

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 241

12 September 1944

Synthetic Oil Plant at Brux, Czechoslovakia

Crews Dispatched: 26

Crews Lost: Lt. Clemensen, 4 KIA, 5 POW; Lt. Mehlhoff, 9 POW

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: Sgt. M.R. Bruce KIA,

Lt. R.H. Parrilla WIA/DOW, Lt. K.H. Freeman, WIA

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 50 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb G.P. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 28,300 & 27,800 ft

Ammo Fired: 16,195 rounds

The 41st CBW again attacked a synthetic oil refinery at Brux, Czechoslovakia. The secondary target was the Czechoslovakian aircraft components plant at Mejdek. The last resort targets were a German aero-engine plant at Eisenach and an aircraft repair facility at Zwickau. No aircraft returned early.

Twenty-three aircraft dropped 209 500-lb. G.P. M43 bombs from 28,300 and 27,800 ft. visually through 4/10 to 5/10 low clouds. Drifting clouds obscured the bombing results. Intense and accurate flak was encountered over the target. Nine aircraft sustained major and five, minor battle damage. Chaff had no effect.

The Luftwaffe put in a short, but destructive, appearance: 303rd BG(H) gunners received a good workout and three of our Fortresses were lost. Approximately 25 aircraft made vicious attacks. They were primarily ME-109s, with a few FW-190s and jets. Most attacks came out of the sun to attack high on the front and then peel off down through the formations.

Gunner Claims: Destroyed 6, Probable 10, Damaged 0, **Total 16**

Confirmed Claims: Destroyed 3, Probable 0, Damaged 3, **Total 6**, No Claim 10

		<u>Claim:</u>	<u>Confirmed:</u>
S/Sgt Fred Gilman and			
S/Sgt James R. Campbell (739)	ME-109	Probable	No Claim
T/Sgt Warren L. Kishbaugh (557)	ME-109	Probable	No Claim
Sgt Carroll W. Jacobs (027)	ME-109	Probable	No Claim
S/Sgt Robert D. Bur (124)	ME-109	Probable	No Claim
Sgt Henry F. Gillespie (316)	ME-109	Destroyed	No Claim
Cpl Luther McCullough (076)	ME-109	Probable	No Claim
S/Sgt Thomas L. Weems (318)	ME-109	Probable	No Claim
2Lt William A. Schobert (860)	ME-109	Probable	No Claim
Sgt Walter R. Guptill (289)	ME-109	Probable	No Claim
Sgt Vincent A. DeLiso (099)	ME-109	Probable	No Claim
Lt Constantine J. Duros (318)	ME-109	Destroyed	Destroyed
Sgt Charles R. Coughlin (893)	ME-109	Destroyed	Destroyed
Sgt Robert F. Burkemer (885)	FW-190	Destroyed	Destroyed
Sgt Jimmie R. Smith (893)	ME-109	Probable	Damaged
Lt Joseph C. Tyree (289)	ME-109	Destroyed	Damaged
Lt John W. Protzman (944)	ME-109	Probable	Damaged

Poor fighter support was provided by 238 P-51s and P-47s, being somewhat scattered and spotty. A big gap in support appeared when the enemy aircraft attacked and, again, in the target area.



ARNOLD P. MOSEL CREW - 360th BS

(crew assigned 360BS: 15 July 1944 - photo: 26 Aug 1944)
 (Back L-R) Capt Arnold P. Mosel (P), 2Lt Kenneth H. Freeman (CP),
 1Lt Gabriel Rudolph (B), 2Lt Bruce C. Stangohr (N)
 (Front L-R) S/Sgt Gerald J. Groth (R), S/Sgt Donand H. Conley (E),
 S/Sgt Joseph C. Bialobrzkeski (WG), Sgt Frank J. Crawford, Jr. (BTG),
 Sgt Jerome J. Koshar (WG)

