

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 276

23 November 1944

Target: Synthetic Oil Plant at Gelsenkirchen, Germany
and Railroad Junction at Duisberg, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 26

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 45 minutes

Bomb Load: 20 x 250 lb H.E. M57 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 26,000 & 24,500 ft

Ammo Fired: 810 rounds

Although the Thanksgiving Day take-off was in nasty weather, the aircraft flew a perfect operational mission. The primary target at Gelsenkirchen was the Nordstern plant—with a capacity of 400,000 tons per year, the largest of the ten Ruhr Valley synthetic oil plants. RAF Lancasters also bombed the same target in daylight.



Avro Lancaster 'B' Mk I

No enemy aircraft were seen. Seventy-three P-51s provided excellent fighter support. Anti-aircraft fire was meager to moderate and inaccurate. No aircraft were damaged, there were no casualties, no aircraft returned early and all landed on schedule at Molesworth. Chaff was very effective.

The lead Squadron bombed the secondary target at Duisberg, Germany by PFF when their GEE-H equipment malfunctioned. They dropped 253 250-lb. H.E. M57 bombs from 26,000 feet. The low Squadron bombed the primary target utilizing their GEE-H equipment that worked well. They dropped 217 250-lb. M57 bombs from 24,500 feet. Both bombings were unobserved through 10/10 middle clouds with tops at 15,000 feet and occasional tops at 25,000 feet. Formations had to cope with moderate, non-persistent contrails.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

Mackin-Fielder
691 - PFF

Holm
860

Twomey
945

Grisham
563

Duffield
532

McCutcheon
530

Mayer
006

App
504

Middlemas
516

McKinley
316

Arwood
672

Snider
427

Freeman
298



(No Name) #42-97691 PFF (427BS) GN-Y
41st CBW-B Lead (358BS) - Pilot Maj G.T. Mackin / CoPilot 1Lt G.H. Fielder
 (Back L-R) 1Lt Michael L. Zarelli (GH-N), 1Lt Warren B. Morris (B), Major George T. Mackin (P),
 1Lt George H. Fielder (CP), 1Lt Earl R. Beyeler (PFF-N)
 (Front L-R) 1Lt Earl B. Douglass (TG-Obs), S/Sgt Gasper Pizzolato, Jr. (WG),
 T/Sgt Neil C. Buie (R), T/Sgt James E. Cavagnaro (E), 1Lt Earl D. Metko (N)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Mainwaring-Lutz</u> 439 - PFF			
		<u>Tasker</u> 099		<u>Mickle</u> 311	
	<u>Underdown</u> 608			<u>Gravrock</u> 055	
<u>Bixby</u> 411		<u>Rybaltowski</u> 309		<u>Kallet</u> 451	<u>Fink</u> 517
	<u>Carney</u> 197			<u>Lovell</u> 523	
<u>Gates</u> 050		<u>Proffitt</u> 569			
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VINCENT RYBALTOWSKI CREW - 359th BS
 B-17G Daddy's Delight #42-97944 (359BS) BN-I
 (crew assigned 359BS: 11 Nov 1944 - photo: 08 Dec 1944)

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38530 (No Name)

P	McCutcheon, George E., 1Lt
CP	Thompson, John A., 2Lt
NAV	Starr, Ben, 2Lt
BOM	Day, Keith E., 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 #42-97860 (No Name)

P	Holm, Maurice M., 1Lt
CP	Fletcher, Harold D., F/O
NAV	Howard, Paul A., 2Lt
BOM	Kedzierski, Edward P., Sgt
ENG	Compton, M.C., Sgt
WG	Huck, Robert L., Sgt
RO	Dale, John A., Sgt
BT	Ebert, Preston P., Sgt
TG	Beck, Harold P., S/Sgt

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

P	Freeman, Clyde E., 1Lt
CP	Canning, Glenn R., 2Lt
NAV	Goldstein, Sheldon, 2Lt
BOM	Gibson, James, Sgt
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 #42-102945 *Sweet Pea*

P	Twomey, John M., 1Lt
CP	Ross, James V., 2Lt
NAV	Hartel, Gale E., 2Lt
BOM	Davis, Edward A., 2Lt
ENG	Shaw, Vergil A., Sgt
RO	Bzik, Paul J., S/Sgt
TG	Hammond, Walter E., Sgt
WG	Martin, Jack E., S/Sgt
BT	Johnson, Marvin T., Sgt

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p>CREW POSITIONS</p> <p>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 WG - Waist Gunner LWG - Left Waist Gunner RWG - Right Waist Gunner GUN - Gunner VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer</p>	<p>PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer Y - Y-Operators (YRO,YO) RCM - Radio Cntr Measures SJ - Spot Jammer</p> <p>RESULTS OF MISSION</p> <p>KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action</p>	<p>POW - Prisoner of war DOW - Died of wounds EVD - Evaded the enemy 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 - Cont'd.

