

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 340

19 March 1945

Target: Military Objectives at Plauen, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 10 hours, 20 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 600 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitudes 26,000, 24,300, & 26,410 ft

Ammo Fired: 8,000 rounds

**T**hirty-nine aircraft were dispatched to bomb:

First	Behlen, Germany — synthetic oil plant (visual)
Second	Plauen, Germany — machine works (visual)
Third	Plauen, Germany — military objectives (H2X)
Fourth	Suhl, Germany — small arms factory

The lead and high Squadrons attacked the third priority target when the low Squadron's PFF equipment failed and they bombed off the lead. Results were generally unobserved, with a few reports of bombs hitting in the target area and some in fields outside of town. In the target area there were 7/10 to 10/10 layered middle and high clouds with associated heavy haze and dense, persistent contrails from 20,000 to 28,000 feet. Visibility aloft was restricted to one to two miles.



**RUDOLPH L. GRIFFITH, JR. CREW - 358th BS**

(crew assigned 358BS: 28 Feb 1945 - photo: 16 March 1945)

(Back L-R) 2Lt Rudolph L. Griffith, Jr. (P), F/O Fortunato G. Correale (B),

2Lt Lawrence S. Smith (CP), F/O Joseph Besharian (N)

(Front L-R) Sgt Warren J. Wilson (E), Sgt Robert W. Jarrett (TG),

Sgt Walter B. Hogan (BT), Sgt Merle H. Ruff (R), Sgt Roscoe L. Pearce (WG)

Reports of support by 141 P-51s varied. It was considered to be good, but could not be seen because of the poor visibility. There were a number of enemy aircraft seen at various times, but no attacks on 303rd BG(H) formations. Flak was absent at the target, but some meager and generally inaccurate flak was encountered at the battle lines on the routes in and out. The high squadron received some accurate bursts. Four aircraft sustained minor battle damage, but there were no casualties.

Twelve aircraft landed away from Molesworth, in England and on the Continent. One aircraft crash landed in France — B-17G #43-39011 (*No Name*), 427BS (2Lt Rudolph L. Griffith, Jr. 358BS). The crew was uninjured and the B-17 was later salvaged.

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

## Shumake-Goering

238 - PFF

### Cunningham

462

### Milman

351 - PFF

### Nester

096

### Greenbaum

191

### Taub

949

### Goodberlet

554

### Poole

999

### Woodard

160

### Greene

590

### Perkins

763

### Murray

427

### Griffith

011



### **B-17G #44-8238 (No Name) PFF 358BS (VK-Y)**

#### **41st CBW-A Lead - Pilot Maj G.F. Shumake / CoPilot 1Lt W.G. Goering**

(Back L-R) 1Lt Werner G. Goering (CP), Maj Glynn F. Shumake (P), 1Lt Floyd E. Moeller (N),

1Lt Earl R. Beyeler (PFF-Nav), Capt James M. "Tailwheel" Kaiser (N)

(Front L-R) F/O Jack Silver (TG/O), unknown, unknown, unknown, 2Lt Wilson Ford (B)

Unknowns: T/Sgt Whitney Haskel (E), T/Sgt Archie R. Jennings (R), T/Sgt Robert H. Reece (WG)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Lutz-Bitler</u> 537 - PFF		
		<u>Rogers</u> 127		<u>Force</u> 878
			<u>O'Donnell</u> 281	
		<u>Peterson</u> 944		<u>Towne</u> 206
	<u>Call</u> 958			<u>Tilsen</u> 891
<u>Beasley</u> 309	_____	<u>Stocks</u> 937	<u>Moore</u> 767	<u>Bashor</u> 289
				<u>Henning</u> 050

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

		<u>Jones-Hardy</u> 552 - PFF		
		<u>Bentzlin</u> 516		<u>Shields</u> 672
			<u>Armfield</u> 544	
		<u>Austin</u> 532		<u>Rapp</u> 860
	<u>Stiver</u> 563			<u>Statton</u> 842
<u>Breslin</u> 318	_____	<u>Juns</u> 647	<u>Smith</u> 621	<u>Scott</u> 870
				<u>Schroll</u> 451

