

## 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 277

26 November 1944

Target: Railroad Viaduct at Altenbeken, Germany  
and Railroad Marshalling Yard at Osnabruck, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 58

Crews Lost: Lt. Jameson, 9 POW; Lt. Healy, 3 KIA, 2 POW, 5 RTD

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 25 minutes

Bomb Load: 6 x 1,000 lb H.E. M44 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 23,600, 21,200, 19,300, 18,000 & 19,500 ft

Ammo Fired: 4,575 rounds

**T**he 303rd BG(H) dispatched 58 B-17s. It was later verified that this mission comprised the largest number of bombers airborne on any of the eventual 364 303rd BG(H) combat missions. One aircraft returned early: #43-37590 *Neva-The Silver Lady*, (Lt. **McGilvray**) turned back at 1025 hours with loose bombs in the bomb bay.

The primary target (visual or GEE-H) was the railway junction at Altenbecken. The last resort (PFF) target was the marshalling yard at Osnabruck. Thirty-six B-17s flew as the lead Group of the 41st CBW-A and twenty-two as the lead and low Squadrons of the 41st CBW-B Group. Near the primary target there were 4/10 to 6/10 patchy clouds with tops at 14,000 feet, which became a 10/10 cloud cover over the target. The cloud layer cleared over the last resort target.

The lead and low Squadrons of the "A" Group and lead Squadron of the "B" Group bombed the primary target with GEE-H equipment with unobserved results. They dropped 200 1,000-lb. H.E. M44 bombs from 19,300, 18,000 and 19,500 feet. The high Squadron of the "A" Group and the low Squadron of the "B" Group dropped 104 1,000-lb. bombs and ten units of T223 leaflets from 23,600 and 21,200 ft. visually on the last resort target when their GEE-H equipment malfunctioned. Photos indicated good results, with hits in the marshalling yard.

The lead 41st CBW-A crew reported seeing 25 to 30 ME-109s and FW-190s about 1115 hours, just before reaching the IP, but they did not attack the 303rd BG(H) formation. The 41st CBW-B lead Squadron witnessed dogfights fought by some of the 292 escorting P-51s and P-47s. Escorting fighters of the 1st BD claimed 67 German aircraft destroyed, two probable and 11 damaged with a loss of only three of the 249 P-51s. (S/Sgt James R. **Durfee** in #44-6523 was credited with a probable ME-109.) The "B" formations were attacked by a few enemy fighters that were able to penetrate the excellent fighter support. The attacks were sporadic and not concentrated and took place between 1100 and 1200 hours in the area of Dummer Lake to the target.

The aircraft attacking the primary target found meager and inaccurate flak. Intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered at the last resort target that resulted in ten major and nine minor instances of battle damage, six wounded crewmen, and the loss of two B-17s. Chaff effect was ineffective at the last resort target.

Returning crews reported that #42-97972 (*No Name*), 358BS, piloted by 1Lt. Chet H. **Jameson**, Jr., had been hit by two enemy aircraft at 1125 hours, caught fire between the Nos. 3 and 4 engines, peeled off to the left, went down in a tight spin, and blew up at 5,000 to 6,000 feet. Two parachutes came out immediately after the aircraft was hit and two others were observed at about 16,000 feet. The aircraft crashed near Bielefeld, Germany.



**CHET H. JAMESON, JR. CREW - 358th BS**

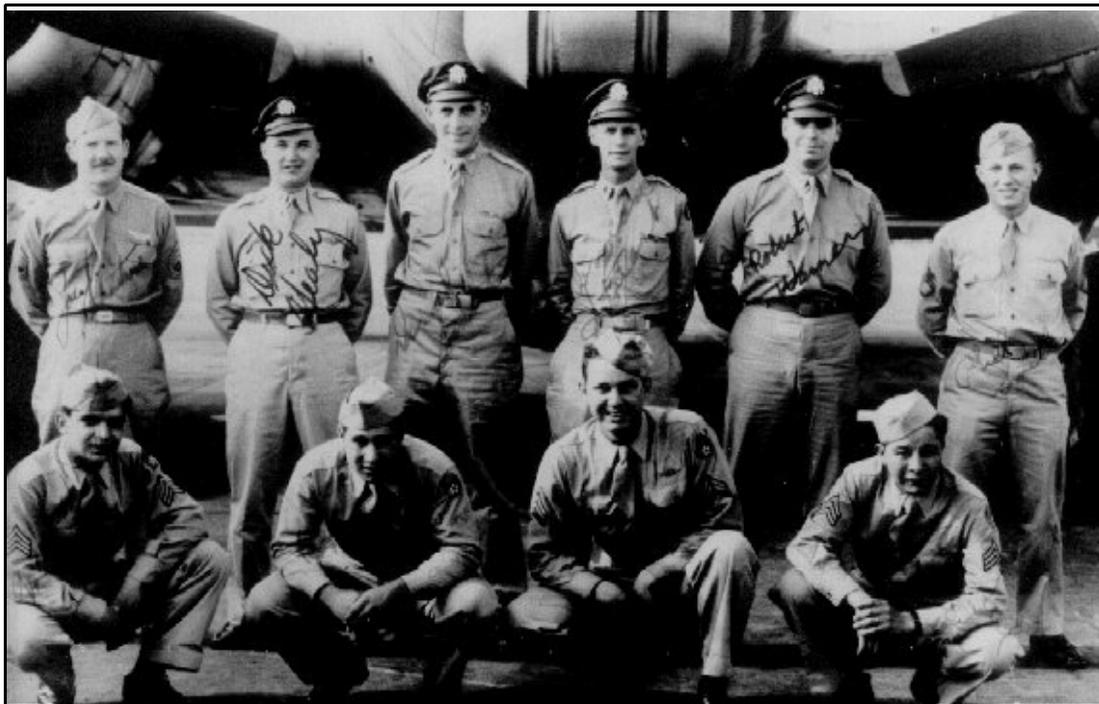
**(crew assigned 358BS: 28 Oct 1944 - photo: Sep 1944)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Robert N. Blazey (CP), Capt James M. "Tailwheel" Kaiser (N), 2Lt Wilson Ford (B),  
1Lt Chet H. Jameson, Jr. (P), unknown guest - (Front L-R) S/Sgt William L. Hoots (TG),  
T/Sgt Ferdinand P. Haevers (Tog), S/Sgt Howard D. Hole (R), S/Sgt Glenn W. Hall (E), Sgt Rollin J. Bender (BT)