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

P	McKinley, Ralph C., 1Lt
CP	Harwick, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Long, Donald C., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Foster, William D., S/Sgt
ENG	Jones, Burlen, T/Sgt
WG	Devaney, Thomas J., Sgt
RO	Moll, Richard S., Sgt
BT	Clark, Woodrow E., Sgt
TG	Soule, Evan R., Sgt

B-17G #44-8427 *Henn's Revenge*

P	Snider, Harley D., 2Lt
CP	Kunkel, Joe T., 2Lt
NAV	McCorkle, Robert W., F/O
BOM	Feezel, Ralph S., 2Lt
ENG	Work, John R., S/Sgt
BT	Kudder, Edward P., Sgt
RO	Ludington, Robert S., Sgt
WG	Wade, Murray W., Sgt
TG	Cox, Lyle H., Sgt

B-17G #43-38563 *Jackie*

P	Grisham, Rufus W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Cox, William H., 2Lt
NAV	Simons, Robert A., 1Lt
BOM	Birkenseer, Donald L., 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
PHO	Skinner, Donald E., S/Sgt

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

P	Mackin, George T., Maj
CP	Fielder, George H., 1Lt
NAV	Metko, Earl D., 1Lt
NAV	Beyeler, Earl R., 1Lt
NAV	Zarelli, Michael L., 1Lt
BOM	Morris, Warren B., 1Lt
ENG	Cavagnaro, James E., S/Sgt
WG	Pizzolato, Gasper, Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Buie, Neil C., S/Sgt
TG	Douglass, Earl B., 1Lt

B-17G #44-6006 (No Name)

P	Mayer, Walter J., 1Lt
CP	Gradle, Raymond B., 2Lt
NAV	Celich, Nicholas J., 2Lt
TOG	Brown, James L., Sgt
ENG	McGreevy, James, Sgt
TG	Withers, Frederick J., S/Sgt
RO	Tuescher, Ernest, S/Sgt
WG	Woodward, Thomas J., S/Sgt
BT	Gendron, Ernest J., S/Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Bixby, Kenneth E., 2Lt
CP	Burns, James S., 2Lt
NAV	Jones, Clayton C., F/O
BOM	Moss, Henry G., 2Lt
ENG	Belcher, Rubin W., S/Sgt
RO	Krumwiede, Leland J., Sgt
BT	Reese, Dale G., Sgt
TG	Peters, John W., Sgt
WG	Lombardi, Mondo, Sgt

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

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

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

P	Gates, Cecil J., 2Lt
CP	Zapora, Theodore T., 2Lt
NAV	Quinlan, Thomas E., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Elliott, Harold F., 2Lt
ENG	Wysocki, Walter, Sgt
RO	Maurer, Charles E., Sgt
BT	Berrett, Charles R., Sgt
TG	Lainson, Colin C., Sgt
WG	Wallis, Elton E., Sgt

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

P	Mickle, James D., 1Lt
CP	Clarke, Loren M., F/O
NAV	King, Robert L., 2Lt
BOM	Scheibman, Herman B., 1Lt
ENG	Humphrey, William B., Sgt
RO	Eagon, Dennis G., Sgt
TG	Van Zile, Raymond J., Sgt
WG	Wentz, Robert D., Sgt
BT	Garcia, Leonard A., Sgt

B-17G #43-38608 *Lucille*

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., S/Sgt
TG	Stevens, Richard G., Sgt
WG	Botton, Pius L., Sgt

