

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 286

12 December 1944

Target: Leuna Synthetic Oil Refinery at Merseburg, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 38

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 X 500 lb RDX M43 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 25,200, 24,950 & 25,500 ft

Ammo Fired: 2,390 rounds

During 1944 the 8th Air Force flew 18 missions to the dreaded Merseburg. The 18th, and final, mission to the synthetic oil refinery at Leuna, near Leipzig, cost the 8th Air Force 119 heavy bombers. Following this mission, refinery production halted — by war's end the refinery provided only 10% of its normal output. The 303rd BG(H) participated on eight of these missions (12 May, 28 July, 29 July, 24 August, 13 September, 21 November, 29 November, 06 December and 12 December) and lost six aircraft (two on 24 August and four on 21 November).



Thirty-eight 303rd BG(H) B-17s were dispatched on this final mission and one Fortress returned early: #42-97949 (*No Name*), (Lt. **McCutcheon**) — the propeller ran away.

Thirty-seven aircraft dropped 431 500-lb. RDX M43 bombs and 10 bundles of T239 leaflets on the primary target by PFF with unobserved results. Bombs were dropped from 25,200, 24,950 and 25,500 feet. In the target area there were 10/10 middle clouds with tops at 13,000 feet.

Again, no enemy fighter opposition emerged and 392 P-51s provided excellent friendly fighter support. Flak was surprisingly moderate and inaccurate, with only a few accurate bursts. Four Fortresses had minor flak damage and chaff appeared to be effective. There were no casualties and all aircraft returned safely to Molesworth.

Aircraft #42-97298 *The Floose*, 358BS, flew its 100th combat mission — the first 303rd BG(H) B-17 to log this magical combat mission number.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

<u>Flowers-Hewitt</u> 44-8238 - PFF				
	<u>Turinsky</u> 597		<u>Callahan</u> 504	
		<u>Aagesen</u> 734		
	<u>Richter</u> 411		<u>Barrios</u> 099	
	<u>Reid</u> 281		<u>Holm</u> 554	
<u>McGinnis</u> 763		<u>Wertz</u> 689	<u>Snider</u> 38238	<u>Rencher</u> 462

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

<u>Kerwin-Clarke</u> 137 - PFF				
	<u>Underdown</u> 682		<u>Bailey</u> 609	
		<u>Gates</u> 502		
	<u>Rybaltowski</u> 944		<u>Harding</u> 645	
	<u>Proffitt</u> 289		<u>McKinley</u> 298	
<u>Bixby</u> 206		<u>Knudson</u> 309	<u>McCutcheon</u> 949	<u>Mayer</u> 316
			<u>Holmes</u> 619	

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
--	--	---	---

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

		<u>Stouse-Mosel</u> 495 - PFF		
	<u>Kyle</u> 672		<u>Connelly</u> 842	
		<u>McCutchan</u> 861		
	<u>Arwood</u> 532		<u>Norris</u> 523	
	<u>Kallet</u> 055		<u>Grisham</u> 590	
<u>Weaver</u> 563		<u>Geiger</u> 544	<u>Gobrecht</u> 006	<u>Garrett</u> 427
			<u>St. Julien</u> 546	



JOHN D. St. JULIEN CREW - 360th BS
(crew assigned 360BS: 26 Oct 1944 - photo: 19 Jan 1945)

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Garrett, Charles E., 2Lt
CP Castillo, Joseph L.A., 2Lt
NAV Magner, John H., Jr., F/O
BOM Reed, Andrew T., 2Lt
ENG Hohstadt, Hollis H., Sgt
WG Prudhoe, Charles E., Sgt
RO Henson, Jessey B., Sgt
BT Walczak, John, Sgt
TG Van Cleave, Joseph A., Sgt

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

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 McKinley, Ralph C., 1Lt
CP Harwick, James A., 2Lt
NAV Long, Donald C., Jr., 1Lt
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 #44-6316 (No Name)

