

## 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 255

11 October 1944

Target: Synthetic Oil Plant at Wesseling, Germany (1 & 2 SQ)

Marshalling Yards at Koblenz, Germany (3 & 4 SQ)

Crews Dispatched: 47

Crews Lost: Lt. Lord, 6 KIA, 3 POW; Lt. Price, 9 POW

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 6 x 1,000 lb H.E. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 26,300 & 25,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 2,110 rounds

The 303rd BG(H) aircraft bombed two targets. Twenty-two B-17s of the Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons dropped 129 1,000-lb. H.E. M43 bombs on the primary target at Wesseling from 26,300 and 25,000 ft. GEE-H equipment was utilized. Although the Squadrons found a break in the clouds at the target, results were unobserved.

Twenty-two Fortresses of the Nos. 3 and 4 Squadrons dropped 118 1,000-lb. bombs on the secondary target at Koblenz, using PFF equipment. There were 10/10 middle clouds with tops at 15,000 to 17,000 ft., and, again, results were unobserved.

Two aircraft turned back: #43-38532 (*No Name*) 360BS (Lt. **Juns**) had an engine failure; #42-31830 *Marie*, 359BS (Lt. **Haynes**) — with one engine out, the aircraft could not stay with the formation at the IP.



**TRUMAN R. LORD CREW - 358th BS**

(crew assigned 358BS: 06 Sep 1944)

(Back L-R) Sgt Bernard A. Winiger (E), Sgt Robert H. Brown (WG),

Sgt Earl G. Hatfield (R), Sgt William H. Ferguson (TG)

Sgt Armin Weiss (BT), Sgt Oscar D. Stephenson, Jr. (WG)

(Front L-R) 2Lt Truman R. Lord (P), 2Lt Clifton N. Phillips (CP),

2Lt Avid Anderson (N), 2Lt Arthur F. Ruiz (B)

A few German jets were seen, but there were no attacks. Friendly fighter support by 139 P-47s was good. Intense and extremely accurate flak was encountered near Wesseling, causing 19 instances of major and 10 of minor damage, and wounding 10 crewmen. Chaff had no effect on the anti-aircraft fire.

Aircraft #43-38200 (*No Name*), 360BS, piloted by 2Lt. Truman R. **Lord**, received a direct flak hit between its Nos. 1 and 2 engines. It was seen to

smoke immediately. It pulled off to the left, went down in a steep dive, and exploded at about 15,000 ft. near Wessling, Germany. Three parachutes were observed at the time that the B-17 exploded. Lt **Lord**, 2Lt Clifton N. **Phillips**, 2Lt Arthur F. **Ruiz**, Sgt. Bernard A. **Winiger**, Sgt. Earl G. **Hatfield**, Jr. and Sgt. Armin **Weiss** were killed in the crash. Lt **Ruis**, Sgt. **Winiger** and Sgt. **Weiss** are buried in Netherlands American Cemetery, Martgratten, Netherlands. 2Lt. Arvid **Anderson**, Sgt. Robert H. **Brown** and Sgt. William H. **Ferguson** were captured and became POWs.



**ERNEST C. PRICE CREW - 358th BS**  
(crew assigned 358BS: 23 Sep 1944)

(Back L-R) 1Lt Ernest C. Price (P), 1Lt Frederick C. Hower (CP), 2Lt Leonard S. Patillo (N), 2Lt Fred B. Creel (B)  
(Front L-R) Sgt Paul R. Bilchak (TG), Sgt William E. Noel (E), Sgt Michael T. Postek (R),  
Sgt Keith E. Day (R), Sgt John F. Reed (WG), Sgt Raymond L. Cole (BT)



Nose Art on B-17G #42-31739  
**Pugnacious Peter** (358BS) VK-P  
Radio Callsign was "P-for-Peter."  
Crew added "Pugnacious"  
(eager and ready to fight).

