

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 256

14 October 1944

Target: Marshalling Yard at Saarbrucken, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 26

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 32 minutes

Bomb Load: 14 x 250 lb H.E. M57 & 4 x 500 lb M17 Incendiary

Bombing Altitudes: 24,900 & 24,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 200 rounds

A relatively small formation of twenty-six BG(H) B-17s flew a very uneventful mission to Saarbrucken, Germany. There were no enemy fighters observed and 107 P-51s provided good escort. Anti-aircraft fire was meager and inaccurate with only three accurate bursts on the bomb run. One aircraft suffered major and one, minor battle damage. There were no casualties and all aircraft returned safely to Molesworth. Two aircraft returned early: #42-97944 *Daddy's Delight*, 359BS (Lt. **Ackerman**) - engine problems at 1110 hours, three miles northeast of East Grinstead; #43-37597 *Earthquake McGoon*, 427BS (Lt. **Rose**) - at 1205 hours with a runaway prop.



JOHN C. GRIGGS, JR. CREW - 427th BS

(photo: 8 July 1944)

(Back L-R) 2Lt John C. Griggs, Jr. (P), 2Lt Merrill J. DuMont (CP),

2Lt William A. Malone (N), 2Lt William L. Rohner (B)

(Front L-R) Sgt Robert L. Duffel (BT), Sgt Miles R. Bruce (TG),

Sgt Joseph Scaglione (WG), S/Sgt Joseph F. Benning, Jr. (R),

S/Sgt Alvin R. Monnig, Jr. (E), Sgt Henry H. Means, Jr. (WG)

Over the target there were 8/10 low clouds with tops at 13,000 to 14,000 ft., and no middle or high clouds, necessitating PFF bombing. Aircraft dropped 360 250-lb. H.E. M57 and 87 500-lb. M17 incendiary bombs from 24,900 and 24,000 ft. Two B-17s dropped 20 bundles of T177 leaflets. Bombing results were unobserved.

Henry "Hank" **Means** later commented on this mission, "I was flying with Lt John Griggs on our mission to Saarbrucken, Germany. This was a very uneventful mission that almost ended in disaster for our crew. One of the adjacent planes came drifting

across the top of ours, narrowly missing us. Griggs dumped the stick, and I hit the top of the fuselage. It would have killed me without my "flak helmet." My ammo went all over the waist position and laid on top of the ball turret. Good thing there was no enemy fighters to attack us! When I returned to base, I found out that the pilot and copilot were putting on their flak suits at the same time. Really good thinking!!!"

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

<u>Kerwin-Mainwaring</u>				
537				
		<u>Chance</u>		<u>Brabant</u>
		289		137 - PFF
	<u>Freeland</u>			<u>Jenkins</u>
	945			502
<u>Gmernicki</u>		<u>McCutcheon</u>		<u>Virag</u>
590		442		609
	<u>McKinley</u>			<u>Holm</u>
	516			523
<u>Freeman</u>		<u>Glass</u>		
517		972		
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Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

<u>Mosel-O'Beirne</u>				
544				
		<u>Juns</u>		<u>Baehr</u>
		532		258
	<u>Hamilton</u>			<u>Foley</u>
	311			705
<u>Reid</u>		<u>Rose</u>		<u>Gravrock</u>
197		597		055
	<u>Griggs</u>			<u>Ackerman</u>
	569			944
<u>Drewry</u>		<u>Caplinger</u>		
099		666		
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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 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	Judd, Chester G., 2Lt
NAV	Starr, Ben, 2Lt
BOM	Nugent, Robert F., 1Lt
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 #44-6517 Old Cock

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

B-17G #44-6523 (No Name)

P	Holm, Maurice M., 1Lt
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 #44-6516 My Darling

P	McKinley, Ralph C., 1Lt
CP	Harwick, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Long, Donald C., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Boland, Anthony J., 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 #43-37590 Neva-The Silver Lady

P	Gmernicki, Richard H., 2Lt
CP	McGilvray, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV	Jones, William M., 2Lt
BOM	Guerrieri, Joseph C., F/O
ENG	Griffith, Elwood A., Sgt
WG	McClymont, John W., Sgt
RO	Calenberg, Raymond N., Sgt
BT	Greenberg, Bernard, Sgt
TG	Henn, Thomas A., Sgt

B-17G #42-97972 (No Name)

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

B-17G #42-102945 Sweet Pea

P	Freeland, Troit D., 1Lt
CP	Prudhoe, Louis J., 2Lt
NAV	Kosta, Alexander, 2Lt
BOM	Carloss, Earl W., 1Lt
ENG	Abernathy, Wylie C., S/Sgt
WG	Kedzierski, Edward P., Sgt
RO	Wilson, Clarence K., S/Sgt
TG	Dyzel, Bernard J., Sgt
BT	Cerzosimo, Bernard P., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Virag, Andy R., 1Lt
CP	Beck, Edward R., 2Lt
NAV	Durkin, James A., 1Lt
TOG	Clubine, Frederick D., 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 #44-6502 (No Name)

P	Jenkins, Harry F., 1Lt
CP	Blanchard, Samuel B., 2Lt
NAV	Nute, Gordon B., 1Lt
BOM	Couch, William M., 2Lt
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 #44-8137 (No Name) - PFF

P	Brabant, Patrick H., 1Lt
CP	Judy, Ira J., 2Lt
NAV	Hammond, Raymond D., 2Lt
NAV	Beyerler, Earl R., 2Lt
BOM	Schulze, William A., 2Lt
ENG	Hodge, Dana A., T/Sgt
RO	Ringen, Walter E., S/Sgt
TG	Millek, John P., S/Sgt
WG	Valentine, Robert J., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38289 Sweet LaRhonda