The pilot, Lt. **Jameson**, and togglier, T/Sgt. **Haevers**, were contacted by tail gunner, S/Sgt. William L. **Hoots**, in September, 1992. They related an entirely different story. They stated that no crewmen had seen any fighters or flak. They believe that only minutes after they had started fuel transfer from the Tokyo tanks, the No. 4 engine had white vapor trails. The tail gunner reported this to the co-pilot, who noted that all engine instruments were normal. About two to three minutes later, a fire blazed around the No. 4 engine super charger. The aircraft had flown a mission the previous day and sustained extensive damage to the right wing just beyond the No. 4 engine.

The crew believed that there was a fuel problem within the right wing, which showed up when they started the fuel transfer. The radio operator stated that he could smell gas fumes in the bomb bay just before the fire started. Lt. **Jameson** ordered his crew to bail out. Sgts. Howard D. **Hole**, Ferdinand P. **Haevers** and Rollin J. **Bender** pulled delayed jumps. Sgt. **Hoots** was falling when the aircraft blew up and fell much further before pulling his rip cord. He could see his pilot above him, but nobody below. Sgt. Glenn W. **Hall**, **Haevers** and **Hoots** were picked up soon after hitting the ground and were taken to the city jail where they found their co-pilot, 2Lt. Robert N. **Blazey**, and navigator, 2Lt. Maurie S. **McDade**, Jr. S/Sgt. Gasper **Pizzolato**, Jr. was also captured close by. The pilot was the only crewman that was not picked up close to the others. All became POWs.

B-17G #42-97691 (*No Name*), 427BS, piloted by Capt. Richard F. **Healy**, was hit by flak at 1204 hours just a few seconds after "bombs away" over Osnabruck. The entire nose below the cockpit was blown out, and there were large holes in the cockpit floor. Two of the navigators, 2Lt. William G. **Mylan** and 1Lt. Ramon L. **Spooner**, and the bombardier, 1Lt. Paul R. **Sandhagen**, were killed instantly. Lt. **Sandhagen** is buried in Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten, Netherlands. He was normally a member of Lt. **Dubose's** crew.



**RICHARD F. HEALY CREW - 427th BS**

(crew assigned 427BS: 25 July 1944 - photo: Sioux City, IA, May 1944)

(Back L-R) T/Sgt Joseph J. Robertson (E), Capt Richard F. Healy (P), 2Lt Donald R. Smith (CP),

2Lt Norman L. Stuart (N), 2Lt Robert A. Warner (B), S/Sgt Phillip E. Smith (R)

(Front L-R) Sgt Maurice Deustch (TG), Sgt Vincent A. DeLiso (WG),

Sgt Zane O. Whitlow (WG), Sgt Raymond T. Leal (BT)

The lead 427BS B-17 pulled away from the formation out of control when the A.F.C.E. equipment was knocked out. The pilot discovered that he could manually control his aircraft and told Engineer, T/Sgt. Joseph J. **Robertson**, that he intended to fly to friendly territory if he could. Radio Operator, T/Sgt. Phillip E. **Smith**, overheard and relayed the message to Mickey Navigator, 2Lt. **Mylan**, in the radio room. They decided to stay with the aircraft.

Waist gunner, S/Sgt. Raymond T. **Leal**, was normally the **Healy** crew ball turret gunner, but was flying in the waist since the lead B-17's ball turret had been replaced by the radar device. Tail gunner, Sgt. Vincent A. **DeLiso**, was also a regular crew member. Both were shut off from the rest of the crew, and could not see forward, since the radio compartment door was closed. They were ordered to bail out by Capt. **Healy** after they were hit. Sgt. **DeLiso** questioned the order, stating that the crew had been through worse than this and could make it home. Capt. **Healy** repeated his order stating, "I said bail out, this is it." Sgts. **DeLiso** and **Leal** bailed out and were captured by the Germans, became

POWs, and were on the 87-day death march through northern Germany before being liberated. Capt. **Healy** landed his heavily damaged B-17 at an advanced 9th Air Force P-47 base near Volkel, Holland. He made a straight-in wheel(s) up approach. The battered, smoking ship, with dangling main gear, bore down on the fighter strip, scaring the fighter ground personnel. At first they tried to wave off Capt. **Healy**, but when it was apparent that he was coming in, there was a frenzied exodus of "peashooter" folks. Dick **Healy** later related to his deputy leader, Jim **O'Leary**, that "if he hadn't been so damned cold, he'd have enjoyed the sight." Sgt. Ray **Leal** was captured by the S.S., who beat him with rifle butts, fracturing most of the bones in his face.