*Pugnacious Peter* #42-31739, 358BS, piloted by 1Lt. Ernest C. **Price**, was on its 85th combat mission. It received a direct hit on one of the outboard engines, setting it on fire. It pulled off to the left, started down, and blew up near Wessling, Germany. No parachutes were seen. Lt. **Price**, 2Lt. Charles E. **Thomas**, 2Lt. Leonard S. **Patillo**, 2Lt. Fred B. **Creel**, Sgt. William E. **Noel**, Sgt. Michael T. **Postek**, Sgt. Raymond L. **Cole**, Sgt. John F. **Reed**, and Sgt. Paul R. **Bilchak** were captured and became POWs.

## **LIKE THEY TOLD ME — HOOK UP YOUR CHUTE**

**2Lt Truman R. Lord Crew  
Memories of Lt. Arvid Anderson**

On our seventh mission, on October 11, 1944, the fifth to Cologne area, our B-17 was hit directly by anti-aircraft fire. The plane went into a sharp spin and exploded. I was blown out of the nose. The cold air revived me and I pulled my chest type chute which was hooked on one side. As the chute opened, it began to curl and I put my arm in the back of my head to keep it open. I landed in a tree on a farmer's field. As I came to the ground, I was met by a farmer who took me to Wehrmacht. The farmer spoke English. He had been an American POW in World War I and had been well treated. I was fortunate because I had heard that other Americans had been shot by civilians.

I owe my life also to Major Hobart Steely, Squadron Navigator of the 358th, because he told me to always wear the chute with at least one side hooked because you might not have time to put it on. He was so right.



*Stalag Luft III  
sketch by POW 2Lt Harold W. Gunn*

After being taken into custody, I and other POWs were taken to Frankfurt, where I was interrogated for nine days. The Germans thought I knew something, but I didn't. They, however, called me a terror flyer and a Chicago gangster, because my home town was Hammond, Indiana next door to Chicago. They apparently had all personal details from newspapers in the U.S.A.

Thereafter, I and others were sent to Stalag III – south compound in Sagan, Germany where I remained until the forced march at the end of January. After 50 kilometers, we were loaded into 40 x 8 foot train cars, 50 men each and transported over three days to Moosburg, to Stalag VII A, where we remained until liberated by General Patton's army in early May, 1945.

I did not learn until after the war that two other crew members, R. H. Brown, Waist Gunner, and Bill H. Ferguson, Tail Gunner, survived. They were able to crawl out of the severed body of the plane, which had broken apart. I was fairly certain that the other officers and crew members had been killed in the explosion, but the Germans never told me. I lasted the average of seven missions. We went to the Cologne area five times and we were hit by flak five times. The other missions were to Hamburg, which was uneventful, and to Dresden, where I saw my one and only German jet.

**RELEASING BOMBS WITH A SCREW DRIVER**  
**Unusual Experiences of T/Sgt Donald E. Vanlier**

I was flying with the Lt. Freeman crew on "Bouncing Betty III" 43-38554 (VK-B) on 11 October 1944 and it was a rough mission for us. The target was the Synthetic Oil Plant at Wesseling, Germany. We were flying tail end charley, I think.

As we went over the target, the sky opened up and the flak was very accurate. We lost the two wing men, 2Lt Price and 1Lt Lord. We were hit in the right inboard engine. At the same time, the cable to release the three 1,000 pound General Purpose Bombs on that side was cut.

We were losing altitude fast and it was my job, as radio man, to get those bombs out of the bomb bay, some way or other. So with a screw driver to release the bombs, and a walk around oxygen bottle, I had to lay on my stomach, on the catwalk, and release the lower of the three bombs. Then I had to get back into the radio room, change to a full oxygen bottle and go back in the bomb bay, and release the other two bombs.

We limped home a few hundred feet over the English Channel, on three engines and all alone. As T/Sgt Fleck said, "We really sweated this one out." Thank God we made it. He has a bomb tag for every mission that we flew.



