

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 342

21 March 1945

Target: Airfields at Hopsten & Hesepe, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 36 x 100 lb M41 Fragmentation bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 22,000, 21,000, & 23,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 0 rounds

The Hopsten airfield was the first priority assigned target in Germany (visual), any airfield assigned to any other force was the second priority (visual), and the Osnabruck marshalling yard was the third priority (visual) and the fourth (H2X).

The target area was covered with 7/10 to 10/10 high clouds with bases at 26,000 feet and 2/10 high clouds at 21,000 to 22,000 feet, but there were no contrails at altitude. The Group bombed two airfields visually. Twenty-six aircraft of the lead and high Squadrons dropped 957 100-lb. M41 fragmentation bombs on the No. 1 target, Hopsten airfield. Good results were reported with fires, smoke, and explosions in the target area. Due to the cloud cover over the first priority target, the low Squadron attacked the Hesepe Jet Fighter Airfield, using the dispersal area as their aiming point. Good results were obtained with hits on the aiming point. Four-hundred-ninety-four fragmentation bombs were dropped.

There was no enemy air opposition. Although few of the 97 assigned 1st AD P-51s were seen, it was evident that they were in the area and were available if needed. The lead Squadron encountered meager and very accurate flak at Hopsten, but other Squadrons met no flak. The lead Squadron had five aircraft with major and eight with minor battle damage and two wounded crewmen. All aircraft returned safely to Molesworth.



Molesworth Airfield - photo taken in 1974

OVER 300 HOLES IN MY AIRCRAFT !

Unusual Experience of Lt. Rex Chambers

An most interesting mission I was on to a Jet Airdrome in northern Germany was on 21 March 1945. We were utilizing fragmentation bombs. At bombs away I turned to the right and back just as a red glow erupted between number 3 and number 4 engines, with two distinct and sharply different blasts.

We immediately began losing altitude, with both engines feathered and our bomb bay doors still open, as they would not close. We had some cloud cover at about 10,000 feet across Germany, and near the coast. We were accompanied by a single P-51 aircraft. We were getting some ground fire as we headed home.

Upon landing I noticed that in addition to the larger holes in the engines and wing, that the bomb bay doors looked like sieves, with holes about 1/4 by 1/4 inches, with some being as large as 1/4 by 1 and 1/4 inches in length. I stopped counting when the number exceeded 300 plus.

I was told at our debriefing after the mission that two of the fragment bombs had collided upon their release from the bomb bay. With such heat that they generated, I could clearly understand why the fragments of the bombs knocked out our engines and fouled up the bomb bay doors so they couldn't be closed. We were a very fortunate crew to live and tell about this mission.



Bomb Damage to the Hopsten, Germany Airfield

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

Stouse-Hamm
125 - PFF

Schroll
563

Shields
256 - PFF

Juns
523

Scott
870

Fowler
517

Statton
842

Breslin
318

Mauger
451

S. Smith
516

Austin
532

Lacker
672

Rapp
860



B-17G #44-8125 (No Name) PFF 360BS (PU-Y)
41st CBW-B (360BS) - Pilot Capt H.L. Stouse / CoPilot 2Lt B.J. Hamm

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

Ashwell-Ayers
537 - PFF

Walder
281

Miller
621

Richter
885

Chuba
977

Kahler
958

Flanigan
763

Grob
597

Denison
544

G. Smith
546

Demian
647

Thomas
937

Tarvid
891

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

Fielder-Nye
238 - PFF

Cunningham
462

Milman
999

Nester
554

Greene
590

Greenbaum
191

Garrett
096

Leach
949

Perkins
006

Bohle
050

Woodard
206

Haynes
878

Poole
645

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 #43-37590 *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 Nester, Harry E., 2Lt
 CP Craig, Fred, 2Lt
 NAV Rainey, John L., 2Lt
 BOM Swift, Jonathan S., 2Lt
 ENG Kappardaki, Kermit P., Sgt
 RO Strouse, Jacob J., Sgt
 BT Bovey, Charles D., Sgt
 TG Edleman, Robert W., Sgt