### ***UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES OF LT. JAMES W. O'LEARY, SR.***

I flew deputy lead for the 427th Bomb Squadron on 26 November 1944, to Altenbeken, Germany. The weather was bad and we went to the secondary target, which was the Osnabruck marshalling yards. The Luftwaffe came up with a vengeance.

We saw an Me-210 and Me-109 shoot down a new kid from the 358th Bomb Squadron named Jameson, who had been straggling. The air was full of dogfights with exploding and burning fighters at all points of the compass. I also saw a P-51 explode in a large orange fireball.

Our Squadron lead, Capt Dick Healy's B-17 received a direct hit under it's nose. I saw many things at once since I was on the lead's right wing. First there was a muffled thump, and I saw the Bombardier, Lt. Sandhagen blown out through the plexiglass nose. Sandhagen came back through the number three prop and rolled over the top of the wing. I remember thinking he looked like a large bag of rags.

One of the navigators fell out immediately through the bottom of the nose, and the other navigator hung onto the navigator's table by a brace. He was trying to hook up his oxygen hose with one hand. He had no chute on, and soon let loose and was swept back under the aircraft. I don't know if the navigator trying to hook up his oxygen was Lt. Norm Stuart or Lt. R. L. Spooner.

I also saw a chute hung up on the right stabilizer with what looked like a body flapping in the slip stream behind the tail. This turned out later to be the Copilot Lt W. W. Wallace's chute which had fallen through the floor of the cockpit when he reached for it.

In the meantime, I saw someone trying to open the waist door, there was a leg sticking out the door. I was later to find out it was T/Sgt Ray Leal, the ball turret operator that was flying as waist gunner, since the ball turret had been replaced by the radome. Unknown to me at the time, was S/Sgt Vince Deliso, the tail gunner, who was trying to push Ray free of the door and enabling him to bail out. Just at that moment, Healy's B-17 started a steep climbing turn to the right and we had to dive our aircraft to avoid the leader's ship.

During all this excitement, my radioman, Sgt. Red Devaney was hit in the left leg while he was kneeling to throw out chaff. The piece of flak went through Red's leg severing the small bone and blowing out through the calf of his leg, carrying a large chunk of bone and muscle. Needless to say this was Red's million dollar wound and he was flown back to the States for treatment.

I called my waist gunner, S/Sgt Frank De Cicco, and bombardier, Lt. Bob Lyda, to put on walk around oxygen bottles and take care of Devaney. They overdid the Morphine however, and we had a very laid back and smartass radioman by the time we arrived back at Molesworth.

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Shayler-Fontana</u> 439 - PFF		
		<u>Juns</u> 860		<u>Connelly</u> 125 - PFF
	<u>Duffield</u> 318			<u>McCutchan</u> 861
<u>App</u> 504		<u>Middlemas</u> 516		<u>Kallet</u> 451
	<u>Gravrock</u> 055			<u>Beasley</u> 517
<u>Hardin</u> 672		<u>St. Julien</u> 546		
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(No Name) #44-8439 (360BS) PFF PU-Y  
**41st CBW-A (359BS) - Pilot LtCol W.K. Shayler / CoPilot Capt B.C. Fontana**  
 (Back L-R) 1Lt R.S. Charlton (N), LtCol W.K. Shayler (P), 1Lt S.H. Campbell (B), Capt D.R. Davis (N),  
 Capt B.C. Fontana (CP) - (Front L-R) 1Lt F.A. Edwards (N), S/Sgt T.L. Weems (WG),  
 T/Sgt R.C. King (R), 2Lt O. Lovold (TG-O), T/Sgt R.N. Perry (E)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Healy-Wallace</u> 691 - PFF			
		<u>Aagesen</u> 734		<u>O'Leary</u> 166	
	<u>Newton</u> 621			<u>Caplinger</u> 411	
<u>Roberts</u> 763		<u>Hewitt</u> 875		<u>Gano</u> 197	<u>Schlecht</u> 502
	<u>Callahan</u> 311			_____	
<u>Petersen</u> 569		<u>Reid</u> 248		_____	_____
	_____			_____	



***Straggler by Gerritt Zijlstra***

PFF B-17G #42-97691 (427BS) GN-Y. Crashed at a 9th AF P-47 base near Vokel, Holland following a 26 November 1944 mission to Osnabruck, Germany, Capt Richard C. Healy, pilot. Two crewmen bailed out and became POWs. Three crewmen in the nose were KIA when the nose was blown off. Five crewmen survived the crash and returned to Molesworth. The B-17 is being escorted by two Hawker Tempest Fighters, RAF Wing 122, based at the Vokel airfield.