**CLYDE E. FREEMAN CREW - 358th BS**  
**(crew assigned 358BS: 17 Aug 1944 - photo: July 1944)**  
(Back L-R) 2Lt Clyde E. Freeman (P), 2Lt Glenn R. Canning (CP),  
2Lt Donald L. Birkenseer (B), 2Lt Sheldon Goldstein (N)  
(Front L-R) S/Sgt Alan D. Chesney (BT), Sgt Robert G. Martin (WG),  
T/Sgt Donald E. Vanlier (R), S/Sgt Frank J. Caporusso (TG), T/Sgt Peter J. Fleck (E)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Flowers-Healy</u> 038 - PFF			
		<u>Reid</u> 057		<u>Bliss</u> 166	
	<u>Cureton</u> 621			<u>Brown</u> 666	
<u>Van Antwerp</u> 597		<u>Roberts</u> 060		<u>O'Leary</u> 311	<u>Gano</u> 411
	<u>R. Davis</u> 197			_____	
<u>Ackerman</u> 099		<u>Dubose</u> 248		_____	_____
	_____			_____	

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Johnson-Seidel</u> 557 - PFF			
		<u>Price</u> 739		<u>Vermeer</u> 574	
	<u>Paullin</u> 191			<u>Goering</u> 462	
<u>McCutcheon</u> 442		<u>Holm</u> 298		<u>Lord</u> 200	<u>Fielder</u> 238
	<u>McKinley</u> 065			_____	
<u>Freeman</u> 554		<u>White</u> 326		_____	_____
	_____			_____	

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

<b><u>Cunningham-Kerwin</u></b>				
<b>256 - PFF</b>				
	<b><u>Embrey</u></b>		<b><u>Akers</u></b>	
	<b>502</b>		<b>537</b>	
	<b><u>Jenkins</u></b>			<b><u>Underdown</u></b>
	<b>781</b>			<b>050</b>
<b><u>J. Davis</u></b>		<b><u>Virag</u></b>	<b><u>Gould</u></b>	<b><u>Frazier</u></b>
<b>258</b>		<b>944</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>609</b>
	<b><u>Carney</u></b>		_____	
	<b>484</b>			
<b><u>Lorentz</u></b>		<b><u>Haynes</u></b>	_____	_____
<b>289</b>		<b>830</b>		
	_____		_____	

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group D

<b><u>Kuykendall-Norris</u></b>				
<b>137 - PFF</b>				
	<b><u>Kallet</u></b>		<b><u>Nafius</u></b>	
	<b>504</b>		<b>544</b>	
	<b><u>Baehr</u></b>		<b><u>Grisham</u></b>	
	<b>516</b>		<b>945</b>	
<b><u>Butler</u></b>		<b><u>Gravrock</u></b>	<b><u>Eisenwinter</u></b>	<b><u>Juns</u></b>
<b>517</b>		<b>055</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>532</b>
	<b><u>Foley</u></b>		_____	
	<b>451</b>			
_____		<b><u>McCutchan</u></b>	_____	_____
		<b>861</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 #43-38442 (No Name)**

P	McCutcheon, George E., 1Lt
CP	McGilvray, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV	Starr, Ben, 2Lt
BOM	Severson, Jack O., T/Sgt
ENG	Burcham, Johnnie O., T/Sgt
WG	Foulk, Donald H., S/Sgt
RO	Alexander, John C., S/Sgt
BT	Aberdeen, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Kinsman, George R., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-38238 (No Name)**

P	Fielder, George H., 1Lt
CP	Dorsett, John D., 2Lt
NAV	Buckner, James C., 2Lt
BOM	Kruckemeyer, Thomas J., 2Lt
ENG	Cavagnaro, James E., Sgt
WG	Pizzolato, Gasper, Jr., Sgt
RO	Buie, Neil C., Sgt
BT	Denning, Glenn J., Sgt
TG	Cox, Lyle H., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38554 Bouncing Betty III**

P	Freeman, Clyde E., 2Lt
CP	Canning, Glenn R., 2Lt
NAV	Goldstein, Sheldon, 2Lt
BOM	Splawn, Elzic B., T/Sgt
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

