

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 257

15 October 1944

Target: Marshalling Yard at Cologne, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 13

Crews Lost: Lt. Gaines - 8 KIA, 1 POW

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 25 minutes

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

Bombing Altitude: 25,200 ft

Ammo Fired: 180 rounds

Thirteen aircraft were dispatched to bomb the Eifeltor Marshalling yards at Cologne, Germany. The secondary target, in the event that the primary could not be positively identified on the PFF equipment, was military installations in Cologne. The last resort target was the Breitscheid airfield. No aircraft returned early.

Twelve aircraft dropped 165 250-lb. H.E. M57 and 46 500-lb. M17 incendiary bombs. One B-17 dropped 10xT179 leaflet bundles. Bombing was from 25,200 feet, through 3/10 to 5/10 low clouds with good, 35-mile visibility.

No enemy aircraft were seen and support was provided by 146 P-51s. Chaff had no effect on the intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, which resulted in seven major and four minor aircraft with battle damage.



Ardennes American Cemetery Memorial, Liege Belgium

Fortress #43-38604 (*No Name*), 359BS, piloted by 2Lt. Edmund W. **Gaines**, was lost after being hit by flak over the target. It received a direct hit between the Nos. 1 and 2 engines. It caught fire, with flames enveloping the entire wing. It started down, slipped off to the right, made a complete turn (losing altitude as it did so), went down in a steep dive and blew up at about 10,000 feet. It crashed near Cologne, Germany. One parachute was seen to open. S/Sgt. Raymond **Tartaglia** was blown out of the aircraft through the nose during the

explosion. By some miracle, the parachute that he was wearing was open when he regained consciousness—he has no memory of pulling the rip cord. He was the only crewman to survive the explosion. He was captured and became a POW.

Lt. **Gaines**, 2Lt. Arthur A. **Bergeron** 2Lt. Harrison K. **Beder**, S/Sgt. Glenn **Fragasso**, S/Sgt. Lucien P. **Lawson**, Sgt. Elmo O. **Tisdale**, Sgt. James J. **Heffran** and Sgt. James F. **Shrader** were killed in the explosion. Lt. **Gaines** and Lt. **Bergeron** are buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Fontana-Cambron</u>			
		137 - PFF			
		<u>King</u>		<u>Hallum</u>	
		523		504	
	<u>Flesh</u>				<u>Grisham</u>
	197				945
<u>Gano</u>		<u>Roberts</u>		<u>Glass</u>	<u>Gmernicki</u>
666		885		590	949
	<u>Underdown</u>				<u>Duffield</u>
	502				532
<u>Gould</u>		<u>Gaines</u>		_____	_____
609		604		_____	_____
	_____			_____	_____



Nose Art on B-17G #42-102945 Sweet Pea 358BS (VK- M)

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer</p> <p>RESULTS OF MISSION KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war</p>	<p>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</p>
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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Gmernicki, Richard H., 2Lt
CP	Judd, Chester G., 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 #42-102945 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 #43-37590 Neva-The Silver Lady

P	Glass, Leroy E., 2Lt
P	Chunat, 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., S/Sgt
WG	Hodges, Grady H., Sgt
TG	Davis, Mark M., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Gould, Graham C., 1Lt
CP	Lasker, Yale, 2Lt
NAV	Leigh, Thomas W., Jr., 1Lt
TOG	Garcia, Leonard A., 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 #43-38604 (No Name) CR-L

P	Gaines, Edmund W., 2Lt	KIA
CP	Bergeron, Arthur A., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Beder, Harrison K., 2Lt	KIA
TOG	Tartaglia, Raymond, S/Sgt	POW
ENG	Fragasso, Glenn, S/Sgt	KIA
RO	Lawson, Lucien P., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Tisdale, Elmo O., Cpl	KIA
TG	Shrader, James F., Sgt	KIA
WG	Heffran, James J., Sgt	KIA

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

P	Underdown, Sidney L., 1Lt
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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Hallum, Bertrand, Jr., 1Lt
CP	Fink, Marvin P., 2Lt
NAV	Subkowsky, Harry, 2Lt
BOM	Fetzko, John, Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Young, Horace B., S/Sgt
RO	Botkin, Jack S., S/Sgt
BT	Ax, Heinz R., Sgt
TG	Price, Kirkland T., S/Sgt
WG	Stroud, George E., Jr., Sgt

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

P	Fontana, Bernard C., 1Lt
CP	Cambron, Richard H., 2Lt
NAV	Mundell, William K., 2Lt
NAV	Charlton, Rufus S., 1Lt
BOM	Duros, Constantine J., 1Lt
ENG	Perry, Robert N., T/Sgt
RO	King, Raymond C., T/Sgt
TG	Rowe, Robert A., 2Lt
WG	Weems, Thomas L., S/Sgt

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

P	King, John E., 2Lt
CP	Hardin, Thomas H., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	Hiebeler, George E., 2Lt
BOM	Hackler, Maurice G., 2Lt
ENG	Bird, Harry G., S/Sgt
RO	Christ, Donald R., S/Sgt
BT	Miller, Donald E., Sgt
TG	Johnson, David T., Sgt
WG	Durfee, James R., S/Sgt

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

P	Duffield, Richard B., 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., S/Sgt
TG	Bur, Robert D., S/Sgt
WG	Koppes, Carl A., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-37666 Full House

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 #43-38197 (No Name)

P	Flesh, William R., 1Lt
CP	Droll, Louis P., 2Lt
NAV	Laverty, Leo E., 1Lt
BOM	Sandhagen, Paul R., 1Lt
TT	Jones, Jesse T., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Grove, John W., S/Sgt
RO	Islava, Joseph O., T/Sgt
TG	Schulz, Paul H., S/Sgt
WG	Howell, Charles E., S/Sgt

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

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