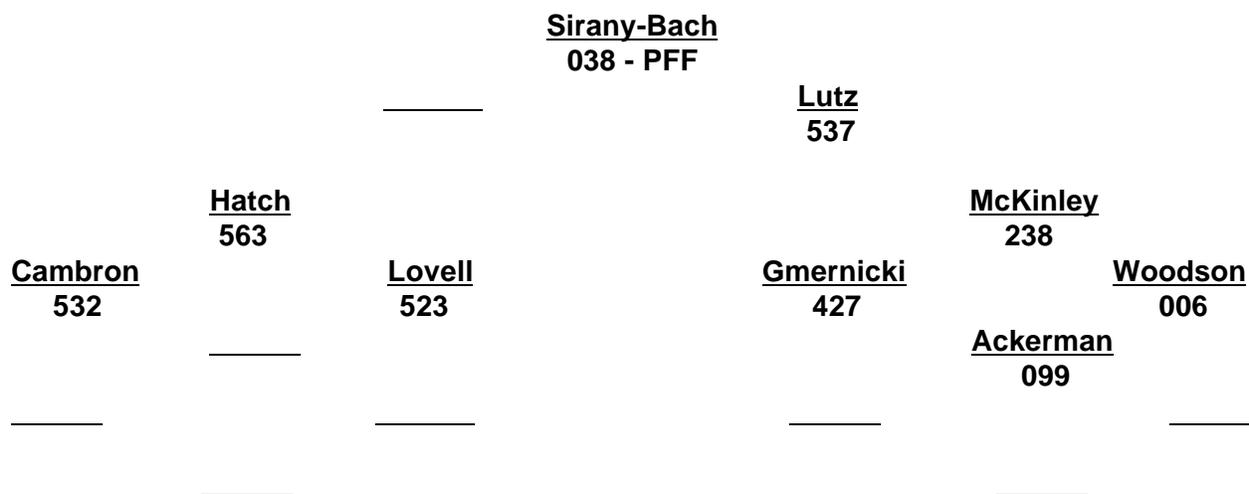
## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

<u>McNamara-Miller</u>				
351 - PFF				
		<u>Holm</u> 945		<u>Twomey</u> 574
	<u>Goering</u> 191			<u>Grisham</u> 065
<u>Gobrecht</u> 298		<u>McGilvray</u> 590	<u>Goodberlet</u> 949	<u>Rencher</u> 206
	<u>Heckendorf</u> 316		_____	
<u>Mayer</u> 682		<u>McCutcheon</u> 530	_____	_____
	_____		_____	

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group D

<u>Tulloss-Kerwin</u>				
256 - PFF				
		<u>Tasker</u> 645		<u>Mickle</u> 309
	<u>Carney</u> 764			<u>Haynes</u> 609
<u>Rybaltowski</u> 944		<u>Holmes</u> 619	<u>Gates</u> 050	<u>Bixby</u> 767
	<u>Proffitt</u> 608		_____	
<u>Embrey</u> 289		<u>Jameson</u> 972	_____	_____
	_____		_____	

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group E



### 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 WG - Waist Gunner LWG - Left Waist Gunner RWG - Right Waist Gunner GUN - Gunner VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer	PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer Y - Y-Operators (YRO,YO) RCM - Radio Cntr Measures SJ - Spot Jammer  <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 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 #43-38530 (No Name)**

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P	McCutcheon, George E., 1Lt
CP	Hower, Frederick C., 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 #42-102945 Sweet Pea**

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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 #43-38682 (No Name)**

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P	Mayer, Walter J., 1Lt
CP	Eby, Joe M., 2Lt
NAV	Celich, Nicholas J., 2Lt
TOG	Miller, Robert J., 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

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

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P	Twomey, John M., 1Lt
CP	Dorsett, John D., 2Lt
NAV	Kaufman, Seymour, F/O
BOM	Conder, Bill F., 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
PAS	Krenkel, Karl K., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38238 (No Name)**

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P	McKinley, Ralph C., 1Lt
CP	Harwick, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Long, Donald C., Jr., 2Lt
TOG	Stevenson, John L., 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 #43-38065 Princess Pat 2**

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P	Grisham, Rufus W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Hopkins, Harry F., 2Lt
NAV	Hartel, Gale E., 2Lt
BOM	Finn, Russell C., F/O
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 #44-6316 (No Name)**

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P	Heckendorf, Marvin H., 2Lt
CP	Erickson, Robert L., 2Lt
NAV	Simons, Robert A., 1Lt
TOG	Weaver, Robert J., Sgt
ENG	Gallman, Hubert W., Sgt
WG	Barris, Robert L., Sgt
RO	Windle, Bill, Sgt
TG	Koerner, David M., Sgt
BT	Lary, Raymond W., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8351 (No Name) - PFF**

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P	McNamara, James F., Capt
CP	Miller, Campbell, 1Lt
NAV	Kaiser, James M., Capt
NAV	Poehlman, Robert F., 1Lt
NAV	Weinstein, Irving, 2Lt
BOM	Ford, Wilson, 2Lt
ENG	Nelson, James B., S/Sgt
WG	Bartreau, Edward L., S/Sgt
RO	LaPerch, William J., T/Sgt
TG	Ross, James E., 2Lt

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

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

P	Gmernicki, Richard H., 1Lt
CP	Judd, Chester G., 2Lt
NAV	Jones, William M., 2Lt
TOG	Gibson, James, Sgt
ENG	Griffith, Elwood A., Sgt
WG	McClymont, John W., S/Sgt
RO	Calenberg, Raymond N., Sgt
BT	Greenberg, Bernard, Sgt
TG	Henn, Thomas A., Sgt

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

P	Woodson, William H., 2Lt
CP	Lanigan, Harold A., F/O
NAV	Boland, Anthony J., 2Lt
TOG	Denning, Glenn J., Sgt
ENG	Brown, Richard A., Sgt
WG	Riley, Lloyd S., Sgt
RO	Gramiak, Victor J., Sgt
BT	Burnette, R.L., Sgt
TG	Farrell, Peter J., Sgt

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

P	Goering, Werner G., 1Lt
CP	Cox, William H., 2Lt
NAV	Markt, Rex H., F/O
BOM	Guerrieri, Joseph C., F/O
ENG	Gustafson, Orall R., S/Sgt
RO	Brodzinski, Chester, S/Sgt
BT	Blinebury, Joseph A., S/Sgt
WG	Houseman, Clarence W., Sgt
TG	Mahan, Weldon T., Sgt

