

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 242

13 September 1944

Target: BMW Motor Plant at Eisenach, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 15

Crews Lost: Lt. C.W. Heleen, 1 KIA, 8 POW;

Lt. L.M. Walker, 3 KIA, 6 POW

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 35 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb G.P. XM43 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 29,100 ft

Ammo Fired: 2,635 rounds

**A** small force of 15 bombers took off to bomb the synthetic oil refinery at Merseburg, Germany. Aircraft #42-97187 *Miss Umbriago*, 360BS (Lt. **Juns**), returned early when the pilot became ill.

Seven aircraft dropped 70 500-lb. G.P. XM43 bombs on the secondary target at Eisenach, Germany, from 29,100 feet. Five aircraft dropped their bombs about two minutes early:

#43-37590	<i>Neva-The Silver Lady</i>	358BS	Lt. <b>Freeman</b>
#42-107206	<i>Old Black Magic</i>	359BS	Lt. <b>Miller</b>
#42-97860	<i>(No Name)</i>	360BS	Lt. <b>Crawford</b>
#44-6124	<i>(No Name)</i>	360BS	Lt. <b>Railing</b>
#42-97853	<i>Lucky Linda</i>	360BS	Lt. <b>Bennett</b>

The element leader, *Old Black Magic*, released early and others dropped on him. Bombs hit in a wooded area, or in a small town, five or six miles northeast of Eisenach. Other Fortresses had poor results. Their bombs hit about 2,000 ft. west of the target in Eisenach. There were no clouds in the target area. Weather was CAVU except for occasional persistent contrails. Aircraft encountered no flak or enemy aircraft. Fighter support by 233 P-47s and P-51s was good.

Two Fortresses flying in the high element, high Group, 41st CBW-A, were missing. They were in formation with ten other 384BG B-17s and had passed through intense and extremely accurate anti-aircraft fire over Merseburg, Germany. It was not known if they had bombed.

When last seen, #42-32027 *Betty Jane*, 427BS, piloted by 2Lt. Carl M. **Heleen**, had two propellers feathered. It had dropped out of formation still under control. Lt. Stanley V. **Davidson** later reported that a third engine also went out and the aircraft was abandoned shortly thereafter at about 1,500 ft. altitude. Lt. **Heleen's** parachute failed to open and he was killed upon impact with the ground. Sgt. Jennings G. **Brown** evaded capture for about six weeks, but was captured and made a POW when he had almost reached friendly territory. Lt. **Davidson**, 2Lt. Frank L. **Hodenus**, 2Lt. Grover C.H. **Cummings**, Sgt. Charles L. **Hahn**, Sgt. William H. **Gast**, Sgt. Charles W. **Gaudette** and Sgt. Jefferson H. **Dunford** were captured and became POWs.



**CARL M. HELEEN CREW - 358th BS**

**(crew assigned 358BS: 17 Aug 1944 - photo: Aug 1944)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Carl M. Heleen (P), 2Lt Grover C.H. Cummings (B),  
2Lt Stanley V. Davidson (CP), 2Lt Frank L. Hodenius (N)

(Front L-R) Sgt Jefferson H. Dunford (TG), Sgt William H. Gast (R), Sgt Jennings G. Brown (WG),  
Sgt Charles W. Gaudette (BT), Sgt Henry H. Brogani (WG), Sgt Charles L. Hahn (E)



**LEWIS M. WALKER CREW - 359th BS**

**B-17G #42-97508 Scorchy II (359BS) BN-V**

**(crew assigned 359BS: 11 June 1944 - photo: 19 June 1944)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Donald B. Beers (B), 1Lt Lewis M. Walker (P), 2Lt Joseph J. Doyle (CP),  
2Lt Abraham Wodinsky (N) - (Front) T/Sgt James Sublett (E), T/Sgt Albert J. Lunday (R), S/Sgt  
Walter L. Hundley (BT), S/Sgt Arthur C. Reckert (TG), S/Sgt Henry C. Mathis. (WG)