B-17G #42-102569 *Miss Lace*

P	Proffitt, John S., 2Lt
CP	Ogborn, Maurice E., 2Lt
NAV	Malerich, Earl J., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Finke, John C., 2Lt
ENG	Young, James W., Sgt
RO	Norris, Cornie, Jr., Sgt
BT	Bechtold, Robert E., Sgt
TG	O'Neal, Howard F., Sgt
WG	Rose, G.L., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #44-6309 *Duchess' Granddaughter*

P Rybaltowski, Vincent, 2Lt
CP Bach, Harold J., 2Lt
NAV Moon, Richard Y., 2Lt
BOM McLeod, Harry A., 2Lt
ENG Perlowitz, Murray A., Sgt
RO Capps, Douglas M., Sgt
BT Hollingsworth, Donald M., Sgt
TG Reseigh, John R., Sgt
WG Vitiritto, Joseph A., Sgt

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

P Tasker, Richard E., 2Lt
CP Fravel, Harold L., 2Lt
NAV Meadows, Clyde, F/O
BOM McDonnell, John J., 2Lt
ENG Toon, William D., Sgt
RO Minnix, Glenn A., Sgt
BT Reider, Enrique M., Sgt
TG Driver, Arthur H., Sgt
WG Van Ornum, Charles S., Sgt

B-17G #44-8439 (*No Name*) - PFF

P Mainwaring, Charles O., 1Lt
CP Lutz, John R., 2Lt
NAV Hammond, Raymond D., 1Lt
NAV Koran, William C., 1Lt
NAV Weil, Frank P., 2Lt
BOM Mitchell, Robert C., 2Lt
ENG Gauthier, Leon C., S/Sgt
RO Tognetti, Paul A., T/Sgt
TG Christensen, Lawrence A., 1Lt
WG Abernathy, Fay S., T/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Middlemas, Arthur B., 1Lt
CP	Schultz, John W., 2Lt
NAV	Cooley, Royal D., 2Lt
BOM	Clippinger, Robert E., S/Sgt
ENG	Marshall, Leroy H., Sgt
RO	Avenia, James J., Sgt
BT	Parrish, George K., Sgt
TG	Cranshaw, John A., Sgt
WG	Maurer, John L., Sgt

B-17G #43-38672 (No Name)

P	Arwood, Joe B., 1Lt
CP	Johnson, Walter E., 2Lt
NAV	Fowler, William C., 2Lt
BOM	Odegaard, Duane J., Sgt
ENG	Power, Thomas B., Sgt
RO	Curry, Paul A., Sgt
BT	Hulterstrum, Joseph P., Sgt
TG	Sanchez, Crespian E., Sgt
WG	Linn, James B., Sgt

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

P	Fink, Marvin P., 2Lt
CP	Reeves, Howard E., 2Lt
NAV	Subkowsky, Harry, 2Lt
BOM	Hand, Robert A., 2Lt
ENG	Holder, Jack E., Sgt
RO	Dahl, Robert F., Sgt
BT	Albright, Richard M., Sgt
TG	Garcia, Cyprian M., Sgt
WG	Peter, Robert C., Sgt

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

P	Duffield, Richard B., 1Lt
CP	White, Raymond E., 2Lt
NAV	Papp, Melvin E., 2Lt
BOM	Puryear, James L., 1Lt
ENG	Bostick, George F., T/Sgt
RO	Lillis, Joseph O., T/Sgt
BT	Gilbert, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Carter, James O., S/Sgt
WG	Wotanis, Leo F., S/Sgt

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

P	App, Robert G., 2Lt
CP	Moody, William S., 2Lt
NAV	Dennis, Walter F., 2Lt
BOM	Dee, Martin R., F/O
ENG	Leach, Norman L., Sgt
RO	Matlock, Austin M., Sgt
BT	Brady, Gene F., Sgt
TG	Barder, Emmett R., S/Sgt
WG	Polaski, Duane L., Sgt

B-17G #42-31055 *Aloha*

P	Gravrock, Howard C., 1Lt
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 #44-6523 (No Name)

P	Lovell, Brock H., 2Lt
CP	Geiger, James E., 1Lt
NAV	Divine, Fred H., 2Lt
BOM	Emery, Roy F., 2Lt
ENG	Stockman, Leonard G., Sgt
RO	Licht, Wilfred L., Sgt
BT	Wentz, Roland L., Sgt
TG	Germanine, Joseph R., Sgt
WG	Doctor, Gordon C., Sgt