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

P	McGilvray, Richard L., 1Lt
CP	Magid, Malcolm J., 2Lt
NAV	Fearn, Charles L., 2Lt
TOG	Rowe, Thomas M., S/Sgt
ENG	Eckert, Raymond C., Sgt
WG	Putney, Norman W., S/Sgt
RO	Johnson, Paul B., Sgt
BT	Garza, David, Sgt
TG	Smith, Gardner B., Sgt

(Abortive)

### **B-17G #42-97972 (No Name) CR-L**

P	Jameson, Chet H., Jr., 1Lt	POW
CP	Blazey, Robert N., 2Lt	POW
NAV	McDade, Maurie S., 2Lt	POW
TOG	Haegers, Ferdinand P., T/Sgt	POW
ENG	Hall, Glenn W., T/Sgt	POW
WG	Pizzolato, Gasper, Jr., S/Sgt	POW
RO	Hole, Howard D., S/Sgt	POW
BT	Bender, Rollin J., Sgt	POW
TG	Hoots, William L., S/Sgt	POW

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

P	Rencher, Jack P., 2Lt
CP	Kunkel, Joe T., 2Lt
NAV	Feezel, Ralph S., 2Lt
TOG	Reimche, George K., S/Sgt
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 #42-97298 *The Floose***

P	Gobrecht, Harry D., 2Lt
CP	Gradle, Raymond B., 2Lt
NAV	McDonald, Walter H., 2Lt
TOG	Brown, James L., Sgt
ENG	Benefield, Lenville H., Sgt
WG	Mays, Thomas G., Sgt
RO	Quick, Edgar H., Sgt
BT	McGrory, William P., S/Sgt
TG	Buske, Phillip R., Sgt

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

P	Goodberlet, Clarence J., 2Lt
CP	Thompson, John A., 2Lt
NAV	Mylonas, Peter E., F/O
BOM	Mott, Charles A., 2Lt
ENG	Cotter, William J., Sgt
WG	Karash, Matthew J., Sgt
RO	Baloga, Stephen M., Sgt
BT	Walling, James M., Sgt
TG	Schultz, Frederick W., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #43-38767 (No Name)**

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

### **B-17G #43-38764 (No Name)**

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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	Zielinski, William J., S/Sgt
TG	Howe, Clarence H., S/Sgt
WG	Encinas, William S/Sgt

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

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P	Mickle, James D., 1Lt
CP	Clarke, Loren M., F/O
NAV	O'Dell, Benjamin L., 2Lt
BOM	Mitchell, Robert C., 2Lt
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**

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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

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

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P	Rybaltowski, Vincent, 2Lt
CP	Olson, John A., 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 #43-38289 Sweet LaRhonda**

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P	Embrey, Henry C., 2Lt
CP	Sharp, Bryant M., 2Lt
NAV	King, Robert L., 2Lt
TOG	Connor, Joseph C., Sgt
ENG	Miller, Harry C., S/Sgt
RO	Zellar, Donald W., Sgt
BT	Boyle, Francis L., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Gavin, William E., Sgt
WG	Peters, Arthur R., Sgt

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

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P	Haynes, Charles D., 1Lt
CP	Haynes, Eugene, 2Lt
NAV	Malone, Roy P., F/O
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., S/Sgt

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

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P	Lutz, John R., 2Lt
CP	McClurg, Galt L., 2Lt
NAV	Carriere, Lawrence C., F/O
BOM	Moss, Henry G., 2Lt
ENG	Candito, Christopher A., Sgt
RO	Lovelock, Edward N., Sgt
BT	Kapczynski, Paul B., Sgt
TG	Bailey, John R., Sgt
WG	Bates, Roger K., Sgt

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

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

P	Sirany, George R., Capt
CP	Bach, Harold J., 2Lt
NAV	Kelly, Thomas N., 1Lt
NAV	Dimick, Donald L., F/O
NAV	Weil, Frank P., 2Lt
BOM	Stone, Leonard, 1Lt
ENG	Ela, Lyman E., T/Sgt
RO	Ringen, Walter E., T/Sgt
TG	Greenwald, Paul L., S/Sgt
WG	Gonser, Dwight W., 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	Schilling, Lawrence E., Sgt
TG	Erdody, Joseph, S/Sgt
WG	Wallis, Elton E., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38645 (No Name)**

P	Tasker, Richard E., 2Lt
CP	Francis, Angelito, 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 #43-38619 (No Name)**

P	Holmes, Alfred M., 2Lt
CP	Fravel, Harold L., 2Lt
NAV	Albertson, Edward, F/O
BOM	Donovan, Thomas A., 2Lt
ENG	Sprague, Wendell P., Jr., Sgt
RO	Prehatny, Joseph R., S/Sgt
BT	Vowels, Donovan E., Sgt
TG	Bartkowski, Edward L., Sgt
WG	Johnson, Earl, Jr., Sgt

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

P	Tulloss, John W., Capt
CP	Kerwin, Charles E., Maj
NAV	Susskind, Harold A., 1Lt
NAV	Zarrelli, Michael L., 1Lt
NAV	Estes, Keith E., 1Lt
NAV	Zarelli, Michael L., 2Lt
BOM	Schulze, William A., 1Lt
ENG	Gauthier, Leon C., T/Sgt
RO	Tognetti, Paul A., T/Sgt
TG	Schopplein, Orin H., 2Lt
WG	Angeloff, James P., S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Middlemas, Arthur B., 1Lt
CP	Schultz, John W., 2Lt
NAV	Cooley, Royal D., 2Lt
BOM	Odegaard, Duane J., 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 #44-8318 (No Name)**