P Mayer, Walter J., 1Lt
CP Cannon, Harley E., 2Lt
NAV Celich, Nicholas J., 2Lt
TOG Brown, James L., Sgt
ENG McGreevy, James, Sgt
WG Cooper, Ray A., Sgt
RO LaPerch, William J., T/Sgt
TG Withers, Frederick J., S/Sgt
BT Gendron, Ernest J., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38554 *Bouncing Betty III*

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., T/Sgt
WG Huck, Robert L., Sgt
RO Dale, John A., T/Sgt
BT Ebert, Preston P., S/Sgt
TG Moran, George J., S/Sgt

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

P Rencher, Jack P., 2Lt
CP Cox, William H., 2Lt
NAV Boland, Anthony J., 2Lt
TOG Reimche, George K., S/Sgt
ENG Shaw, Vergil A., T/Sgt
TG Hammond, Walter E., S/Sgt
RO Bzik, Paul J., T/Sgt
WG Martin, Jack E., S/Sgt
BT Johnson, Marvin T., S/Sgt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

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., T/Sgt
 WG Wade, Murray W., S/Sgt
 TG Mahan, Weldon T., Sgt

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

P McCutcheon, George E., 1Lt
 CP Hower, Frederick C., 2Lt
 NAV Starr, Ben, 1Lt
 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 #43-37590 *Neva-The Silver Lady*

P Grisham, Rufus W., Jr., 1Lt
 CP Hopkins, Harry F., 2Lt
 NAV Hartel, Gale E., 2Lt
 TOG Stevenson, John L., Sgt
 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



RUFUS W. GRISHAM, JR. CREW - 358th BS

(crew assigned 358BS: 17 Aug 1944 - photo: 25 Aug 1944)

(Back L-R) 2Lt Rufus W. Grisham, Jr. (P), 2Lt William H. Cox (CP), 2Lt Nicholas J. Celich (B),
 2Lt Gale E. Hartel (N) - (Front L-R) Sgt Arnold A. Willis (TG), T/Sgt Harry R. Post (R),
 Sgt Gerhard W. Loessin, Jr. (BT), Sgt Ben M. Buie (WG), T/Sgt Edwin P. Scheuermann (E)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Gates, Cecil J., 2Lt
CP	Zapora, Theodore T., 2Lt
NAV	Malone, Roy P., 2Lt
BOM	Cooney, Thomas E., 2Lt
ENG	Wysocki, Walter, Sgt
RO	Maurer, Charles E., Sgt
BT	Garcia, Leonard A., S/Sgt
TG	Driver, Arthur H., Sgt
WG	Van Ornum, Charles S., Sgt

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

P	Holmes, Alfred M., 2Lt
CP	Haynes, Eugene, 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	Hejna, Dennis R., S/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

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

P	Knudson, Darwin D., 2Lt
CP	Heitman, David E., 2Lt
NAV	Davis, Daryl W., 2Lt
TOG	Wilson, Johnnie R., Sgt
ENG	Hurdle, Robert E., Sgt
RO	Jones, Walter N., Jr., Sgt
BT	Meichtry, Leo R., Sgt
TG	McDonald, Billy L., Sgt
WG	Palm, Kenneth A., Sgt

B-17G #43-38289 *Sweet LaRhonda*

P	Proffitt, John S., 2Lt
CP	Ogborn, Maurice E., 2Lt
NAV	Finke, John C., 2Lt
TOG	Dittman, Robert J., Sgt
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 #43-38645 (No Name)

P	Harding, Lawrence T., 2Lt
CP	Hall, Merwin G., 2Lt
NAV	Garvey, Richard J., 2Lt
TOG	Otto, Kenneth, Jr., Sgt
ENG	O'Brien, William J., Sgt
RO	Cornelius, Russell B., Sgt
BT	Lammers, Roger G., Sgt
TG	Johnson, Robert O., Sgt
WG	Holden, Robert R., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

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

B-17G #43-38682 (No Name)

