlavac, George A., Sgt

B-17G #42-97949 *(No Name)*

P	Mehlhoff, Arthur R., 2Lt
CP	Nelson, Edgar H., 2Lt
NAV	Williams, Gaylon C., 2Lt
BOM	Newcomb, Harry F., Jr., F/O
ENG	Wagner, Donald L., S/Sgt
RO	Thye, Norman W., S/Sgt
BT	Keeran, Elwood R., Sgt
TG	Quackenbush, Benjamin V., Sgt
WG	Harms, Vernon H., Sgt

B-17G #43-38206 *Silver Fox*

P	Baehr, Kenneth C., 1Lt
CP	King, John E., F/O
NAV	Peacock, Thomas I., 2Lt
BOM	Smith, William H., 2Lt
ENG	Brackett, Clarence H., S/Sgt
RO	Ploeger, Jesse, S/Sgt
BT	Decker, Bruce O., Sgt
TG	Keipper, Carl E., Sgt
WG	Baldwin, Kenton F., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-102544 *Sack Time*

P	Brown, Leonard M., 1Lt
CP	Caldwell, Frederick J., 1Lt
NAV	Hardwick, Jack C., 2Lt
BOM	Blythe, Robert W., Jr., 1Lt
ENG	Jamison, Charles A., T/Sgt
RO	Libert, Irving, T/Sgt
BT	LaFranchi, Albert S., S/Sgt
TG	Johnson, Francis D., S/Sgt
WG	Enget, Obert L., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97861 *Iza Vailable III*

P	Connelly, Ben L., 2Lt
CP	Kuykendall, Roger L., 1Lt
NAV	Levin, Albert, 2Lt
BOM	Shelley, David R., 2Lt
ENG	Coyne, John A., S/Sgt
RO	Schneider, Dale E., S/Sgt
BT	Evans, Ralph V., Sgt
TG	Bur, Robert D., Sgt
WG	Koppes, Carl A., Sgt

B-17G #43-37629 (No Name) CR-L

P	Yarnall, Winfield L., 1Lt	KIA
CP	Bertich, Louis A., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Sanford, Isaac N., 2Lt	KIA
BOM	Britter, Harry B., 2Lt	KIA
ENG	Fidares, Anthony, S/Sgt	KIA
RO	Baker, Albert W., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Taxon, Rubin, Sgt	KIA
TG	Birenbach, Melvin, Sgt	KIA
WG	Di Salvo, Dominick, Sgt	POW

B-17G #42-97329 *Flak Hack*

P	Bennett, Paul K., 2Lt
CP	Goff, Lloyd E., 2Lt
NAV	Lane, Elwin A., F/O
BOM	Singular, William H., 2Lt
ENG	Gonshor, Edmund A., S/Sgt
RO	Shulan, Gerald M., S/Sgt
BT	Jones, Charles E., Sgt
TG	Essig, Charles G., Sgt
WG	Marucco, Leroy N., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38248 *Jigger Rooche II*

P Dubose, Carl L., Jr., 1Lt
CP Droll, Louis P., 2Lt
NAV Laverty, Leo E., 2Lt
T Muzyka, Myron M., S/Sgt
TT Bourlier, Donald W., S/Sgt
BT Kidd, Robert E., Sgt
RO Kollmar, Donald L., S/Sgt
TG Watson, Byron W., Sgt
WG Balint, Daniel, Jr., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #43-38238 (No Name)

P Newton, John A., 2Lt
CP Mowatt, Frank G., 2Lt
NAV Lange, George L., 2Lt
BOM Miller, Charles F., 2Lt
TT Turner, Leonard A., S/Sgt
BT Bricker, Albert W., S/Sgt
RO Islava, Joseph O., S/Sgt
TG Hobgood, John F., S/Sgt
WG Reeves, James E., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-97311 *Shoo Shoo Baby*

P Bliss, Robert P., 1Lt
CP Morrow, John E., 2Lt
NAV Sumbur, Simon, 1Lt
BOM Smoleroff, Theodore L., 2Lt
TT Shumar, Carl K., Sgt
BT Eakins, Charles A, Jr., Sgt
RO Herman, Benjamin, Sgt
TG Plesinger, Michael J., Sgt
WG Curry, Richard L., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #43-38186 (No Name)

P Davis, Robert W., 2Lt
CP Sayre, Dorwin D., 2Lt
NAV Martin, Walter E., F/O
BOM Bryan, Fred W., F/O
TT Hiibner, Okey L., Sgt
BT Johnson, Charles H., Sgt
RO Pope, Lester L., Sgt
TG Ruhge, Wayne L., S/Sgt
WG Smirnes, E. "Nick", Jr., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #43-38057 (No Name)

P Caplinger, Auston O., 2Lt
CP Spruner, Donald L., 2Lt
NAV Katz, Edwin Harold, 2Lt
BOM Bober, Stanley, 2Lt
TT Toth, Ernest, Sgt
BT Jacobs, Carroll W., Jr., Sgt
RO Mittell, Philip P., Sgt
TG Delcher, Merlin S., Sgt
WG Olds, Andrew R., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-39875 *Buzz Blonde*

P Eisenwinter, Philip D., 2Lt
CP Waggoner, Richard C., 2Lt
NAV Norman, Frederick J., 2Lt
BOM Campbell, Robert C., 2Lt
TT Noah, Norbert O., S/Sgt
BT Veljkov, Paul, Sgt
RO Murphy, William A., S/Sgt
TG Ross, Edward E., Sgt
WG Henry, Donivan D., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-38323 (No Name)

P Griggs, John C., 2Lt
CP Dumont, Merrill J., 2Lt
NAV Malone, William A., 2Lt
BOM Rohner, William L., 2Lt
TT Monnig, Alvin R., Jr., S/Sgt
BT Duffel, Robert L., Sgt
RO Benning, Joseph F., Jr., S/Sgt
TG Means, Henry H., Jr., Sgt
WG Bruce, Miles R., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Ackerman, Stewart S., Jr., 2Lt
CP Lawrenson, George C., 2Lt
NAV DuBois, Benjamin F., 2Lt
BOM Oswald, Alois G., Jr., 2Lt
TT Creaghan, Robert E., Sgt
BT Highfill, Thomas W., Sgt
RO Ribesky, John V., Jr., Sgt
TG Wienczek, Edward J., Sgt
WG Proper, George M., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-97281 Queenie

P Flesh, William R., 1Lt
CP Cable, Richard E., 2Lt
NAV Tollack, Howard V., 1Lt
BOM Spooner, Ramon L., 2Lt
BOM Webster, Charles M., 1Lt
TT Garrett, Joe W., T/Sgt
BT Tambe, Angelo J., T/Sgt
RO O'Leary, James A., T/Sgt
TG Gude, Richard C., S/Sgt
WG Price, John B., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)