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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)**

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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***

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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)**

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P	Kallet, Sidney, 2Lt
CP	Muth, Clifford F., 2Lt
NAV	Harrison, Lewis S., 2Lt
Bom	Valdes, George J., Sgt
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)**

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P	Lovell, Brock H., 2Lt
CP	Schuchard, Virgil R., 2Lt
NAV	Harding, Warren G., 2Lt
TOG	Durfee, James R., S/Sgt
ENG	Bird, Harry G., T/Sgt
RO	Christ, Donald R., T/Sgt
BT	Miller, Donald E., Sgt
TG	Johnson, David T., Sgt
WG	Peterson, Robert E., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38563 *Jackie***

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P	Hatch, Logan B., 2Lt
CP	Holtorf, Ernest H., 2Lt
NAV	Divine, Fred H., 2Lt
BOM	Friedlander, Henry, F/O
ENG	Fuczka, Peter, Sgt
RO	Broughton, Averell M., Jr., Sgt
BT	Buchanan, Paul A., Sgt
TG	Patterson, Charles A., Sgt
WG	Free, Ennis B., Jr., Sgt

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

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P	Hardin, Thomas H., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Brown, William W., 2Lt
NAV	Hiebeler, George E., 2Lt
BOM	Driver, Henderson M., Jr., Sgt
ENG	Mikulich, Stanley, S/Sgt
RO	Kasper, Raymond H., Sgt
BT	Hulterstrum, Joseph P., Sgt
TG	Rohrer, Elbert R., Sgt
WG	Sersland, Paul V., Sgt

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

### **B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza***

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P	St. Julien, John D., 2Lt
CP	Newell, Richard M., 2Lt
NAV	Kiehlkopf, George, 2Lt
BOM	Carney, Felix A., 2Lt
ENG	Mitchell, William E., Sgt
RO	Flanigan, John J., Sgt
BT	Farthing, Richard M., Sgt
TG	Evans, Marlin D., Sgt
WG	McLellan, Raymond L., Sgt

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

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P	Juns, Frank, 1Lt
CP	Weaver, Jack W., 2Lt
NAV	Polkabla, William J., 2Lt
BOM	Giancola, James V., S/Sgt
ENG	Murphy, Jason, Sgt
RO	Cole, Robert L., Sgt
BT	Lardie, Thomas D., Sgt
TG	Yepes, William J., Sgt
WG	Bailey, Arthur L., Sgt

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

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P	McCutchan, Eugene R., 1Lt
CP	Telford, Donald R., F/O
NAV	McCarty, Mike D., 2Lt
BOM	Bays, Gordon C., 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., S/Sgt

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

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P	Cambron, Richard H., 2Lt
CP	Geiger, James E., 2Lt
NAV	Emery, Roy F., 2Lt
BOM	Clippinger, Robert E., S/Sgt
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

### **B-17G #44-8125 *Sparky* - PFF**

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P	Connelly, Ben L., 1Lt
CP	House, Frederick L., 2Lt
NAV	Levin, Albert, 1Lt
NAV	Wilson, Thomas E., 2Lt
BOM	Shelley, David R., 1Lt
ENG	Asplund, Carl L., T/Sgt
RO	Schneider, Dale E., S/Sgt
TG	Bur, Robert D., Sgt
WG	Koppes, Carl A., S/Sgt

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

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

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

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P	Shayler, Walter K., LtCol
CP	Fontana, Bernard C., Capt
NAV	Davis, Darius R., Capt
NAV	Charlton, Rufus S., 1Lt
NAV	Edwards, Frank A., 1Lt
BOM	Campbell, Sanders H., 1Lt
ENG	Perry, Robert N., T/Sgt
RO	King, Raymond C., T/Sgt
TG	Lovold, Ole, 2Lt
WG	Weems, Thomas L., S/Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #43-38763 (No Name)**

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P	Roberts, Ingersall J., 1Lt
CP	Bluethenthal, Arthur, 2Lt
NAV	Natoli, Sam J., 2Lt
TOG	Garrett, Joe W., T/Sgt
WG	Carlson, Harold A., Sgt
TT	Riveland, Alf, Sgt
RO	Renzi, Frank, Sgt
TG	Barber, Albert P., Sgt
BT	Campbell, Gerald R., Sgt

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

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P	Ackerman, Stewart S., Jr., 1Lt
CP	McGinnis, Martin S., Capt
NAV	Oswald, Alois G., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Proper, George M., Sgt
TT	Creaghan, Robert E., Sgt
BT	Highfill, Thomas W., Sgt
RO	Ribesky, John V., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Wiencek, Edward J., Sgt
WG	Whitlow, Zane O., Sgt

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

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P	Newton, George C., 1Lt
CP	Dumont, Merrill J., 1Lt
NAV	Jenkins, John I., 2Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Schneider, Joseph R., Sgt
RO	Corn, Byron D., S/Sgt
TG	Karr, Leslie E., Sgt
WG	Simon, Lawrence E., Sgt
BT	Hartog, Samuel S., Sgt

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

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P	Callahan, Charles A., Capt
CP	Eisenhart, Oliver T., 2Lt
NAV	Maniscalco, John B., F/O
BOM	Ralph, William L., S/Sgt
TT	Erdmann, Robert A., Sgt
BT	Johnson, Gene W., Sgt
RO	Kamen, Roland K., Sgt
TG	Dorner, Alvin W., Sgt
WG	Robins, James B., Sgt