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

P	Grisham, Rufus W., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Cox, William H., 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

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

P	Holm, Maurice M., 2Lt
CP	Fletcher, Harold D., F/O
NAV	Howard, Paul A., 2Lt
TOG	Garcia, Robert L., S/Sgt
ENG	Compton, M.C., Sgt
WG	Huck, Robert L., Sgt
RO	Dale, John A., Sgt
BT	Ebert, Preston P., Sgt
TG	Copeland, George E., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38191 Shasta**

P	Paullin, James R., 1Lt
CP	Hinton, William B., 2Lt
NAV	Hunt, John W., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Carloss, Earl W., 1Lt
ENG	Johnson, James P., T/Sgt
BT	Biestek, Stanley H., S/Sgt
RO	Thomas, Henry T., T/Sgt
WG	Foster, William D., S/Sgt
TG	Butler, Woodley O., S/Sgt

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

P	McKinley, Ralph C., 2Lt
CP	Harwick, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Long, Donald C., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Davis, Edward 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 #42-31739 Pugnacious Peter CR-L**

P	Price, Ernest C., 1Lt	POW
CP	Thomas, Charles E., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Patillo, Leonard S., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Creel, Fred B., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Noel, William E., Sgt	POW
WG	Reed, John F., Sgt	POW
RO	Postek, Michael T., Sgt	POW
BT	Cole, Raymond L., Sgt	POW
TG	Bilchak, Paul R., Sgt	POW

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Lord, Truman R., 2Lt	KIA
CP	Phillips, Clifton N., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Anderson, Arvid, 2Lt	POW
BOM	Ruiz, Arthur F., 2Lt	KIA
ENG	Winiger, Bernard A., Sgt	KIA
TG	Ferguson, William H., Sgt	POW
RO	Hatfield, Earl G., Sgt	KIA
BT	Weiss, Armin, Sgt	KIA
WG	Brown, Robert H., Sgt	POW

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

P	Vermeer, Bernard E., 1Lt
CP	Byrnes, James H., 2Lt
NAV	Poehlman, Robert F., 2Lt
BOM	Sachau, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Varvil, Willis E., S/Sgt
WG	Schley, John G., S/Sgt
RO	LaPerch, William J., S/Sgt
TG	Kennedy, Robert F., S/Sgt
BT	Ferris, James H., Sgt

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

P	White, Franklin F., 1Lt
CP	Hower, Frederick C., 2Lt
NAV	Kaufman, Seymour, F/O
BOM	Ross, Robert M., 2Lt
ENG	Adams, William J., S/Sgt
WG	Hein, Monroe C., S/Sgt
RO	Vesely, Henry L., S/Sgt
BT	Gilman, Frederick S., S/Sgt
TG	Campbell, James R., S/Sgt

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

P	Johnson, Hugh B., 1Lt
CP	Seidel, Harry S., 2Lt
NAV	Weber, George P., 2Lt
NAV	Beyeler, Earl R., 2Lt
BOM	Green, George A., 2Lt
ENG	Edwards, Eugene F., T/Sgt
WG	Beck, Harold P., S/Sgt
RO	Carter, Robert D., T/Sgt
TG	Judd, Chester G., 2Lt

### **B-17G #43-38462 Teddy's Rough Riders**

P	Goering, Werner G., 1Lt
CP	Rencher, Jack P., 2Lt
NAV	Markt, Rex H., F/O
BOM	Birkenseer, Donald L., 2Lt
ENG	Gustafson, Orall R., S/Sgt
RO	Brodzinski, Chester, S/Sgt
BT	Rowe, Thomas M., S/Sgt
WG	Houseman, Clarence W., Sgt
TG	Mahan, Weldon T., Sgt



## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Akers, Robert O., 1Lt
CP	Giddings, Leslie W., 2Lt
NAV	Lewtas, Ralph A., 2Lt
BOM	Smith, Ralph L., 1Lt
ENG	Shanker, Herbert, T/Sgt
RO	Meyer, Gerald E., T/Sgt
BT	Saam, Donal W., S/Sgt
TG	Martin, Anthony B., Sgt
WG	Meyer, Fulton R., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38604 *(No Name)***

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

### **B-17G #43-38258 *Forget Me Not Olly***

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P	Davis, Jack T., 1Lt
CP	Kohnstedt, Donald L., 2Lt
NAV	Hellesvig, Vernon M., 1Lt
BOM	Guiciardi, Nino L., F/O
ENG	Bloom, Dave, Sgt
RO	Lewnfield, Rex E., T/Sgt
BT	Martin, Richard A., Sgt
TG	Brown, Marvin W., Sgt
WG	Harris, Everette G., Sgt

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

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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	Carman, Nolan W., S/Sgt
BT	Guptill, Walter R., Sgt
TG	Stevens, Richard G., Sgt
WG	Botton, Pius L., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-6502 *(No Name)***

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P	Embrey, Henry C., 2Lt
CP	Sharp, Bryant M., 2Lt
NAV	Hewitt, Leroy A., 2Lt
BOM	Mitchell, Robert C., 2Lt
ENG	Miller, Harry C., S/Sgt
RO	Zellar, Donald W., Sgt
BT	Duerr, Richard B., Sgt
TG	Gavin, William E., Sgt
WG	Peters, Arthur R., Sgt

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

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P	Carney, Walter J., 1Lt
CP	Hickey, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Donovan, James R., 1Lt
BOM	Cooney, Thomas E., 2Lt
ENG	Turner, Harold L., T/Sgt
RO	Foster, Albert A., T/Sgt
BT	Kayrallah, Emil, S/Sgt
TG	Howe, Clarence H., S/Sgt
WG	Encinas, William S/Sgt

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

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P	Virag, Andy R., 1Lt
CP	Beeman, Richard, 2Lt
NAV	Durkin, James A., 1Lt
TOG	Cappucci, Joseph R., T/Sgt
ENG	Jeter, James E., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Vrabel, Cyril A., S/Sgt
BT	Gurka, Stanley, Jr., Sgt
TG	Bowman, John H., Sgt
WG	Allerton, Jack R., Sgt

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

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P	Haynes, Charles D., 2Lt
CP	McClurg, Galt L., 2Lt
NAV	Beder, Harrison K., 2Lt
BOM	Dando, Charles A., 2Lt
ENG	Sherrill, Elliotte W., Sgt
RO	Deen, Oscar A., Sgt
BT	Freese, Paul D., Sgt
WG	Hrych, Robert C., Sgt
TG	Ipsen, Allen L., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

### **B-17G #43-38609 (No Name)**

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

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

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P	Lorentz, Arthur, 1Lt
CP	Scott, Robert H., 2Lt
NAV	Smith, William A., 2Lt
TOG	Clubine, Frederick D., Sgt
ENG	Kreager, Jon B., Sgt
RO	Lawson, Lucien P., S/Sgt
BT	Ingalls, Earl F., Cpl
TG	Greenwald, Paul L., Sgt
WG	Gonser, Dwight W., Sgt

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

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P	Jenkins, Harry F., 1Lt
CP	Blanchard, Samuel B., 2Lt
NAV	Nute, Gordon B., 1Lt
BOM	Reynolds, Ralph J., 1Lt
ENG	Lainson, Colin C., Sgt
RO	Loosemore, Wesley G., S/Sgt
BT	Fydrychowski, John J., Sgt
TG	Cregan, John M., Sgt
WG	Allen, Charles G., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8256 Yankee Girl - PFF**

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P	Cunningham, Robert L., 1Lt
CP	Kerwin, Charles E., Maj
NAV	Hammond, Raymond D., 2Lt
NAV	Lifshus, Lawrence, 2Lt
BOM	Scheibman, Herman B., 2Lt
ENG	Gauthier, Leon C., T/Sgt
RO	Ringen, Walter E., S/Sgt
BT	Zielinski, William J., Sgt
TG	Ward, Duane G., 2Lt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #44-6517 *Old Cock***

