

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 281

2 December 1944

Target: Railroad Marshalling Yard at Oberlahnstein, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 20 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 500 lb H.E. M43, G.P. & RDX bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 26,100, 25,500 & 27,700 ft

Ammo Fired: 890 rounds

The primary target was a marshalling yard in the small town of Oberlahnstein, at the junction of the Moselle and Rhine rivers, south of Koblenz. This area was under attack by the American 9th and 1st Armies. The secondary target was a marshalling yard in Koblenz by PFF and the last resort was another marshalling yard in Singen. Just a small GEE-H task force was dispatched in awful weather—10/10 cirrostratus clouds with tops at 22,000 feet, a broken layer of 6/10 clouds at 25,000 to 26,000 feet and a layer of 10/10 clouds 27,000 to 29,000 feet with dense, persistent contrails.



HARLEY D. SNIDER CREW - 358th BS

B-17G #42-97298 The Floose VK-H

(crew assigned 358BS: 02 Oct 1944 - photo: Oct 1944)

(Back L-R) 1Lt Harley D. Snider (P), 1Lt Joe T. Kunkel (CP), 2Lt Robert W. McCorkle (N) - (Front L-R) T/Sgt John R. Work (E), Sgt Edward P. Kudder (BT), Sgt Murray W. Wade, Jr. (TOG), T/Sgt Robert S. Ludington (R)

The 303rd BG(H) dropped 418 500-lb. H.E. M43, nine 500-lb. RDX bombs and 20 units of leaflets on the primary target with unobserved results. The Lt **McCutcheon** crew B-17 dropped 12 500-lb G.P. bombs on or near Bremen, Germany, as a target of opportunity, shortly after aborting the mission. The No. 3 cylinder exhaust stack was blown. Results were unobserved.

No aircraft returned early. There was no enemy aircraft opposition and 153 P-51s provided good support. For a happy change, there was no flak and all aircraft returned safely to Molesworth.

The skies were a dangerous place to be, but there were also occasional casualties on the ground. As B-17G #43-38878 was being towed tail first from the No. 1 hanger at 2045 hours with its running lights on, a 6 X 6 truck driven by Sgt. Thomas S. **Plemmons**, 3rd Station Complement Squadron, crashed into the B-17 through the left horizontal stabilizer and into the left wing. Sadly, he was killed. He had ignored the blinking lights of the tractor, blinked the truck lights in return, and failed to reduce his speed.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

Slingsby-O'Beirne

439 - PFF

Norris

546

Connelly

125 - PFF

Duffield

544

Hardin

672

Arwood

619

Gravrock

055

Kallet

523

Middlemas

516

App

504

Fink

517

Weaver

563

Beasley

532



MARVIN P. FINK CREW - 360th BS

(crew assigned 360BS: 02 Oct 1944 - photo: Oct 1944)

(Back L-R) 1Lt Marvin P. "Mike" Fink (P), 2Lt Howard E. Reeves (CP), 2Lt Robert A. Hand (B),
2Lt Harry Subkowsky (N) - (Front L-R) T/Sgt Jack E. Holder (E), T/Sgt Robert F. Dahl (R),
S/Sgt Richard M. Albright (BT), S/Sgt Robert C. Peter (WG), Sgt Cyprian M. Garcia (TG)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Newton-O'Leary</u> 038 - PFF			
		<u>McGinnis</u> 597		<u>Callahan</u> 621	
			<u>Rose</u> 099		
		<u>Schlecht</u> 411		<u>Petersen</u> 569	
	<u>Reid</u> 248				<u>Roberts</u> 763
<u>Tasker</u> 645		<u>Rybaltowski</u> 944		<u>Hewitt</u> 689	<u>Aagesen</u> 734
_____					<u>Bixby</u> 258
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Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

		<u>Miller-Fielder</u> 557 - PFF			
		<u>Freeman</u> 298		<u>Twomey</u> 191	
			<u>Holm</u> 554		
		<u>Gmernicki</u> 764		<u>Snider</u> 206	
	<u>Heckendorf</u> 462				<u>Grisham</u> 065
<u>Gobrecht</u> 590		<u>McKinley</u> 530		<u>Mayer</u> 878	<u>Woodson</u> 006
_____					<u>McCutcheon</u> 949
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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 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 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 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)

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

B-17G #43-38065 Princess Pat 2

P	Grisham, Rufus W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Cox, William H., 2Lt
NAV	Hartel, Gale E., 2Lt
BOM	Feezel, Ralph S., 2Lt
ENG	Scheuermann, Edwin P., T/Sgt
BT	Loessin, Gerhard W., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Post, Harry R., T/Sgt
WG	Buie, Ben M., S/Sgt
TG	Willis, Arnold, Sgt