360BS B-17G *Miss Liberty* #42-31340, piloted by Lt. Arnold **Mosel**, lost two engines from the fighter attacks northeast of Berlin. The Fortress flew the entire width of Germany and over occupied countries, without escort, at a 105 mph indicated air speed. *Miss Liberty* was on her 93rd mission and ran into flak from an enemy battery at Boulogne where a third engine was lost. It crash landed with one engine operating at Ruxquelier, France, under very difficult conditions. Bombardier, Lt. **Parrilla**, who was flying on his final mission, was seriously wounded during



1Lt Rufe H. Parrilla

the crash landing. He was left in a Canadian hospital in the Pas de Calais area. He died on 15 September, three days after he was injured. The crew was transferred to an RAF station in England where the co-pilot, Lt. Kenneth H. **Freeman**, who had been wounded in both of his legs, was left. On the night of 14 September, the returned crew contacted Molesworth, requesting transportation home. Maj. John J. **Casello** flew to the RAF airfield and returned the pilot, Lt. **Mosel** and navigator, Lt. William K. **Mundell**, and the enlisted crewmen to Molesworth.

Sgt. Miles R. **Bruce**, tail gunner on #42-97311 427BS, piloted by Lt. John C. **Griggs**, Jr., had his oxygen supply cut off by a 7.9mm shell, and suffered fatal wounds. He is buried in the Cambridge American Cemetery, England.



Sgt Miles R. Bruce

Two other 303rd BG(H) aircraft were lost over Germany during the fighter attack. #42-31177 *Lonesome Polecat*, 359BS, piloted by 2Lt. Richard L. **Clemensen**, was hit by seven fighter attacks between 1100 and 1130 hours. They made a hole in the front part of the wing close to the No. 3 engine. Strips were flying off the wing. Another attack forced it out of the formation and it slid off

and dropped down. The horizontal stabilizer was also hit and strips of metal were coming off. Then the wing caught fire. When last seen, it was in a glide, still under control. No parachutes were seen. The aircraft crashed near Berlin. Lt. **Clemensen**, 2Lt. Frank W. **Stafford**, Sgt. Eugene F. **McCroxy**, Jr. and Sgt. Nick **Kriss** were killed. Lt. **Clemensen** and Sgt. **McCroxy** are buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium. 2Lt. George S. **Burson**, 2Lt. James J. **Crooke**, Jr., Sgt. Kurt **Schubach**, Sgt. Lloyd L. **Albern** and Sgt. John W. **Jauernig** were captured and became POWs.



ARTHUR R. MEHLHOFF CREW - 360th BS

(crew assigned 360BS: 25 July 1944 - photo: 29 Aug 1944)

(Back L-R) 1Lt Arthur R. Mehlhoff (P), 2Lt Galen C. Williams (N), 2Lt Harry F. Newcomb, Jr. (B), 2Lt Edgar H. Nelson (CP) - (Front) S/Sgt Vernon H. Harms (WG), S/Sgt Benjamin V. Quackenbush (TG), T/Sgt Norman W. Thye (R), T/Sgt Donald L. Wagner (E), S/Sgt Elwood R. Keeran (BT)

#42-107196 *Temptress*, 360BS, piloted by 1Lt. Arthur R. **Mehlhoff**, received a hit in its No. 1 engine and the propeller was feathered. It first dropped back out of formation and seemed to be holding altitude pretty well. It then slid off to the left and made a 180 degree east turn. When last seen, it was in a tight spin, apparently after the crew bailed out. Nine parachutes were seen. The aircraft crashed near Jachymov, Czechoslovakia. Lt. **Mehlhoff**, 2Lt. Edgar H. **Nelson**, 2Lt. Gaylon C. **Williams**, 2Lt. Harry F. **Newcomb**, Jr., T/Sgt. Donald L. **Wagner**, T/Sgt. Norman W. **Thye**, S/Sgt. Elwood R. **Keeran**, S/Sgt. Vernon H. **Harms** and S/Sgt. Benjamin V. **Quackenbush** were all captured and became POWs. Lt. **Williams** died in prison camp on 10 Oct 1944.

Aircraft #44-6316 (*No Name*), 358BS (Lt. **Lay**), limped back to England on three engines. The right landing gear collapsed when the aircraft touched the runway. A fire was quickly extinguished by the crash crew. There were no injuries.