P Underdown, Sidney L., 1Lt
CP Fravel, Harold L., 2Lt
NAV Kenny, John P., 2Lt
BOM Dando, Charles A., 2Lt
ENG Kuwik, John J., S/Sgt
RO Carman, Nolan W., T/Sgt
BT Guptill, Walter R., S/Sgt
TG Stevens, Richard G., Sgt
WG Botton, Pius L., Sgt

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

P Bailey, Jack W., 2Lt
CP Force, James G., 2Lt
NAV Swenson, Glen R., 2Lt
BOM Johnson, David E., 2Lt
ENG Muller, Carl A., Sgt
RO Darden, Elwyn J., Sgt
BT Geng, Donald F., Sgt
TG Eckert, Merle W., Sgt
WG McGuire, William E., Sgt

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

P Kerwin, Charles E., Maj
CP Clarke, Loren M., F/O
NAV Carriere, Lawrence C., F/O
MN Weinstein, Irving, 2Lt (358th)
BOM Schulze, William A., 1Lt
ENG Kreager, Jon B., T/Sgt
RO Cohen, Seymour T., T/Sgt
BT Zielinski, William J., S/Sgt
TG Schopplein, Orin H., 2Lt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Geiger, James E., 2Lt
CP	Telford, Donald R., 2Lt
NAV	Dennis, Walter F., 2Lt
BOM	Dubin, Martin M., S/Sgt
ENG	Stockman, Leonard G., S/Sgt
RO	Licht, Wilfred L., S/Sgt
BT	Wentz, Roland L., Sgt
TG	Germanine, Joseph R., Sgt
WG	Doctor, Gordon C., Sgt

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

P	Arwood, Joe B., 1Lt
CP	Johnson, Walter E., 2Lt
NAV	Fowler, William C., 2Lt
BOM	Gerstel, Charles L., S/Sgt
ENG	Bostick, George F., T/Sgt
RO	Curry, Paul A., S/Sgt
BT	Hulterstrum, Joseph F., Sgt
TG	Sanchez, Crespín E., Sgt
WG	Linn, James B., Sgt

B-17G #43-38563 *Jackie*

P	Weaver, Jack W., 2Lt
CP	Chalmers, John D., F/O
NAV	Polkabila, William J., 2Lt
BOM	Giancola, James V., S/Sgt
ENG	Murphy, Jason, Sgt
RO	Cole, Robert L., Sgt
BT	Lardie, Thomas D., Sgt
WG	Bialobrzewski, Joseph C., S/Sgt
TG	Bailey, Arthur L., Sgt

B-17G #42-31055 *Aloha*

P	Kallet, Sidney, 1Lt
CP	Muth, Clifford F., 2Lt
NAV	Divine, Fred H., 2Lt
BOM	Harrison, Lewis S., 2Lt
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 #42-97861 *Iza Vailable III*

P	McCutchan, Eugene R., 1Lt
CP	Schuchard, Virgil R., 2Lt
NAV	Conard, Willard G., 2Lt
BOM	Bays, Gordon C., 2Lt
ENG	Kress, Richard H., T/Sgt
RO	Frey, Alan E., T/Sgt
BT	Scott, Howard E., S/Sgt
TG	Wherry, Robert E., S/Sgt
WG	Pearson, George D., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-38842 (No Name)

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

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

P	Norris, Loy R., 2Lt
CP	Jones, William E., Capt
NAV	Thomas, Edward H., 1Lt
BOM	Valdes, George J., Sgt
ENG	Brackett, Clarence H., Sgt
RO	Birkenholz, Irving, T/Sgt
BT	McNeel, Morgan L., Sgt
TG	Ciezdlo, Eugene F., Sgt
WG	Marchionda, Guido P., Sgt

B-17G #44-8495 (No Name) - PFF

P	Stouse, Harold L., Capt
CP	Mosel, Arnold, 1Lt
NAV	Mundell, William N., 1Lt
MN	Wilson, Thomas E., 2Lt
BOM	Rudolph, Gabriel, 1Lt
ENG	Conley, Donald H., T/Sgt
RO	Groth, Gerald J., T/Sgt
TG	Lovold, Ole, 1Lt
WG	Crawford, Frank J., S/Sgt
BT	Koshar, Jerome J., S/Sgt