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P	Butler, Milton C., 1Lt
CP	Lovell, Brook H., 2Lt
NAV	Rudolph, Gabriel, 2Lt
BOM	Hackler, Maurice G., 2Lt
ENG	Bird, Harry G., Sgt
RO	Christ, Donald R., Sgt
BT	Miller, Donald E., Sgt
TG	Johnson, David T., Jr., Sgt
WG	Odegaard, Duane J., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-6516 *My Darling***

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P	Baehr, Kenneth C., 1Lt
CP	Slingsby, Harold G., Maj
NAV	Conklin, James M., 2Lt
BOM	Smith, William H., 1Lt
ENG	Keipper, Carl E., S/Sgt
BT	Decker, Bruce O., S/Sgt
RO	Ploeger, Jesse, T/Sgt
TG	Hudson, Ward A., S/Sgt
WG	Baldwin, Kenton F., S/Sgt

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

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P	McCutchan, Eugene R., 2Lt
CP	Schuchard, Virgil R., 2Lt
NAV	Conard, Willard G., 2Lt
BOM	Fetzko, John, 2Lt
ENG	Kress, Richard H., S/Sgt
RO	Frey, Alan E., Sgt
BT	Scott, Howard E., Sgt
TG	Wherry, Robert E., Sgt
WG	Pearson, George D., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31055 *Aloha***

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P	Gravrock, Howard C., 2Lt
CP	Losiewicz, Benjamin, 2Lt
NAV	Klanian, Charles S., 2Lt
BOM	Downey, Francis G., 2Lt
ENG	Levine, Raymond, T/Sgt
RO	Engleman, George B., T/Sgt
BT	Relford, Robert R., Sgt
TG	Hensel, Phillip W., Sgt
WG	Elliott, John C., S/Sgt

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

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P	Nafius, Verner H., 1Lt
CP	Smith, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV	Orenstein, Harold A., 2Lt
BOM	Duros, Constantine J., 1Lt
ENG	Ellis, Richard R., S/Sgt
RO	Fegette, Iva L., T/Sgt
TG	Jinkens, Billy B., S/Sgt
WG	Rydquist, Roy K., S/Sgt
BT	McGinley, James E., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #44-6504 *(No Name)***

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P	Kallet, Sidney, 2Lt
CP	Muth, Clifford F., 2Lt
NAV	McCarty, Mike D., 2Lt
BOM	Harrison, Lewis S., 2Lt
ENG	Lewis, William J., Sgt
RO	Clarke, Frank W., Sgt
BT	Macy, Edward J., Sgt
TG	Terreri, Joseph, Sgt
WG	Killelea, Raymond J., Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

### **B-17G #44-8137 (No Name) - PFF**

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P Kuykendall, Roger L., 1Lt  
CP Norris, Loy R., 2Lt  
NAV Mundell, William K., F/O  
NAV Charlton, Rufus S., 2Lt  
BOM Cummins, James E., 2Lt  
ENG Evans, Harry D., S/Sgt  
BT Boone, Everett D., Sgt  
RO Barton, Forrest E., S/Sgt  
TG Lovold, Ole, 2Lt  
WG Alexander, John P., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38532 (No Name)**

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P Juns, Frank, 1Lt  
CP Beasley, Roland C., 2Lt  
NAV Harding, Warren G., 2Lt  
BOM Thomas, Edward H., 2Lt  
ENG LeRoux, Lyle W., T/Sgt  
RO Wimer, Maurice H., Sgt  
BT Oberly, Eldridge C., Sgt  
TG Englis, Hiram E., Cpl  
WG Branin, James J., Cpl  
(Abortive)