Clancy's Journal by Steven Leahy

Wrapping the K18 cameras in insulation and carefully installing them into the radio room floor of the B-17s before each mission insured invaluable target and damage assessment during World War 2. Once the planes returned the film was quickly developed and sent to HQ. This was the primary mission of the photography technicians of the 303rd Bomb Group. John Howell Clancy of the 358th was one of these men. Only John offered us more. During the war he captured a visual history of life at Molesworth. From the photographic portraits of the brave flight crews, the tenacity and dedication of the ground crews to the light hearted moments with Bob Hope. His photographs always showed us the human element of the war.

This painting is an extension of John's vision; the moments just following the crash landing of 44-6316 after its mission over Brux, Czechoslovakia on September 12, 1944. More than a portrait of a plane, this is an account of her crew. From the pilot and Lieutenant William P. Lay who brought the wounded bomber safely home to the swarm of crewmembers that saved the plane so that it may too, continue its mission. John's photos have inspired me to continue his story and offer this entry into Clancy's Journal.



12 Sep 1944 Crash Landing of 358th BS B-17G (no name) #44-6316 VK-C. The landing gear collapsed at Molesworth. The photo was taken by 303rd Photographer John Howell Clancy.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Lynch-Travis</u> 557 - PFF		
		<u>McKinley</u> 238	<u>Fletcher</u> 691	
	<u>Vermeer</u> 065		<u>Griggs</u> 311	
<u>Lay</u> 316		<u>Gillespie</u> 200	<u>Davis</u> 197	<u>Caplinger</u> 027
	<u>Hamilton</u> 411		<u>White</u> 739	
<u>Gano</u> 885		<u>Healy</u> 099		
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Mercy's Madhouse #43-97557 (358BS) PFF VK-X
1st BD Lead (358BS) - Pilot Capt R.J. Lynch / CoPilot B/Gen R.F. Travis

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

<u>Fontana-Francis</u>				
318				
	<u>Michaelis</u>		<u>Mehlhoff</u>	
	860		196	
	<u>Mosel</u>			<u>Akers</u>
	340			484
<u>Connelly</u>		<u>Matheson</u>	<u>Miller</u>	<u>Clemensen</u>
124		893	206	177
	<u>Jenkins</u>			<u>Underdown</u>
	944			289
<u>Gould</u>		<u>Frazier</u>	_____	_____
326		076		
	_____			_____

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<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	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 <u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> 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-17G #42-31739 *Pugnacious Peter*

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	Gast, William H., Sgt
BT	Gilman, Frederick S., S/Sgt
TG	Campbell, James R., Sgt

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

P	Gillespie, Glenn H., 2Lt
CP	Cassidy, Francis D., 2Lt
NAV	Guthmann, Richard F., 2Lt
BOM	Pischke, Robert L., 2Lt
ENG	Henry, James S., Sgt
WG	DiMascola, Michael G., Sgt
RO	Krawiecki, Alexander J., Sgt
BT	Rhodes, Edward B., Sgt
TG	Chaltraw, Richard J., Sgt

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

P	McKinley, Ralph C., 2Lt
CP	Harwick, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Long, Donald C., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Green, George A., 2Lt
ENG	Jones, Burlen, Sgt
WG	Devaney, Thomas J., Sgt
RO	Moll, Richard S., Sgt
BT	Clark, Woodrow E., Sgt
TG	Soule, Evan R., Sgt

B-17G #44-6316 (No Name)

P	Lay, William P., 2Lt
CP	Grenier, David A., 2Lt
NAV	Lasker, Robert M., 2Lt
BOM	Severson, Jack O., S/Sgt
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 #43-38065 *Princess Pat 2*

P	Vermeer, Bernard E., 1Lt
CP	Byrnes, James H., 2Lt
NAV	Zarelli, Michael L., 1Lt
BOM	Carloss, Earl W., 2Lt
ENG	Varvil, Willis E., S/Sgt
WG	Splawn, Elzie B., S/Sgt
RO	Moon, Charles E., S/Sgt
TG	Kennedy, Robert F., S/Sgt
BT	Ferris, James H., Sgt

