

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 346

24 March 1945

Target: Afternoon Mission - Airfield at Twente-Enschede,
The Netherlands

Crews Dispatched: 14

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 30 minutes

Bomb Load: 34 x 100 lb H.E. M30 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 22,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 0 rounds

Colonel Maurice A. **Preston** (P), CO 41CBW and Maj. Charles W. **Bagstad** (CP) flew in #42-31055 *Aloha* 360BS, as the Scouter aircraft.

The only assigned target for the 303rd BG(H) was the Twente-Enschede airfield in the Netherlands. The good morning weather continued into the afternoon—no clouds were seen along the route or over the target.

The Group dropped 480 100-lb. H.E. M30 bombs visually with excellent results. The bomb pattern crossed two runways and covered the assigned MPI. The Scouter B-17 did not bomb.

The meager and accurate anti-aircraft fire encountered at the target caused major battle damage to one B-17. However, there was no enemy air opposition and friendly fighter support was good. There were no casualties and all Fortresses returned to Molesworth.



Crash of B-17G #44-8038 (No Name) PFF 427BS GN-Z — 27 March 1945

This was a high altitude practice bombing mission. 427BS Pilot Capt Walstein W. Wallace, Jr. made a normal landing approach at Molesworth. The left landing gear collapsed approximately 50-75% of the distance down the runway. This caused the aircraft to roll about 300 feet before skidding to a stop. No one was injured. Inspection revealed that the left landing gear was 33 threads from being fully extended and right landing gear was 11 threads from being fully extended. The #1 and 2 Engines and props were damaged. The left outbound wing panel and left landing gear were also damaged. The accident was classified as 100% Pilot error for failure to fully extend the landing gear.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Heller-Tyler</u> 568 - PFF			
		<u>Bentzlin</u> 532		<u>Weaver</u> 484 - PFF	
			<u>Haynes</u> 891		
		<u>Heitman</u> 309		<u>Henning</u> 608	
	<u>Poole</u> 999			<u>Denison</u> 937	
<u>Griffith</u> 427		<u>Bohle</u> 590		<u>Miller</u> 621	<u>Demian</u> 311
	<u>McLeod</u> 096				



B-17G #44-8568 (No Name) PFF 358BS (VK-X)
41st CBW-A (360BS) - Pilot Maj W.C. Heller / CoPilot 2Lt S.L. Tyler
(Back L-R) S/Sgt Joel A. Berly, Jr. (R), 2Lt Norman C. Gadbois (GHN), 1Lt Cater L Gibson (M-N),
Capt Darius R. Davis (N), S/Sgt Richard S. Reed (E), S/Sgt Leroy Faulkner (WG), Maj William C. Heller (P)
(Front L-R) 1Lt W.J. Kennedy (B), 2Lt Samuel L. Tyler (CP), 2Lt Ralph L. Johnson (TG-O)

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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 #43-38999 *Emma*

P Poole, Lawrence E., 1Lt
 CP Smith, Lawrence S., 2Lt
 NAV Cooper, Saul A., 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 McLeod, William S., 1Lt
 CP Elkins, Richard A., 2Lt
 NAV Hopkins, William B., 2Lt
 TOG Rafferty, William A., Sgt
 ENG DeWillers, Edgar, S/Sgt
 RO Guenin, Wayne E., T/Sgt
 BT Nichols, William A., Jr., Sgt
 TG James, Frank M., Sgt

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

P Griffith, Rudolph L., 2Lt
 CP Craig, Fred, Jr., 2Lt
 NAV Besharian, Joseph, F/O
 TOG Brown, James L., T/Sgt
 ENG Wilson, Warren J., Sgt
 RO Ruff, Merle H., Sgt
 TG Jarrett, Robert W., Sgt
 BT Hogan, Walter B., Sgt
 WG Pearce, Roscoe L., Sgt
 PAS Atkinson, Gerald V., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Heitman, David E., 2Lt
 CP Bitler, Hower E., 2Lt
 BOM Mabary, George D.L., F/O
 TOG Wilson, Johnnie R., T/Sgt
 ENG Gray, Alexander W., T/Sgt
 RO Mahoney, Denis J., S/Sgt
 TG Hartmann, Alexander, T/Sgt
 BT Davidson, Dyle K., Sgt

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

P Haynes, Eugene, 2Lt
 CP Silver, Jack, F/O (358th)
 NAV Hudson, Glen V., 2Lt
 BOM Adams, Harry W., 1Lt
 ENG Reese, Bobbie B., T/Sgt
 RO Wysocki, John F., T/Sgt
 BT Simpson, James A., S/Sgt
 TG Westfall, Byron D., Sgt

B-17G #43-38608 *Lucille*

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
 WG Jeandrevin, Robert R., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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
WG	Schieb, John C., Sgt

B-17G #44-8484 (No Name) - PFF

P	Weaver, Jack W., 1Lt
CP	Chalmers, John D., 2Lt
NAV	Polkabila, William J., 1Lt
MN	Wilson, Donald M., 2Lt (358th)
BOM	West, Albert G., F/O
ENG	Murphy, Jason, T/Sgt
RO	Cole, Robert L., S/Sgt
BT	Lardie, Thomas D., Sgt

B-17G #44-8568 (No Name) - PFF

P	Heller, William C., Maj
CP	Tyler, Samuel L., 2Lt
NAV	Davis, Darius R., Capt
MN	Gibson, Cater M., 1Lt
GHN	Gadbois, Norman C., 2Lt (359th)
BOM	Kennedy, William J., 1Lt
ENG	Reed, Richard S., S/Sgt
RO	Berly, Joel A., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Johnson, Ralph L., 2Lt
WG	Faulkner, Leroy, S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97311 Shoo Shoo Baby

P	Demian, Julius C., F/O
CP	Shaughnessy, William J., 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
Y	Taylor, W.H., 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	Hardin, Joe A., S/Sgt
TT	Conroy, Thomas R., S/Sgt
BT	Burns, Jerry E., Sgt
RO	Retzlaff, Robert R., Sgt
TG	Bulbach, Walter, Sgt
SJ	Hendrix, Frank H., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-6937 El Sereano

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