### 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
--	--	---	---

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

---

P	Greenbaum, Richard D., 1Lt
CP	Balkcom, Robert E., 2Lt
NAV	Nicastro, John J., F/O
TOG	Cox, Lyle E., T/Sgt
ENG	Bruce, Leonard F., T/Sgt
TG	Hawes, Kenneth D., Sgt
RO	Dalton, Denver, Sgt
BT	Dooley, Patrick, Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38999 *Emma***

---

P	Poole, Lawrence E., 1Lt
CP	Cannon, Harley E., 2Lt
NAV	Smith, Harold S., F/O
TOG	Smith, Donald P., S/Sgt
ENG	Pullen, Rayford E., Sgt
RO	Hoke, Marvin L., Sgt
BT	Fox, Raymond H., Sgt
TG	Kindred, Beryl E., Sgt

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

---

P	Greene, Robert E., 1Lt
CP	Smith, Lawrence S., 2Lt
NAV	Milligan, William J., 2Lt
TOG	Williams, Ira J., Sgt
ENG	Rollinger, Joseph C., Sgt
RO	Thompson, Joe C., Sgt
BT	Covert, John L., Sgt
TG	Jobe, Milton L., Sgt

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

---

P	Goodberlet, Clarence J., 1Lt
CP	Magid, Malcolm J., 2Lt
NAV	Mylonas, Peter E., F/O
TOG	Denning, Glenn J., T/Sgt
ENG	Cotter, William J., T/Sgt
RO	Baloga, Stephen M., T/Sgt
BT	Walling, James M., S/Sgt
TG	Schultz, Frederick W., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #43-39011 *(No Name)***

---

P	Griffith, Rudolph L., 2Lt
CP	Olson, John L., 2Lt
NAV	Besharian, Joseph, F/O
BOM	Correale, Fortunato, F/O
ENG	Wilson, Warren J., Sgt
RO	Ruff, Merle H., Sgt
TG	Jarrett, Robert W., Sgt
BT	Hogan, Walter B., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-39096 *Sky Demon***

---

P	Nester, Harry E., 2Lt
CP	Craig, Fred, 2Lt
NAV	Rainey, John L., 2Lt
BOM	Kuester, Edward F., 2Lt
ENG	Kappardaki, Kermit P., Sgt
RO	Strouse, Jacob J., Sgt
BT	Bovey, Charles D., Sgt
TG	Edleman, Robert W., Sgt

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

---

P	Perkins, Morton C., 2Lt
CP	Kamstra, Walter W., 2Lt
NAV	Wallace, Robert J., 2Lt
TOG	Allen, Arlan R., Sgt
ENG	Carlson, Charles F., S/Sgt
RO	Little, Gerald G., Sgt
BT	McDonald, John T., Sgt
TG	Beckwith, Walter D., Sgt

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

---

P	Milman, Jerome, 2Lt
CP	Geile, Thomas A., 2Lt
NAV	McCorkle, Robert W., 2Lt
PFF	Foltz, Leon P., 2Lt
BOM	McCall, John W., 1Lt
ENG	Eygabroad, Robert J., Sgt
RO	Noble, Neal W., S/Sgt
TG	Johnson, Jack W., Sgt

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

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

P Murray, Robert I., 2Lt  
 CP Boardman, Robert, F/O  
 NAV Leonhirth, Junius, F/O  
 TOG Hammarlund, Carl O., Sgt  
 ENG Brunale, Vito J., Sgt  
 RO Bates, Theodore A., Sgt  
 BT Rodock, Nicholas, Sgt  
 TG Rennie, Robert P., Sgt  
 WG Dantzler, John R., Sgt  
 SJ Ready, William C., Sgt

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

P Taub, Francis R., 2Lt  
 CP Cooper, John T., 2Lt  
 NAV Johnson, Charles P., 2Lt  
 TOG Dugan, Michael A., Sgt  
 ENG Chrisman, Warren F., Sgt  
 RO Maluchnik, Chester S., S/Sgt  
 BT Hollowell, James L., Sgt  
 TG Spencer, James P., Sgt  
 WG McWilliams, Elmer D., Sgt