B-17G #42-97557 *Mercy's Madhouse* - PFF

P	Lynch, Robert J., Capt
CP	Travis, Robert F., BGen
NAV	Steely, Hobart H., Capt
NAV	Metko, Earl D., 1Lt
NAV	Garrett, Robert M., 1Lt
BOM	Wilson, Claud, 1Lt
ENG	Kishbaugh, Warren L., T/Sgt
WG	Munn, Charles F., S/Sgt
RO	Rowe, Ollice Z., T/Sgt
TG	Douglass, Earl B., 2Lt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Akers, Robert O., 1Lt
CP	Giddings, Leslie W., 2Lt
NAV	Montone, Neil A., 2Lt
BOM	Stone, Leonard, 2Lt
ENG	Shanker, Herbert, S/Sgt
RO	Meyer, Gerald E., S/Sgt
BT	Saam, Donal W., Sgt
TG	Vogel, Cletus H., Sgt
WG	Meyer, Fulton R., Sgt

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

P	Jenkins, Harry F., 1Lt
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

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

P	Clemensen, Richard L., 2Lt	KIA
CP	Burson, George S., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Crooke, James J., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Stafford, Frank W., 2Lt	KIA
ENG	McCrary, Eugene F., Jr., Cpl	KIA
RO	Schubach, Kurt, Cpl	POW
BT	Albern, Lloyd L., Pvt	POW
TG	Jauernig, John W., Pvt	POW
WG	Kriss, Nick, Pvt	KIA

B-17G #44-8326 *(No Name)*

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 #44-6076 *Liberty Run*

P	Frazier, Eugene C., 2Lt
CP	Campbell, Laurie H., 2Lt
NAV	Goettman, Andrew T., 2Lt
BOM	Barlow, Richard B., 2Lt
ENG	Borges, Gilbert C., Sgt
RO	Trainor, Donald W., Cpl
BT	Charron, Raymond H., Cpl
TG	McCullough, Luther, Jr., Cpl
WG	Anderson, Eston R., Cpl

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

P	Miller, William F., 2Lt
CP	Ward, Duane C., 2Lt
NAV	Conn, Arthur A., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Smith, Teddy A., 1Lt
ENG	Waldron, Leo F., Cpl
RO	Smolar, Max, Cpl
BT	Ball, Warren G., Cpl
TG	Hutson, Johnny C., Cpl
WG	Zelnio, Anthony D., Cpl

B-17G #43-38289 *Sweet LaRhonda*

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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97860 (No Name)

P	Michaelis, Arthur D., 1Lt
CP	Huckins, Earl R., 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 #42-31340 Miss Liberty CR-L

P	Mosel, Arnold, 2Lt
CP	Freeman, Kenneth H., 2Lt WIA
NAV	Mundell, William K., 2Lt
BOM	Parrilla, Rufe H., 1Lt WIA/DOW
ENG	Conley, Donald H., S/Sgt
RO	Groth, Gerald J., S/Sgt
BT	Crawford, Frank J., Sgt
TG	Bialobrzieski, Joseph C., Sgt
WG	Koshar, Jerome J., Sgt

B-17G #42-107196 Temptress CR-L

P	Mehlhoff, Arthur R., 1Lt	POW
CP	Nelson, Edgar H., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Williams, Gaylon C., 2Lt	POW/DOW
BOM	Newcomb, Harry F., Jr., F/O	POW
ENG	Wagner, Donald L., T/Sgt	POW
RO	Thye, Norman W., S/Sgt	POW
BT	Keeran, Elwood R., Sgt	POW
TG	Quackenbush, Benjamin V., Sgt	POW
WG	Harms, Vernon H., Sgt	POW

B-17G #44-6124 (No Name)

P	Connelly, Ben L., 1Lt
CP	House, Frederick L., 2Lt
NAV	Levin, Albert, 2Lt
BOM	Shelley, David R., 2Lt
ENG	Clippinger, Robert E., 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 #44-8318 (No Name)