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

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P	Schlecht, Walter J., 2Lt
CP	Ferrari, William J., 2Lt
NAV	Tanner, Merlin A., 2Lt
BOM	Hansen, Harley L., 2Lt
TT	Hedison, Ara H., Sgt
BT	Hocknell, Raymond A., Sgt
RO	Hradiskey, Joseph R., Sgt
TG	Herod, William J., Sgt
WG	Warburton, Arlis F., Sgt

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

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P	Caplinger, Auston O., 1Lt
CP	Smith, Donald R., 2Lt
NAV	Katz, Edwin Harold, 1Lt
BOM	Long, Loyd I., F/O
TT	Duffek, Francis T., T/Sgt
BT	Jacobs, Carroll W., Jr., Sgt
RO	Mittell, Philip P., S/Sgt
TG	Hester, Lloyd D., Sgt
WG	Olds, Andrew R., Sgt

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

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P	Gano, Frederick, 1Lt
CP	Flanders, Wesley J., 2Lt
NAV	Blessing, Gerald D., 2Lt
BOM	Ganson, Howard H., Sgt
TT	Anthony, George E., S/Sgt
BT	Coyle, Arthur J., S/Sgt
RO	Elling, Myron A., Sgt
TG	Nelson, Edward F., Sgt
WG	Sears, William A., Sgt

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

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P	Petersen, William H., 2Lt
CP	Candido, Anthony N., 2Lt
NAV	Bason, William A., 2Lt
BOM	Sommer, Sidney G., Sgt
TT	Zarella, Anthony A., Sgt
BT	Millin, Louis, Sgt
RO	Whitely, Cull W., Jr., Sgt
TG	Coleman, Loyd, Sgt
WG	Tanner, Loyd H., Sgt

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

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

P	O'Leary, James W., 2Lt
CP	Reed, Louis E., 2Lt
NAV	Kacere, Michael J., 1Lt
BOM	Lyda, Robert E., 2Lt
TT	Kernodle, John T., S/Sgt
BT	Czerwonka, Joseph A., S/Sgt
RO	DeVaney, Bernard C., S/ Sgt
TG	Carver, Harold R., Sgt
WG	DeCicco, Frank C., Jr., Sgt
VI	Hassler, Paul H., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-39875 *Buzz Blonde***

P	Hewitt, Donald I., 2Lt
CP	Wilson, Jack G., 2Lt
NAV	McMahon, William F., 2Lt
BOM	Leas, Harry D., Sgt
TT	Sabo, Stephen R., Sgt
BT	Kohlmayer, Garth G., Sgt
RO	Schmidt, Elmer J., Sgt
TG	Agrifoglio, Benjamin M., Sgt
WG	Mussi, James L., Sgt

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

P	Reid, Clair P., 2Lt
CP	Bean, John R., 2Lt
NAV	Rogge, Richard W., 2Lt
TOG	Grove, John W., S/Sgt
TT	Arnott, David H., Sgt
BT	Casciola, Benedict L., Sgt
RO	Foell, Charles R., Sgt
TG	Lowe, Joseph W., Sgt
WG	Clare, Donald T., Sgt

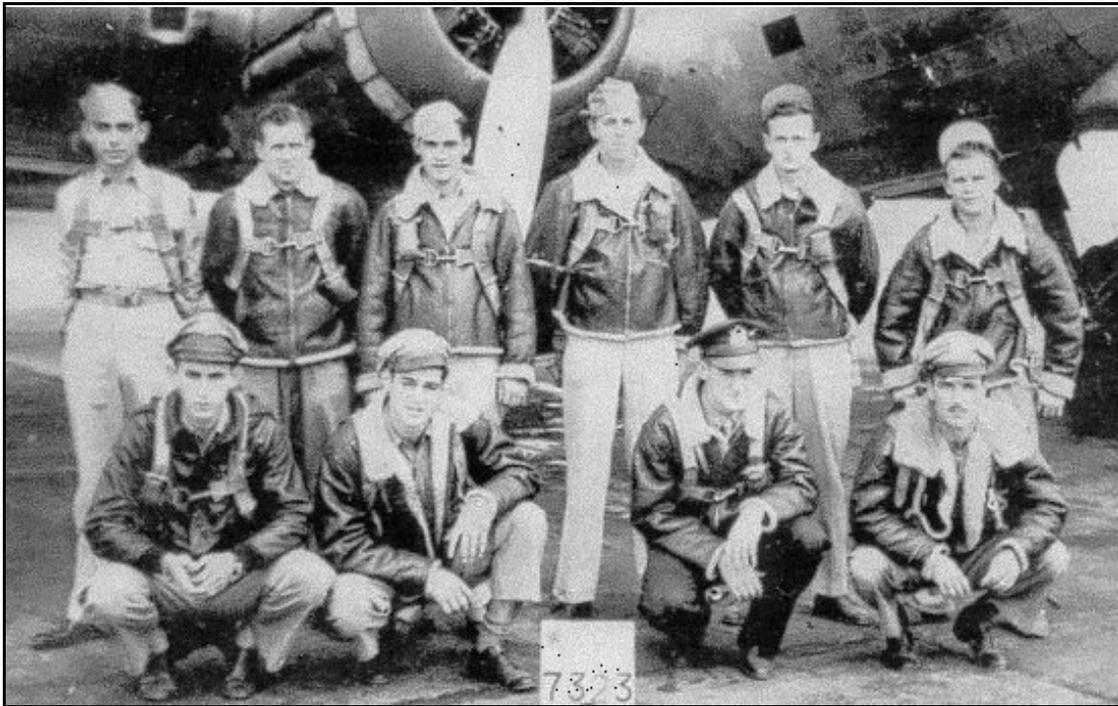
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P	Healy, Richard F., Capt	RTD
CP	Wallace, Walstein W., Jr., 1Lt	RTD
NAV	Stuart, Norman L., 1Lt	KIA
GH	Spooner, Ramon L., 1Lt	KIA
MN	Mylan, William G., 2Lt	RTD
BOM	Sandhagen, Paul R., 1Lt	KIA
TT	Robertson, Joseph J., T/Sgt	RTD
RO	Smith, Phillip E., T/Sgt	RTD
WG	Leal, Raymond T., S/Sgt	POW
TG	DeLiso, Vincent A., Sgt	POW