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

P Cunningham, Neil E., 2Lt  
 CP Smith, Orville H., F/O  
 NAV Das, Mitchell C., 2Lt  
 TOG Quig, Francis X., Sgt  
 ENG Sprinkles, Leburn D., Sgt  
 WG Boone, Kenneth E., Sgt  
 RO Ennis, Charles S., S/Sgt  
 BT Carter, William J., Sgt  
 TG Crigger, Richard S., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-39160 *G for George***

P Woodard, John M., 2Lt  
 CP Laubhan, Bob, 2Lt  
 NAV Wyman, Asa H., F/O  
 TOG Jackson, Thomas W., Sgt  
 ENG Walley, Glen B., Sgt  
 BT Sloan, Walter E., Sgt  
 RO Foreman, Dennis E., Sgt  
 TG Johnson, Robert H., Sgt  
 WG Mills, Joe J., Sgt  
 SJ Atkinson, Gerald V., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8238 (No Name) - PFF**

P Shumake, Glynn F., Maj  
 CP Goering, Werner G., 1Lt  
 NAV Kaiser, James M., Capt  
 NAV Moeller, Floyd E., 1Lt  
 PFF Beyeler, Earl R., 1Lt  
 BOM Ford, Wilson, 1Lt  
 ENG Haskell, Whitney, T/Sgt  
 WG Reece, Robert H., T/Sgt  
 RO Jennings, Archie R., T/Sgt  
 WG Silver, Jack, F/O

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #44-6937 *El Sereano***

---

P	Stocks, Jack E., 2Lt
CP	Marsh, John F., 2Lt
NAV	Steineman, James T., 2Lt
TOG	Bailey, John R., S/Sgt
ENG	Copp, Edmond D., S/Sgt
RO	Fiore, John, S/Sgt
BT	Hamilton, John W., S/Sgt
TG	Tanner, Henry C., Sgt

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

---

P	Moore, Thomas L., 2Lt
CP	Barnett, James M., 2Lt
NAV	Johnson, Herbert G., 2Lt
TOG	Redhage, Louis H., Sgt
ENG	Ogurchak, Joseph T., Sgt
RO	Brookstra, William A., Sgt
BT	Kohan, Frederick, Sgt
TG	Pesta, Clarence A., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird***

---

P	Henning, Clyde H., 2Lt
CP	Bauer, Donald R., F/O
NAV	Barger, Donald T., 2Lt
TOG	Jones, John V., Sgt
ENG	Grant, Gilbert D., Sgt
RO	Ferche, Joseph P., Sgt
BT	Harper, Richard F., Sgt
TG	Barnett, Raymond L., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38958 *Green Hill Belle***

---

P	Call, Fred E., 2Lt
CP	Wilson, Carl V., 2Lt
NAV	Mieslich, Morris, F/O
TOG	Bates, Roger K., S/Sgt
ENG	Myers, Ernest L., Sgt
RO	Sussman, Martin, Sgt
TG	Moser, Lawrence B., Sgt
BT	Hager, Mark I., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38891 *Blues in the Night***

---

P	Tilsen, Cyril, 2Lt
CP	McDowell, James B., 2Lt
NAV	Bielski, Casimir, Jr., 2Lt
TOG	Cassino, Julian R., S/Sgt
ENG	Driggers, Sherod R., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Mawdsley, Arnold, Sgt
TG	Proctor, Isaac H., Sgt
BT	Hendon, William G., Sgt

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

---

P	Lutz, John R., Capt
CP	Bitler, Hower E., 2Lt
NAV	Moon, Richard Y., 2Lt
MN	Gennaro, Louis T., 1Lt
BOM	Johnson, Herbert E., 1Lt
ENG	Candito, Christopher A., T/Sgt
RO	Lovelock, Edward N., T/Sgt
TG	Hall, Merwin G., 2Lt

### **B-17G #43-39127 (No Name)**

---

P	Rogers, Clem W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Powlus, Vernon F., 2Lt
NAV	Simon, Albert, 2Lt
BOM	Miller, Joseph A., 2Lt
ENG	Reese, Bobbie B., S/Sgt
RO	Wysocki, John F., S/Sgt
BT	Simpson, James A., S/Sgt
TG	Westfall, Byron D., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97281 *Queenie***