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

P	Kyle, George A., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Hardy, James H., F/O
NAV	Holcombe, Fred, Jr.F/O
BOM	Turner, Frank R., Sgt
ENG	Schieferstein, Ernest G., Sgt
RO	Berly, Joel A., Sgt
BT	Smith, George P., Sgt
TG	Delaney, Howard F., Sgt
WG	Kaufmann, William R., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97281 *Queenie*

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	Foell, Charles R., Sgt
TG	Lowe, Joseph W., Sgt
WG	Clare, Donald T., Sgt

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

P	McGinnis, Martin S., Capt
CP	Doscher, Frederick C., 2Lt
NAV	Neubert, Marshall A., Capt
BOM	Simone, S.P., 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 #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 #42-102411 *Miss Lace*

P	Richter, George K., 2Lt
CP	McMullen, Robert A., 2Lt
NAV	Thompson, John M., 2Lt
BOM	Stephens, Walton M., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Bates, Grover P., T/Sgt
BT	Smith, Donald S., Sgt
RO	Kemmerer, Alfred G., Sgt
TG	Chisholm, Robert E., Sgt
WG	Vernon, James D., Sgt

B-17G #43-38689 (No Name)

P	Wertz, Robert M., 1Lt
CP	Durst, Melvin A., 2Lt
NAV	Hitt, Kenneth S., F/O
BOM	Leavell, Adelbert D., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Warne, Ralph W., Sgt
BT	Ralph, William L., Sgt
RO	Giering, Edward J., Sgt
TG	Bennett, Kenneth A., Sgt
WG	Campbell, Walter C., Sgt

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

P	Barrios, Alfred R., 2Lt
CP	Candido, Anthony N., 2Lt
NAV	Oswald, Alois G., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Proper, George M., S/Sgt
TT	Creaghan, Robert E., S/Sgt
BT	Highfill, Thomas W., S/Sgt
RO	Ribesky, John V., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Wienczek, Edward J., S/Sgt
WG	Lance, Calvin L., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P Callahan, Charles A., Capt
 CP Eisenhart, Oliver T., 2Lt
 NAV Jenkins, John I., 2Lt
 NAV Gibson, Lt (360th)
 BOM Lyda, Robert E., 2Lt
 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 #44-8238 (No Name) - PFF

P Flowers, Selwyn D., Capt
 CP Hewitt, Donald I., 2Lt
 NAV Pandy, Bert J., 1Lt
 NAV Dye, Carl J., Jr., 2Lt
 MN Caldwell, Walter D., F/O
 BOM Prusha, Elmer E., 1Lt
 TT Kiely, Joseph P., T/Sgt
 RO Kopriva, Charles P., S/Sgt
 WG Howell, Charles E., S/Sgt
 TG Johnston, Lawrence M., Jr., 2Lt

B-17G #43-37597 Earthquake McGoon

P Turinsky, George, 2Lt
 CP Smith, Donald R., 2Lt
 NAV Witchey, Francis M., F/O
 TOG Renaud, Robert K., Sgt
 TT Wismer, Donald E., Sgt
 BT Newman, Harold E., Sgt
 RO Breedlove, Edwin N., T/Sgt
 TG Witcher, Marvin E., Sgt
 WG Ray, Paul, Sgt



GEORGE TURINSKY CREW - 427th BS

(crew assigned 427BS: 25 Nov 1944 - photo: Dec 1944)

(Back L-R) Sgt Harold E. Newman (BT), Sgt Marvin E. Witcher (TG), Sgt Donald E. Wismer (E),
 T/Sgt Edwin N. Breedlove (R), Sgt Robert K. Renaud (WG), Sgt Paul Ray (WG)
 (Front L-R) F/O William J. Shaughnessy (CP), 2Lt George Turinsky (P), F/O Francis M. Witchey (N)