

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

Thirty-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

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	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
		RESULTS OF MISSION KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action	

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