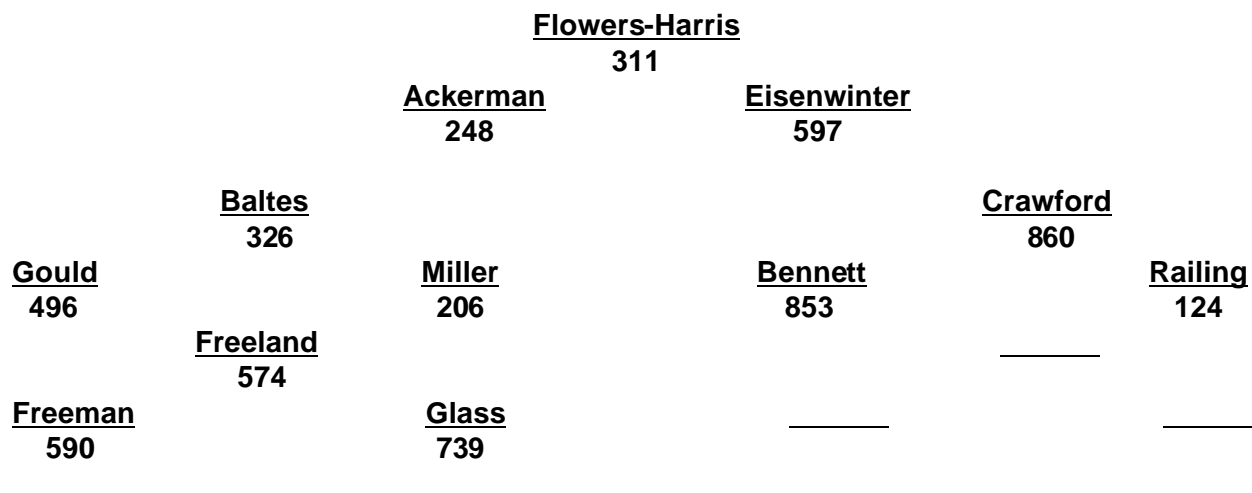
After being hit by flak, #42-6076 *Liberty Run*, 359BS, piloted by 1Lt. Lewis M. **Walker**, had feathered a propeller. It crashed near Merseburg in a mass of flames. It had pulled off to the right and then went into a vertical dive, apparently out of control. No chutes were observed. Six of the crew did make successful jumps. S/Sgt. Walter **Hundley** suffered a broken leg. The six survivors hid for 13 days in the mountains. Sgt **Hundley** recalled, "We were nearly starved and frozen, had no medical attention and were filthy. We were like barbaric heathens. It got so bad we decided there was nothing to do but walk to the nearest town and surrender. It was all I could do to crawl with my bad right leg. The Germans—they were farmers, not Nazis—ignored us in the town. They were too busy working slave labor of Poles and Russians. We dragged on to the next town. The Burgomeister of that town was finally convinced that we were Americans. He put us in a barn, gave us a bowl of barley soup (it tasted great), and notified the Nazis."

The four surviving Enlisted Men were taken to Stalag Luft IV at Gross Tychow, Poland and joined about 8,000 other prisoners 60 miles northeast of Berlin. They were liberated on 2 May 1945 by units of the British 2nd Army after enduring a 86 day 600 mile "Death March" from Stalag Luft 4.

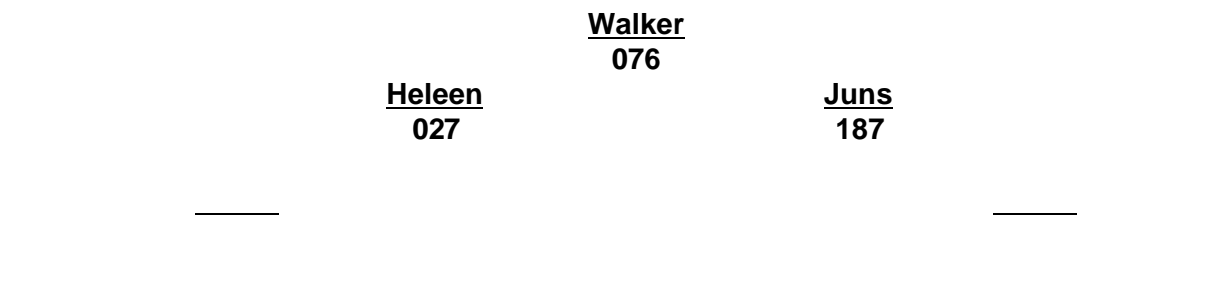


B-17G Shoo Shoo Baby 42-97311 (427BS) GN-G  
41st CBW-A (427BS) Lead - Pilot 1Lt Selwyn D. Flowers / CoPilot F/O John R. Harris

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - A



## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B



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

P	Freeland, Troit D., 1Lt
CP	Prudhoe, Louis J., 2Lt
NAV	Kosta, Alexander, 2Lt
BOM	Nugent, Robert F., 2Lt
ENG	Abernathy, Wylie C., S/Sgt
WG	Moran, George J., Sgt
RO	Wilson, Clarence K., S/Sgt
TG	Dyszal, Bernard J., Sgt
BT	Cerzosimo, Bernard P., Sgt