### **B-17G #43-38451 (No Name)**

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P Foley, Norment, 1Lt  
CP Rowe, Robert A., 2Lt  
NAV Littlefield, Robert I., 2Lt  
BOM Woodbury, Benton R., 1Lt  
ENG Snell, Edward A., S/Sgt  
RO Johnson, Vernelle V., S/Sgt  
TG Stewart, Charles R., Sgt  
BT Waltmire, Harrel A., Jr., Sgt  
WG Price, Kirkland T., S/Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Van Antwerp, Robert G., 2Lt  
 CP Rose, Jack W., 2Lt  
 NAV Morrison, Martin, 2Lt  
 BOM Nazarian, John K., 2Lt  
 TT Dyson, Flake S., Sgt  
 BT Brinkley, Lynn M., Sgt  
 RO Harper, Hiram C., Sgt  
 TG McCall, Lamar H., Sgt  
 WG Cottle, Clyde J., Jr., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38705 (No Name)**

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P Eisenwinter, Philip D., 1Lt  
 CP Waggoner, Richard C., 2Lt  
 NAV Norman, Frederick J., 2Lt  
 BOM Campbell, Robert C., 2Lt  
 TT Simone, S.P., Sgt  
 BT Veljkov, Paul, Sgt  
 RO Islava, Joseph O., T/Sgt  
 TG Grossman, Howard A., Sgt  
 WG Sutton, Marvin A., S/Sgt

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

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P O'Leary, James W., 2Lt  
 CP Reed, Louis E., 2Lt  
 NAV Kacere, Michael J., 2Lt  
 BOM Lyda, Robert E., 2Lt  
 TT Kernodle, John T., Sgt  
 BT Czerwonka, Joseph A., S/Sgt  
 RO DeVaney, Bernard C., Sgt  
 TG Carver, Harold R., Sgt  
 WG DeCicco, Frank C., Jr., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-102411 *Miss Lace***

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P Gano, Frederick, 2Lt  
 CP Flanders, Wesley J., 2Lt  
 NAV Maniscalco, John B., F/O  
 BOM Blessing, Gerald D., 2Lt  
 TT Anthony, George E., Sgt  
 BT Coyle, Arthur J., Sgt  
 RO Longo, Angelo L., S/Sgt  
 TG Nelson, Edward F., Sgt  
 WG Clare, Donald T., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-37666 *Full House***

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P Brown, Tracy D., Jr., 1Lt  
 CP Lawrenson, George C., 1Lt  
 NAV Emmet, John P., 2Lt  
 BOM Olson, William E., 2Lt  
 TT Duffek, Francis T., S/Sgt  
 BT Born, Robert S., Sgt  
 RO Bridge, Howard R., T/Sgt  
 TG Blim, Raymond C., Sgt  
 WG Fisher, Clelland F., S/Sgt

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

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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., S/Sgt  
 BT Johnson, Charles H., S/Sgt  
 RO Pope, Lester L., S/Sgt  
 TG Henry, Donivan D., S/Sgt  
 WG Smirnes, E. "Nick", Jr., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-107099 *Old 99***

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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 #43-38248 *Jigger Rooche II***

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P Dubose, Carl L., Jr., 1Lt  
 CP Bean, John R., 2Lt  
 NAV Jenkins, John I., 2Lt  
 BOM Bober, Stanley, 2Lt  
 TT Jones, Jesse T., Jr., S/Sgt  
 BT Kidd, Robert E., S/Sgt  
 RO Kollmar, Donald L., S/Sgt  
 TG Watson, Byron W., Sgt  
 WG Balint, Daniel, Jr., Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

### **B-17G #43-38621 50 Ragged**

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P	Cureton, Peter F., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Smith, Donald R., 2Lt
NAV	Rusk, Donald M., 1Lt
BOM	Lewis, Willard L., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Willison, Warren, T/Sgt
BT	Burford, Joseph A., Sgt
RO	Ellis, James A., S/Sgt
WG	Bourlier, Donald W., S/Sgt
TG	Celichowski, Ervin M., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-6166 The Red**