---

P	O'Donnell, Thomas M., 2Lt
CP	Goulding, Traynum D., 2Lt
NAV	Jardarian, Zaven, 2Lt
BOM	Adams, Harry W., 2Lt
ENG	Fischer, Norbert G., Sgt
RO	Portney, Sol, S/Sgt
TG	Hoffman, George F., Sgt
BT	Gaumer, Billy A., Sgt
VI	Hassler, Paul H., S/Sgt

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

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

---

P Towne, Harvey E., 2Lt  
CP Ligaard, Warren K., 2Lt  
NAV West, Alonzo, III. 2Lt  
TOG Taylor, Wallace K., Sgt  
ENG Dritz, Arthur, Sgt  
RO Fiore, Thomas, Sgt  
BT Syler, Allen B., Sgt  
TG McGurdy, Lewis M., Sgt  
RCM Carl, Lewis E., Sgt

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

---

P Peterson, Robert C., 2Lt  
CP Kirkpatrick, Roy A., 2Lt  
NAV Mollman, Charles A., 2Lt  
TOG Wilson, Robert P., Sgt  
ENG Reed, Denver E., Sgt  
RO Strigle, Paul C., Sgt  
BT Hunsucker, John E., S/Sgt  
TG Borsody, William L., Sgt  
WG Palsa, Rudolph

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

---

P Bashor, Oliver L., 2Lt  
CP Baker, Ira B., 2Lt  
NAV Fish, Louis, 2Lt  
TOG Schoonover, Howard D., S/Sgt  
ENG Reed, Paul E., Sgt  
RO Shook, Victor N., Sgt  
BT Greene, Norman S., Sgt  
TG Theisen, Robert J., Sgt  
WG Hansen, Robert S., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38878 (*No Name*)**

---

P Force, James G., 2Lt  
CP Heitman, David E., 2Lt  
TOG Bengel, Charlie W., S/Sgt  
BOM Mabary, George D.L., F/O  
ENG Belcher, Rubin W., T/Sgt  
RO Minnix, Glenn A., T/Sgt  
WG Hoxie, Charles R., Sgt  
TG Davidson, Dyle K., Sgt  
BT Schilling, Lawrence E., Sgt

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

---

P Beasley, William M., 2Lt  
CP Rich, Richard H., 2Lt  
NAV Welsh, Harry A., 2Lt  
TOG Davis, Carl J., Sgt  
ENG Gornto, Jacob R., Sgt  
RO Terrill, Jack W., Sgt  
TG Gracida, Henry J., Jr., Sgt  
BT Thomas, David W., Sgt  
WG Jeandrevin, Robert R., Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

---

P	Stiver, Merrill M., 2Lt
CP	Kacus, Alexander, F/O
NAV	Beasley, Leon O., 2Lt
TOG	Valdes, George J., T/Sgt
ENG	Auer, Kenneth R., Sgt
RO	Godley, Walter M., Sgt
BT	Pilgrim, Robert W., Sgt
TG	Marchionda, Guido P., S/Sgt

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

---

P	Armfield, John M., 1Lt
CP	Hamm, Burwell J., 2Lt
NAV	Bonanno, Joseph, F/O (427th)
BOM	Grezzo, Anthony D., 2Lt
ENG	Lemon, James M., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Haynes, Donald L., S/Sgt
BT	Goggin, Edward F., S/Sgt
TG	Davis, Jesse W., Sgt

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

---

P	Rapp, John W., 2Lt
CP	Judd, Dudley F., 2Lt
NAV	McCollum, Clodius M., 2Lt
TOG	Unger, Frank W., Sgt
ENG	Cie zadlo, Eugene F., Sgt
RO	Turner, John R., Sgt
TG	Rasmussen, Gerald G., Sgt
WG	Evans, William A., Sgt

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

---

P	Bentzlin, Bertil V., 2Lt
CP	Briley, Dewey E., 2Lt
NAV	Andrzejczyk, Walter A., F/O
TOG	Friery, James R., Sgt
ENG	Rodgers, Walter D., Sgt
RO	Sole, John A., Sgt
BT	Henderson, Clarence J., Sgt
TG	Joneson, Leonard B., Sgt