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

P	Glass, Leroy E., 2Lt
P	Chanut, Orlyn D., 2Lt
NAV	Haider, Joseph C., 2Lt
BOM	Boland, Anthony J., 2Lt
ENG	Eide, Richard W., S/Sgt
BT	Trumbull, Vernon L., Sgt
RO	Brady, James M., Sgt
WG	Hodges, Grady H., Sgt
TG	Davis, Mark M., Sgt

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

P	Heleen, Carl M., 2Lt	KIA
CP	Davidson, Stanley V., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Hodenius, Frank L., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Cummings, Grover C.H., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Hahn, Charles L., Sgt	POW
WG	Brown, Jennings G., Sgt	EVD/POW
RO	Gast, William H., Sgt	POW
BT	Gaudette, Charles W., Sgt	POW
TG	Dunford, Jefferson H., Sgt	POW

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

P	Freeman, Clyde E., 2Lt
CP	Canning, Glenn R., 2Lt
NAV	Goldstein, Sheldon, 2Lt
BOM	Birkenseer, Donald L., 2Lt
ENG	Fleck, Peter J., Sgt
TG	Caporusso, Frank J., Sgt
RO	VanLier, Donald E., Sgt
WG	Martin, Robert G., Sgt
BT	Chesney, Alan D., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-102496 *Special Delivery***

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 #44-8326 (No Name)**

P	Baltes, 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

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

P	Miller, William F., 2Lt
CP	Hill, John D., Jr., 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

(Abortive Sortie)

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

P	Walker, Lewis M., 1Lt	KIA
CP	Doyle, Joseph J., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Nielsen, Carl V., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Beers, Donald B., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Sublett, James W., S/Sgt	POW
RO	Lunday, Albert J., S/Sgt	POW
BT	Hundley, Walter L., S/Sgt	POW
TG	Reckert, Arthur C., S/Sgt	POW
WG	Mathis, Henry C., Jr., S/Sgt	KIA

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Railing, Charles F., Jr., 2Lt  
CP McCarl, Howard D., 2Lt  
NAV Leibovitz, Meyer, 2Lt  
BOM Willson, Louis H., 2Lt  
ENG Mellon, James B., Jr., Sgt  
RO Hanna, William M., Sgt  
BT Burgeson, Lawrence L., Sgt  
TG Barber, Ralph K., Sgt  
WG Cole, Lorne R., Sgt  
(Abortive Sortie)

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

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P Crawford, William C., 1Lt  
CP Kidd, Warren D., 2Lt  
NAV Wade, Robert E., 2Lt  
BOM Woodbury, Benton R., 2Lt  
ENG LeRoux, Lyle W., T/Sgt  
RO Miller, William L., T/Sgt  
BT Whitney, Daniel F., S/Sgt  
WG Rice, Charles G., Jr., S/Sgt  
TG Barder, Emmett R., S/Sgt  
(Abortive Sortie)

### **B-17G #42-97853 Lucky Linda**

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

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

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P Juns, Frank, 2Lt  
CP Beasley, Roland C., 2Lt  
NAV Harding, Warren G., 2Lt  
BOM Thomas, Edward H., 2Lt  
ENG Girard, Louis P., S/Sgt  
RO Wimer, Maurice H., S/Sgt  
BT Oberly, Eldridge C., S/Sgt  
TG Englis, Hiram E., S/Sgt  
WG Branin, James J., Sgt  
(Abortive)

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #43-37597 Earthquake McGoon**

P Eisenwinter, Philip D., 1Lt  
CP Waggoner, Richard C., 2Lt  
NAV Norman, Frederick J., 2Lt  
BOM Campbell, Robert C., 2Lt  
WG Sutton, Marvin A., S/Sgt  
BT Veljkov, Paul, Sgt  
RO Scaglione, Joseph, S/Sgt  
TG Ruhge, Wayne L., S/Sgt  
TT Hiibner, Okey L., S/Sgt

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

P Ackerman, Stewart S., Jr., 2Lt  
CP Barrios, Alfred R., 2Lt  
NAV Dubois, Benjamin, 2Lt  
BOM Oswald, Alois G., Jr., 2Lt  
TT Creaghan, Robert E., Sgt  
BT Highfill, Thomas W., Sgt  
RO Ribesky, John V., Jr., Sgt  
TG Wiencek, Edward J., Sgt  
WG Proper, George M., Sgt

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

P Flowers, Selwyn D., 1Lt  
CP Harris, John R., F/O  
NAV Pandy, Bert J., 1Lt  
BOM Webster, Charles M., 1Lt  
TT Kiely, Joseph P., S/Sgt  
BT McCormick, Lewis J., Sgt  
RO Kopriva, Charles P., S/Sgt  
TG Morrow, John E., 2Lt  
WG Schulz, Paul H., Sgt  
WG Howell, Charles E., Sgt