### **B-17G #43-38734 *Cheshire Cat***

P	Aagesen, Donald C., 2Lt
CP	McKeon, Preston W., 2Lt
NAV	Minnis, Karl, 2Lt
TOG	Gray, Paul A., Sgt
TT	Ellis, Paul R., Sgt
BT	Calderon, Reuben J., Sgt
RO	Bledsoe, Clinton A., Sgt
TG	Lindeman, Henry E., Sgt
WG	Vuksinich, Louis F., Sgt



**HARRY D. GOBRECHT CREW - 358th BS**

**(crew assigned 358BS: 12 Nov 1944 - photo: 01 Aug 1944)**

(Back L-R) Cpl Lenville H. Benefield (E), Cpl Edgar H. Quick (R), PFC Gerald S. Hawes (BT),  
 PFC Thomas G. Mays (WG), PFC Robert J. Miller (WG), PFC Phillip R. Buske (TG)  
 (Front L-R) 2Lt Harry D. Gobrecht (P), 2Lt Joe M. Eby (CP),  
 2Lt Walter H. McDonald (N), 2Lt Wesley H. Thompson (B)

***MY INTRODUCTION TO COMBAT***

**by Harry D. Gobrecht**

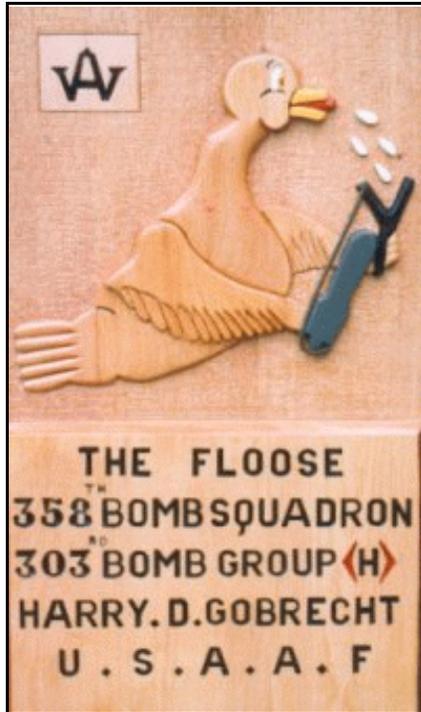
My crew arrived at Molesworth on 12 November 1944 and found ourselves being assigned to the 358th Bomb Squadron of the 303rd Bombardment Group (H). At that time I knew nothing about the past history of the 303rd. I was told in a ground school training session on the next day that I was a “Hell’s Angels” and the Group was one of the first to fly combat with the Eighth Air Forces and had an illustrious history.

I left the class session feeling proud to be a part of the 303rd and hoping that my crew and myself could live up to their past exploits. I wrote a letter to my family that night telling them that it was raining and cold, that I lived in a nissen hut, with ten men and only have a small stove in the center of the hut to keep us warm.

We were rationed to eight pounds of coal per week, and found that it lasted about three days in what was the coldest winter in England in 30 years. We quickly concluded that it was essential to find a way to supplement our fuel supply, and we formed ourselves into pairs to scrounge for fuel wherever and however we could.

After six days of ground school, I flew my first formation practice mission followed by three more days of formation practice flights. I was told that new pilots flew their first and second missions with an experienced combat Pilot as a way of orientating pilots and crews to combat.

Early the next morning my crew was awakened telling us to get out of bed, wash up in a cold latrine, eat breakfast and be briefed for a combat mission. At briefing I was told that I would be flying my first mission as Pilot. My crews introduction to combat was to be in my hands, without the experience of a combat hardened Pilot to fly with us and give us guidance.



*Wood Carving by Bill Adams*

We dropped our six 1,000 pound bombs without incident on the primary target at Altenbecken, Germany, with most bombs hitting the target. Our baptismal flight, as stated by our Navigator, 2Lt Walter H. McDonald, was easy and short with no complications, no flak and no enemy fighters. It was much like a trip to the dentist — the anticipation was worse than what actually did happen. It was a good break in mission for the crew and myself for the others that were to follow.

We later learned, to our dismay, that the lead B-17 in the 303rd High Squadron was badly damaged by flak, three crewmen were killed and two crewmen bailed out over enemy territory. The remainder of the crew made an emergency three engine landing with the nose shot off at a P-47 base in Holland. Another crew abandoned it's B-17 over enemy territory when a fire developed in the bomb bay and one engine. All crewmen become POWs. Escorting 8th Air Force fighters

shot down 114 enemy fighters.

While it was a "milk-run" for the B-17s in my Squadron formation, it was a hectic and dangerous mission for another Squadron formation. We quickly learned that no combat mission should be considered as easy.

Our first mission was flown in a 358th Bomb Squadron B-17 named "The Floose," that went on to fly over 100 combat missions, before being salvaged when the Pilot made a wheel's up landing.