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

P	Heckendorf, Marvin H., 2Lt
CP	Erickson, Robert L., 2Lt
NAV	Kaufman, Seymour, F/O
BOM	Finn, Russell C., F/O
ENG	Gallman, Hubert W., T/Sgt
WG	Barris, Robert L., Sgt
RO	Windle, Bill, T/Sgt
TG	Koerner, David M., Sgt
BT	Lary, Raymond W., Sgt

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

P	Woodson, William H., 2Lt
CP	Lanigan, Harold A., F/O
NAV	Birkenseer, Donald L., 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 #43-37590 Neva-The Silver Lady

P	Gobrecht, Harry D., 2Lt
CP	Eby, Joe M., 2Lt
NAV	McDonald, Walter H., 2Lt
TOG	Miller, Robert J., 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 #42-97298 The Floose

P	Freeman, Clyde E., 1Lt
CP	Canning, Glenn R., 2Lt
NAV	Goldstein, Sheldon, 2Lt
TOG	Cox, Lyle H., 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 #43-38554 Bouncing Betty III

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

B-17G #42-107206 Old Black Magic

P	Snider, Harley D., 2Lt
CP	Kunkel, Joe T., 2Lt
NAV	McCorkle, Robert W., F/O
TOG	Weaver, Robert J., S/Sgt
ENG	Work, John R., S/Sgt
BT	Kudder, Edward P., Sgt
RO	Ludington, Robert S., S/Sgt
WG	Wade, Murray W., S/Sgt
TG	Gibson, James, Sgt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Gmernicki, Richard H., 1Lt
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., S/Sgt
RO	Calenberg, Raymond N., Sgt
BT	Greenberg, Bernard, Sgt
TG	Henn, Thomas A., Sgt

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

P	Miller, Campbell, 1Lt
CP	Fielder, George H., 1Lt
NAV	Weber, George F., 1Lt
NAV	Poehlman, Robert F., 1Lt
BOM	Sachau, William D., 1Lt
ENG	Cavagnaro, James E., T/Sgt
WG	Reimche, George K., S/Sgt
RO	Buie, Neil C., T/Sgt
TG	Ross, James V., 2Lt

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

P	McCutcheon, George E., 1Lt
CP	Hower, Frederick C., 2Lt
NAV	Starr, Ben, 2Lt
TOG	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

(Abortive)

B-17G #43-38878 (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	Kerash, Matthew J., Sgt
BT	Gendron, Ernest J., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38191 *Shasta*

P	Twomey, John M., 1Lt
CP	Dorsett, John D., 2Lt
NAV	Markt, Rex H., 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

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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 #43-38258 *Forget Me Not Oilly*

P Bixby, Kenneth E., 2Lt
CP Burns, James S., 2Lt
NAV Malone, Roy P., F/O
TOG Dittman, Robert J., S/Sgt
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 #42-97944 *Daddy's Delight*

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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Fink, Marvin P., 1Lt
CP	Reeves, Howard E., 2Lt
NAV	Dee, Martin R., F/O
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 #42-31055 *Aloha*

P	Gravrock, Howard C., 1Lt
CP	Losiewicz, Benjamin, 2Lt
NAV	Divine, Fred H., 2Lt
BOM	Friedlander, Henry, F/O
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 #44-6523 (No Name)

P	Kallet, Sidney, 1Lt
CP	Muth, Clifford F., 2Lt
NAV	Harrison, Lewis S., 2Lt
BOM	Prince, James R., 1Lt
ENG	Lewis, William J., S/Sgt
RO	Clarke, Frank W., S/Sgt
BT	Macy, Edward J., Sgt
TG	Terreri, Joseph, Sgt
WG	Killelea, Raymond J., Sgt

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

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

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

P	Beasley, Roland C., 2Lt
CP	Holtorf, Ernest H., 2Lt
NAV	Albertson, Edward, 2Lt
TOG	Valdez, George J., Sgt
ENG	Fuczka, Peter, S/Sgt
RO	Broughton, Averell R., Sgt
BT	Buchanan, Paul A., Sgt
TG	Patterson, Charles A., Sgt
WG	Free, Ennis B., Jr., Sgt

B-17G #43-38619 (No Name)

P	Arwood, Joe B., 1Lt
CP	Johnson, Walter E., 2Lt
NAV	Fowler, William C., 2Lt
TOG	Gerstel, Charles L., S/Sgt
ENG	Power, Thomas B., S/Sgt
RO	Curry, Paul A., S/Sgt
BT	Boone, Everett D., S/Sgt
TG	Sanchez, Crespín E., Sgt
WG	Linn, James B., Sgt