P	Fontana, Bernard C., 1Lt
CP	Francis, John R., 1Lt
NAV	Klein, Norman M., 2Lt
BOM	Duros, Constantine J., 2Lt
ENG	Perry, Robert N., T/Sgt
RO	King, Raymond C., T/Sgt
TG	Fulks, James O., 2Lt
WG	Price, Kirkland T., S/Sgt
WG	Weems, Thomas L., S/Sgt
BT	Durfee, James R., S/Sgt
PHO	Skinner, Donald E., Sgt

B-17G #42-97893 Minnie the Moocher

P	Matheson, John A., 2Lt
CP	Johnson, James C., 2Lt
NAV	Gould, Charles L., 2Lt
BOM	Rice, Charles G., Jr., S/Sgt
ENG	Smith, Jimmie R., Sgt
RO	Jeambey, Leo E., Sgt
BT	Hagan, Lloyd D., Sgt
TG	Coughlin, Charles R., Sgt
WG	Fredenburg, William E., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Gano, Frederick, 2Lt
 CP Flanders, Wesley J., 2Lt
 NAV Maniscalco, John B., 2Lt
 BOM Blessing, Gerald D., 2Lt
 TT Anthony, George E., Sgt
 BT Coyle, Arthur J., Sgt
 RO Meixner, Edward M., Sgt
 TG Nelson, Edward F., Sgt
 WG Burkemer, Robert F., Sgt

B-17G #42-97311 Shoo Shoo Baby

P Griggs, John C., 1Lt
 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 KIA

B-17G #42-32027 Betty Jane

P Caplinger, Auston O., 2Lt
 CP Spruner, Donald L., 2Lt
 NAV Katz, Edwin Harold, 2Lt
 BOM Bober, Stanley, 2Lt
 TT Henry, O.L., Sgt
 BT Jacobs, Carroll W., Jr., Sgt
 RO Mittell, Philip P., S/Sgt
 TG Chalcroft, Charles P., Sgt
 WG Olds, Andrew R., Sgt

B-17G #42-102411 Miss Lace

P Hamilton, Max B., 1Lt
 CP Newman, Vernon V., 2Lt
 NAV Emmet, John P., 2Lt
 BOM Olson, William E., 2Lt
 TT Butler, Edward B., S/Sgt
 BT Paterson, Richard E., Sgt
 RO Jarvis, Robert F., S/Sgt
 TG Coleman, Warren M., Sgt
 WG Sutton, Marvin A., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-107099 Old 99

P Healy, Richard F., 1Lt
 CP Smith, Donald R., 2Lt
 NAV Stuart, Norman L., 2Lt
 BOM Haakonsen, Raymond E., 2Lt
 TT Robertson, Joseph J., T/Sgt
 BT Leal, Raymond T., T/Sgt
 RO Smith, Phillip E., S/Sgt
 TG Whitlow, Zane O., Sgt
 WG DeLiso, Vincent A., Sgt

B-17G #43-38197 (No Name)

P Davis, Robert W., 2Lt
 CP Sayre, Dorwin D., 2Lt
 NAV Martin, Walter E., 2Lt
 BOM Bryan, Fred W., F/O
 TT Johnson, O.D., S/Sgt
 BT Johnson, Charles H., Sgt
 RO Pope, Lester L., Sgt
 WG Hester, Lloyd D., Sgt
 WG Smirnes, E. "Nick", Jr., Sgt

B-17G #42-97691 (No Name)

P Fletcher, John E., 1Lt
 CP Johnston, Lawrence M., Jr., 2Lt
 NAV Caldwell, Walter D., F/O
 NAV Pero, Aloyius R., 1Lt
 BOM Keese, Thomas R., 1Lt
 TT Clark, Jay R., S/Sgt
 RO Brady, Joseph F., S/Sgt
 BT McCormick, Lewis J., Sgt
 TG Rogers, Norman F., Sgt
 WG Lance, Calvin L., Sgt