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P	Bliss, Robert P., 1Lt
CP	Morrow, John E., 2Lt
NAV	Spooner, Ramon L., 2Lt
BOM	Webster, Charles M., 1Lt
TT	Shumar, Carl K., T/Sgt
BT	Eakins, Charles A, Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Herman, Benjamin, T/Sgt
TG	Plesinger, Michael J., S/Sgt
WG	Curry, Richard L., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #43-31060 Poque Ma Hone**

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P	Roberts, Ingersall J., 1Lt
CP	Bluethenthal, Arthur, 2Lt
NAV	Clark, Floyd L., F/O
BOM	Long, Lloyd I., F/O
BT	Carlson, Harold A., Sgt
TT	Riveland, Alf, Sgt
RO	Renzi, Frank, Sgt
TG	Barber, Albert P., Sgt
WG	Campbell, Gerald R., Sgt

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

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P	Reid, Clair P., 2Lt
CP	Droll, Louis P., 2Lt
NAV	Rogge, Richard W., 2Lt
BOM	Natoli, Sam J., 2Lt
TT	Arnott, David H., Sgt
BT	Casciola, Benedict L., Sgt
RO	Elling, Myron A., Sgt
TG	Lowe, Joseph W., Sgt
WG	McArdle, John H., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8038 (No Name) - PFF**

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P	Flowers, Selwyn D., 1Lt
CP	Healy, Richard F., 1Lt
NAV	Katz, Edwin Harold, 2Lt
NAV	Tollack, Howard V., 1Lt
NAV	Desmond, MacChesney, 1Lt
BOM	Ulrich, Carl L., 2Lt
TT	Kiely, Joseph P., T/Sgt
BT	McCormick, Lewis J., S/Sgt
RO	Kopriva, Charles P., S/Sgt
TG	Harris, John R., 2Lt
WG	Howell, Charles E., S/Sgt
PHO	Skinner, Donald E., Sgt

## **GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

by Ramiro M. "Tony" Gonzalez  
Crew Chief – 360th Bomb Squadron

\_\_\_\_\_To the B-17 heavy bomber pilots who played such an important role in delivering us from Nazi tyranny, and its devastating consequences in World War II, I take my hat off and with due reverence, bow. Yes, it was "Team Work," by everyone at Molesworth, but they were the leaders.

The mighty 303rd Bombardment Group, and the 360th Bomb Squadron in particular (of which I was a member), had a shaky beginning. Primarily, it was because of the original squadron commander, who didn't or couldn't live up to his pledge or oath as an officer and leader. This sad situation was soon corrected by a replacement, that became the major pride and asset to our Squadron, Group, and I will venture to say, to the whole 8th Air Force.

When I first meet General Lew Lyle, he was Captain Lyle, as our Squadron Commander, and flew the aircraft that I worked on. This same aircraft became the ship leading the Squadron all along, but with a different pilot. The discrepancies used by the original pilot to abort rough missions, disappeared or were none existent when Captain Lyle took over. He "lead" by precept and example, and was loved and respected by all.

Captain Lyle's leadership qualities were soon acknowledged and rewarded by his higher ups, which eventually ascended him to his present rank as a Major General.

The ground crews commented favorably in his behalf and was an inspiration to all of us, and I imagine that the pilots that he led, had the same concept of his daring educated risk, as he lead them into battle. He defied the odds and cheated reality many, many times.

Because of his unselfish demeanor, and strong disciplined character, his crew looked up to him, with confidence and composure, and fought gallantly against what seemed to be unbeatable odds. Many fine men perished during this time, officers and enlisted men who were exposed to anti-aircraft guns and fighters.

With the fighters, our gunners had what some of them would call a "sporting chance," because they could shoot back at them. But with the "flak" they were "sitting ducks," and couldn't take evasive action while on the bomb run, or deviate from their course, as the bombardier had to drop the bombs on the target. During this brief, critical period of time their odds of surviving decreased considerably. If a ship got knocked out of the sky, another took his position for protection and security. The maintenance of the bomber formation was essential for adequate fire power against the German fighters.