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

---

P	Smith, Samuel W., 2Lt
CP	Shanafelt, Arthur S.C., 2Lt
NAV	Knudsen, Russel A., F/O
TOG	Geyer, Walter A., Sgt
ENG	Zenick, Thomas E., Sgt
RO	Bridgman, Robert A., Sgt
BT	Kucab, Michael J., Sgt
TG	Jensen, Jens C., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38451 (No Name)**

---

P	Schroll, David A., 2Lt
CP	Lucien, Ralph A., 2Lt
NAV	Dwyer, Marion J., 2Lt
TOG	Mulqueen, John J., Sgt
ENG	Fleming, James A., Sgt
RO	Kirtner, Billy L., Sgt
BT	Beckman, Charles W., Sgt
TG	Moore, Bill A., Sgt

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

---

P	Statton, Roy F., 1Lt
CP	Johnson, Ralph L., 2Lt
NAV	Donahue, Thomas R., 2Lt
TOG	Woods, Heiber J., S/Sgt
ENG	Rhodes, William H., Sgt
RO	Knowles, Charles D., Sgt
BT	McNeel, Morgan L., S/Sgt
TG	Maxson, Gordon H., Sgt

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

---

P	Austin, Charles A., 1Lt
CP	Johnson, Arthur E., 2Lt
NAV	Kokoska, Florian T., 2Lt
TOG	Stuckey, Edward C., Sgt
ENG	Ingles, Howard L., Sgt
RO	Kummer, Burnell R., Sgt
BT	Danielsen, Stanley K., Sgt
TG	Krouse, Thomas R., Sgt
WG	Wotanis, Leo F., Sgt



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

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

---

P	Shields, Emerson H., 2Lt
CP	Hamm, John, 2Lt
NAV	Young, Charles C., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Weise, Gerald W., 2Lt
ENG	Brian, Carville J., S/Sgt
RO	Prestage, John L., S/Sgt
BT	Hebert, Nolan, Sgt
TG	Hansen, Calvin K., Sgt
WG	Moren, Owen W., S/Sgt
VI	Elkin, Samuel, S/Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38870 (No Name)**

---

P	Scott, John, 2Lt
CP	Weinandt, Bernard M., 2Lt
NAV	Bergvall, Otis A., 2Lt
TOG	Morris, Robert W., Sgt
ENG	Hart, Leroy M., Sgt
RO	Gentry, John M., Sgt
BT	Wright, Donald M., Sgt
TG	Woolpert, John C., Sgt
WG	Gilbert, Jams E., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8647 (No Name)**

---

P	Juns, Frank, 1Lt
CP	Lacker, Howard C., 2Lt
NAV	O'Neil, James B., 2Lt
TOG	Mooneyham, Clarence, Jr., Sgt
ENG	Bratcher, Francis E., Sgt
RO	Foster, Lane, Sgt
BT	Reynolds, Robert R., Sgt
TG	Garbarino, Louis V., Jr., Sgt
VI	Elliott, Richard D., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8318 (No Name)**

---

P	Breslin, Jack D., 2Lt
CP	Bischofs, Hans, 2Lt
NAV	Lenox, John, Jr., F/O
TOG	Perry, Gordon W., Sgt
ENG	Moore, Harley E., Sgt
RO	Daugherty, John S., Jr., Sgt
BT	Mason, Millard E., Sgt
TG	Barlow, Grover C., Sgt
WG	Johnson, Wilfred B., Sgt
VI	Haley, James W., Sgt (359th)

### **B-17G #44-8552 (No Name) - PFF**

---

P	Jones, William E., Capt
CP	Hardy, James H., F/O
NAV	Stewart, James L., 2Lt
MN	Wilson, Joseph R., F/O
BOM	Zwayer, James P., Capt
ENG	Bostick, George F., T/Sgt
RO	Lillis, Joseph D., T/Sgt
TG	Darland, William G., Jr., 1Lt
WG	Engleman, George B., T/Sgt