P	Chance, Arthur F., 1Lt
CP	Johnson, Robert H., 2Lt
NAV	McCarver, Eugene D., 2Lt
TOG	McKinley, A.B., Sgt
ENG	Menasco, Elmer W., Sgt
RO	Miller, Albert, Sgt
BT	Moss, Shirley L., Sgt
TG	Hejna, Dennis R., Sgt
WG	Torre, Leo A., Sgt

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

P	Bergeron, Arthur A., 2Lt
CP	Kohlstedt, Donald L., 2Lt
NAV	Beder, Harrison K., 2Lt
TOG	Tartaglia, Raymond, S/Sgt
ENG	Fragasso, Glenn, S/Sgt
RO	Lawson, Lucien P., S/Sgt
BT	Tisdale, Elmo O., Sgt
TG	Shrader, James J., Sgt
WG	Heffran, James J., Sgt

B-17G #43-37537 Queen of Hearts

P	Mainwaring, Charles O., 1Lt
CP	Kerwin, Charles E., Maj
NAV	Forve, Frank F., 1Lt
NAV	Koran, William C., 2Lt
BOM	Stone, Leonard, 2Lt
ENG	Gauthier, Leon C., S/Sgt
RO	Tognetti, Paul A., S/Sgt
BT	Cottrell, Bert, S/Sgt
TG	Ward, Duane G., 2Lt
WG	Angeloff, James P., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Baehr, Kenneth C., 1Lt
CP	Cambron, Richard H., 2Lt
NAV	Conklin, James M., 2Lt
BOM	Rudolph, Gabriel, 2Lt
ENG	Keipper, Carl E., S/Sgt
BT	Decker, Bruce O., S/Sgt
RO	Ploeger, Jesse, T/Sgt
TG	Odegaard, Duane J., Sgt
WG	Baldwin, Kenton F., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31055 *Aloha*

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 #43-38451 (No Name)

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

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

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

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

P	Foley, Norment, 1Lt
CP	Rowe, Robert A., 2Lt
NAV	Woodbury, Benton R., 1Lt
BOM	Smith, William H., 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	Gerstel, Charles L., Sgt

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

P	Mosel, Arnold, 2Lt
CP	O'Beirne, Nelson B., 1Lt
NAV	Shipp, Gene K., 1Lt
NAV	Edwards, Frank A., 1Lt
BOM	Rape, Sylvester H., 2Lt
ENG	Conley, Donald H., S/Sgt
RO	Groth, Gerald J., T/Sgt
BT	Crawford, Frank J., Sgt
TG	Schuchard, Virgil R., 2Lt
WG	Bialobrzkeski, Joseph C., Sgt
WG	Koshar, Jerome J., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Reid, Clair P., 2Lt
 CP Bean, John R., 2Lt
 NAV Rogge, Richard W., 2Lt
 BOM Natoli, Sam J., 2Lt
 TT Arnott, David H., Sgt
 BT Casciola, Benedict L., Sgt
 RO Scaglione, Joseph, S/Sgt
 TG Lowe, Joseph W., Sgt
 WG Clare, Donald T., Sgt

B-17G #42-107099 Old 99

P Drewry, James A., 1Lt
 CP Schneider, Richard H., 2Lt
 NAV Mayo, Archie W., 2Lt
 BOM Burke, James D., 2Lt
 TT Dorrah, Walter R., S/Sgt
 BT Morin, Donald P., S/Sgt
 RO Nash, Leslie G., S/Sgt
 TG Sutton, Marvin A., S/Sgt
 WG Koch, Edwin H., Sgt

B-17G #42-97311 Shoo Shoo Baby

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
 RO Jarvis, Robert F., T/Sgt
 TG Coleman, Warren M., S/Sgt
 WG Grove, John W., S/Sgt
 BT Paterson, Richard E., S/Sgt

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

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., S/Sgt
 TG Wiencek, Edward J., Sgt
 WG Proper, George M., Sgt
 (Abortive)

B-17G #43-37666 Full House

P Caplinger, Auston O., 1Lt
 CP Spruner, Donald L., 2Lt
 NAV Martin, Walter E. Jr., 2Lt
 BOM Bober, Stanley, 2Lt
 TT Johnson, O.D., T/Sgt
 BT Jacobs, Carroll W., Jr., Sgt
 RO Islava, Joseph O., T/Sgt
 TG Hester, Lloyd D., Sgt
 WG Olds, Andrew R., Sgt

B-17G #42-102569 Miss Lace

P Griggs, John C., 1Lt
 CP Dumont, Merrill J., 2Lt
 NAV Malone, William A., 2Lt
 BOM Haakonsen, Raymond E., 2Lt
 TT Monnig, Alvin R., Jr., S/Sgt
 BT Duffel, Robert L., S/Sgt
 RO Benning, Joseph F., Jr., S/Sgt
 WG Means, Henry H., Jr., Sgt
 TG Grossman, Howard A., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-37597 Earthquake McGoon

P Rose, Jack W., 2Lt
 CP Cornyn, T. John, 2Lt
 NAV Jenkins, John I., 2Lt
 BOM Nazarian, John K., 2Lt
 TT Dyson, Flake S., Sgt
 BT Brinkley, Lynn M., Sgt
 RO Hale, Ralph E., Sgt
 TG McCall, Lamar H., Sgt
 WG Cottle, Clyde J., Jr., Sgt
 (Abortive)