B-17G #43-38999 *Emma*

P Milman, Jerome, 2Lt
 CP Geile, Thomas A., 2Lt
 NAV Triebes, Earl E., 2Lt
 BOM Mott, Charles A., 2Lt
 ENG Eygabroad, Robert J., Sgt
 RO Noble, Neal W., S/Sgt
 TG Johnson, Jack W., Sgt
 BT Fox, Raymond H., Jr., Sgt

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

P Leach, Joseph V., 2Lt
 CP Smith, Orville H., 2Lt
 NAV Wyman, Asa H., F/O
 TOG Psota, John W., Sgt
 ENG Bridgeman, James H., Sgt
 RO Wilburn, Robert R., Sgt
 BT Anderson, Junior W., Sgt
 TG Sulley, Oda F., Jr., Sgt

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

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 Sexton, Norman R., Sgt
 TG Kindred, Beryl E., Sgt

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

P Garrett, Charles E., 2Lt
 CP Castillo, Joseph L., F/O
 NAV Welch, Harry A., 2Lt
 TOG Prudhoe, Charles E., T/Sgt
 ENG Hohstadt, Hollis H., Sgt
 TG Van Cleave, Joseph A., Sgt
 RO Henson, Jessey B., Sgt
 BT Walczak, John, Sgt

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

P Bohle, Loren W., 2Lt
 CP Gordon, Joseph, 2Lt
 NAV Gerhardstein, Eugene M., F/O
 TOG Sproule, Wayne O., Sgt
 ENG Bigelow, Robert F., Sgt
 RO Genter, Norman, Sgt
 BT Aldous, George C., Sgt
 TG Smith, Jack C., Sgt

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

P Fielder, George H., Capt
 CP Nye, Robert M., Maj
 NAV Weber, George F., 1Lt
 PFF Bannowsky, Lonvell A., 2Lt
 GHN Heiser, Kenneth, 2Lt
 BOM Gorham, Raymond H., 1Lt
 ENG Cavagnaro, James E., T/Sgt
 WG Johnson, Vernon W., T/Sgt
 RO Buie, Neil C., T/Sgt
 TG Hopkins, Harry F., 1Lt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-38191 *Shasta*

P	Greenbaum, Richard D., 1Lt
CP	Balkcom, Robert E., 2Lt
NAV	Cooper, Saul A., F/O
TOG	Brown, James L., T/Sgt
ENG	Bruce, Leonard F., T/Sgt
WG	Roberts, Thomas M., Sgt
RO	Baloga, Stephen M., T/Sgt
BT	Diaczynski, Andrew J., Sgt
TG	Massey, Ray N., Sgt

B-17G #44-6006 (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
WG	Partsch, Warren L., Sgt

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

P	Woodard, John M., 2Lt
CP	Laubhan, Bob, 2Lt
NAV	Moeller, Floyd E., 1Lt
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
RCM	Palm, Kenneth A., Sgt (359th)

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

P	Cunningham, Neil E., 2Lt
CP	Thornton, Everett H., 2Lt
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

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Haynes, Eugene, 2Lt
CP	Wilson, Carl V., 2Lt
NAV	Barger, Donald T., 2Lt
TOG	Bailey, John R., S/Sgt
ENG	Vowels, Donovan K., S/Sgt
RO	Minnix, Glenn A., S/Sgt
BT	Davidson, Dyle K., Sgt
TG	Schoonover, Howard D., S/Sgt
WG	Davis, Carl J., Sgt

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

P	Tarvid, Arthur J., 2Lt
CP	Grandwilliams, Louis C., F/O
NAV	Udy, Donald M., F/O
TOG	Carlson, Dale H., S/Sgt
ENG	Jenkins, Maurice L., S/Sgt
RO	Root, Carmen W., S/Sgt
BT	Kelley, Francis H., S/Sgt
TG	Dimick, Richard D., S/Sgt
WG	Cassino, Julian R., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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	Kaber, Harvey N., S/Sgt

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

P	Statton, Roy F., 1Lt
CP	Chalmers, John D., 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
TRO	Brenner, Seymour, 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
VI	Elliott, Richard D., S/Sgt