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

P	Norris, Loy R., 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 #43-38563 *Jackie*

P	Weaver, Jack W., 2Lt
CP	Chalmers, John D., F/O
NAV	Polkabra, William J., 2Lt
TOG	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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Middlemas, Arthur B., 1Lt
CP	Schultz, John W., 2Lt
NAV	Cooley, Royal D., 2Lt
TOG	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 #44-6504 (No Name)

P	App, Robert G., 1Lt
CP	Moody, William S., 2Lt
NAV	Dennis, Walter F., 2Lt
TOG	Durfee, James R., S/Sgt
ENG	Leach, Norman L., S/Sgt
RO	Matlock, Austin M., S/Sgt
BT	Brady, Gene F., Sgt
TG	Barder, Emmett R., S/Sgt
WG	Polaski, Duane L., Sgt

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

P	Duffield, Richard B., 1Lt
CP	Schuchard, Virgil R., 2Lt
NAV	Harding, Warren G., 1Lt
BOM	Thomas, Edward H., 2Lt
ENG	Clippinger, Robert E., S/Sgt
RO	Wimer, Maurice E., T/Sgt
BT	Oberly, Eldridge C., S/Sgt
TG	Englis, Hiram E., S/Sgt
WG	Branin, James J., S/Sgt

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

P	Slingsby, Harold G., Maj
CP	O'Beirne, Nelson B., Capt
NAV	Shipp, Gene N., 1Lt
NAV	Wilson, Thomas E., 2Lt
BOM	Campbell, Sanders H., 1Lt
ENG	Perry, Robert N., T/Sgt
RO	King, Raymond C., T/Sgt
TG	Cambron, Richard N., 2Lt
WG	Price, Kirkland T., S/Sgt
WG	Weems, Thomas L., S/Sgt

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

P	Connelly, Ben L., 1Lt
CP	House, Frederick L., 2Lt
NAV	Levin, Albert, 1Lt
NAV	Koran, William E., 1Lt
NAV	Weinstein, Irving, 2Lt
BOM	Shelley, David R., 1Lt
ENG	Asplund, Carl L., T/Sgt
RO	Schneider, Dale E., T/Sgt
TG	Cambron, Richard H., 2Lt
BT	Evans, Ralph V., S/Sgt
WG	Koppes, Carl A., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Roberts, Ingersall J., 1Lt
CP	Bluethenthal, Arthur, 2Lt
NAV	Morrison, Martin, 2Lt
BOM	Burket, Wallace A., 2Lt
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 #42-102411 Miss Lace

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 #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

B-17G #43-38621 50 Ragged

P	Callahan, Charles A., Capt
CP	Eisenhart, Oliver T., 2Lt
NAV	Dye, Carl J., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Long, Lloyd I., F/O
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 #43-38689 (No Name)

P	Hewitt, Donald I., 2Lt
CP	Wilson, Jack G., 2Lt
NAV	McMahon, William F., 2Lt
TOG	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 #42-102569 Miss Lace

P	Petersen, William H., 2Lt
CP	Candido, Anthony N., 2Lt
NAV	Natoli, Sam J., 2Lt
TOG	Garrett, Joe W., T/Sgt
TT	Zarella, Anthony A., Sgt
BT	Hartog, Samuel S., 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 #43-37597 *Earthquake McGoon*

P McGinnis, Martin S., Capt
CP Doscher, Frederick C., 2Lt
NAV Neubert, Marshall A., Capt
TOG Ralph, William L., S/Sgt
TT Lyons, Robert J., S/Sgt
BT Beal, Donald L., Sgt
RO Muir, Keith R., T/Sgt
TG Stevenson, Lowell F., Sgt
WG Hamilton, Lois R., S/Sgt

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

P Rose, Jack W., 2Lt
CP Cornyn, T. John, 2Lt
NAV Russo, William D., 2Lt
BOM Nazarian, John K., 2Lt
TT Dyson, Flake S., Sgt
BT Brinkley, Lynn M., Sgt
RO Scaglione, Joseph, T/Sgt
TG Carver, Harold R., Sgt
WG Cottle, Clyde J., Jr., Sgt

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

P Reid, Clair P., 2Lt
CP Bean, John R., 2Lt
NAV Rogge, Richard W., 2Lt
TOG Tambe, Angelo J., T/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

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

P Newton, George C., 1Lt
CP O'Leary, James W., 1Lt
NAV Kacere, Michael J., 1Lt
BOM Smoleroff, Theodore L., 1Lt
GHN Clark, Floyd L., F/O
TT Kernodle, John T., S/Sgt
RO Corn, Byron D., S/Sgt
TG Reed, Louis E., 2Lt
WG DeCicco, Frank C., Sgt