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

P	Shields, Emerson H., 2Lt
CP	Hamm, John, 2Lt
NAV	Young, Charles C., Jr., 2Lt
MN	Foltz, Leon P., 2Lt (358th)
GHN	Chambers, Rex, 2Lt (358th)
BOM	Weise, Gerald W., 2Lt
ENG	Brian, Carville J., S/Sgt
RO	Berly, Joel A., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Hebert, Nolan, Sgt
TG	Hansen, Calvin K., Sgt

B-17G #44-6517 Old Cock

P	Fowler, Robert R., 2Lt
CP	Boyles, Kenneth L., 2Lt
NAV	Sarkis, George A., F/O
TOG	Bice, Lowell E., Sgt
ENG	Bryson, Emil M., S/Sgt
RO	Ahland, Walter F., Sgt
BT	Henager, Rudolph M., Sgt
TG	King, Marvin O., Sgt
VI	Fegette, Iva L., T/Sgt

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

P	Lacker, Howard C., 2Lt
CP	Hardy, James H., F/O
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
WG	Faulkner, Leroy, Sgt

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

P	Mauger, Warren, 2Lt (359th)
CP	Bristol, Clarence D., 2Lt
NAV	Lofquist, Gordon B., 2Lt
TOG	King, Raymond H., S/Sgt
ENG	Hammel, Norman D., Sgt
RO	Polo, Matthew N., S/Sgt
BT	Farnham, Gordon W., Sgt
TG	Rumberger, Frank C., Sgt
WG	Meincke, Donald, Sgt

B-17G #44-8125 Sparky - PFF

P	Stouse, Harold L., Capt
CP	Hamm, Burwell J., 2Lt
NAV	Davis, Darius R., Capt
MN	Gibson, Cater M., 1Lt
GHN	Orenstein, Harold A., 1Lt
BOM	Zwayer, James P., Capt
ENG	Bostick, George F., T/Sgt
RO	Cole, Robert L., T/Sgt
TG	Johnson, Ralph L., 2Lt
WG	Nabors, Hrschell F., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-38563 *Jackie*

P Schroll, David A., 2Lt
CP Kacus, Alexander, F/O
NAV Beasley, Leon O., 2Lt
TOG Gerstel, Charles L., T/Sgt
ENG Auer, Kenneth R., T/Sgt
RO Godley, Walter M., T/Sgt
BT Pilgrim, Robert W., S/Sgt
TG Marchionda, Guido P., S/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

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

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 #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 Ciezadlo, Eugene F., Sgt
RO Turner, John R., Sgt
TG Rasmussen, Gerald G., Sgt
WG Evans, William A., Sgt

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

P Juns, Frank, 1Lt
CP Lucien, Ralph A., 2Lt
NAV Dwyer, Marion J., 2Lt
BOM Grezzo, Anthony D., 2Lt
ENG Fleming, James A., S/Sgt
RO Kirtner, Billy L., T/Sgt
BT Beckman, Charles W., Sgt
TG Moore, Bill A., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97281 *Queenie*

P	Walder, Wilfred M., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Roche, John E., F/O
NAV	Wolansky, John, 2Lt
BOM	Short, Arthur E., F/O
TT	Engelhardt, Roy H., Sgt
BT	Doles, David, Jr., Sgt
RO	Gibbons, Francis M., Sgt
TG	Mitchell, Donald C., Sgt
WG	Monyok, Joseph R., Sgt
Y	Taylor, W.H., S/Sgt

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

P	Flanigan, Lloyd J., 2Lt
CP	Wokersien, James T., F/O
NAV	Heaney, Edward J., F/O
TOG	McDonald, Francis E., Jr., Sgt
TT	Gilkes, Beresford B., Sgt
BT	Safley, Delbert A., Sgt
RO	Gourly, Charles B., Sgt
TG	Neiswender, John J., Sgt
SJ	Higginbotham, Frank D., Sgt

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

P	Kahler, Thomas F., 2Lt
CP	Cotton, Lewis, F/O
NAV	Bonanno, Joe, F/O
TOG	Fogarty, Richard T., Jr., Sgt
TT	Lowery, Lloyd, Sgt
BT	Broughton, William A., S/Sgt
RO	Latz, Leslie L., Sgt
TG	Hocknell, Raymond A., S/Sgt
WG	Perkins, Herschel E., Sgt

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

P	Denison, William A., 2Lt
CP	Haynes, Charles H., 2Lt
NAV	Zabelicky, John E., F/O
TOG	Mack, William H., Sgt
TT	Eckert, Clair E., S/Sgt
BT	Conyer, Roy, Jr., Sgt
RO	Kiggens, William P., Sgt
TG	O'Hearn, Walter D., Sgt
WG	McComb, Harold A., Sgt

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

P	Ashwell, Silas B., 1Lt
CP	Ayers, Roger D, 2Lt
NAV	Hoida, Donald J., 2Lt
MN	Weil, Norman, 1Lt (359th)
GHN	Gadbois, Frank P., 2Lt (359th)
BOM	Hansen, Harley L., 1Lt
TT	Rys, Valentine J., Sgt
RO	Morris, Allen L., Sgt
TG	Shaughnessy, William J., F/O
WG	Clarkson, Robert T., S/Sgt

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

P	Miller, Forrest E., 2Lt
CP	Woodworth, Kenneth R., F/O
NAV	Higgins, Harold W., 2Lt
TOG	Bulbach, Walter, Sgt
TT	Conroy, Thomas R., S/Sgt
BT	Burns, Jerry E., Sgt
RO	Retzlaff, Robert R., Sgt
TG	Rogers, Robert B., Sgt
SJ	Hendrix, Frank H., S/Sgt

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

P	Thomas, Blaine E., 2Lt
CP	Bartholomew, Max R., 2Lt
NAV	Lacy, Walter L., 2Lt
BOM	Lee, Roger C., 2Lt
TT	Haynes, Harry W., Jr., Sgt
BT	Contreras, Luis L., Sgt
RO	Smith, Walter E., Sgt
TG	Carlson, Melvin C., Sgt
WG	Eschinger, Edward G., Sgt

B-17G #44-6977 *Better Do'er*

P	Chuba, Francis B., 2Lt
CP	Rogers, Ennis L., 2Lt
NAV	Wolf, Robert J., 2Lt
TOG	Malmo, Richard C., Sgt
TT	Ayers, Francis H., Sgt
BT	Paananen, Uhlo J., Sgt
RO	Harkey, Charles I., Sgt
TG	Huckabay, Harvey H., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-37597 *Earthquake McGoon*

P Grob, Emil E., Jr., 2Lt
CP Vanderhei, Vivian S., 2Lt
NAV Slauson, Leon H., 2Lt
TOG Allen, Herrold H., Sgt
TT Loy, Vernon C., Sgt
BT Apel, Charles W., Sgt
RO Mullen, John P., Sgt
TG Nutting, Rufus R., Sgt

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

P Smith, Grafton N., 1Lt
CP Alderman, Melvin, 2Lt
NAV Cohen, Leo, F/O
TOG Anderson, Dale R., Sgt
TT Calderon, Reuben J., S/Sgt
BT Miller, Raymond M., Sgt
RO Parker, George F., S/Sgt
TG Dussliere, Albert L., Sgt

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

P Demian, Julius C., F/O
CP Weatherby, Earl R., F/O
NAV Tractman, Bernard L., F/O
TOG Ross, Joseph M., Jr., S/Sgt
TT Leach, Harry L., S/Sgt
BT Wilson, Alfred D., S/Sgt
RO Lombardi, Donato J., S/Sgt
TG Buford, Thomas A., Sgt

B-17G #42-39885 *Sweet Rose O'Grady*

P Richter, George K., 2Lt
CP Kipfer, James F., 2Lt
NAV Thompson, John M., 2Lt
BOM Steinberg, Clifford, 2Lt
TT Bates, Grover P., T/Sgt
BT Smith, Donald S., S/Sgt
RO Longo, Angelo L., S/Sgt
WG Chisholm, Robert E., S/Sgt