

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 348

30 March 1945

Submarine Building Yards at Bremen, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 38

Crews Lost: Capt. H.B. Johnson - 10 POW

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 8 x 500 lb H.E. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 26,000 & 24,900 ft

Ammo Fired: 1,390 rounds

Thirty-eight aircraft were dispatched to bomb Bremen. The submarine building yards was the first priority target (visual) and the second priority (H2X), although a different MPI was assigned. There were no other assigned targets. One aircraft returned early: #42-97546 *Idaliza*, 360BS (Lt. **Lacker**) had mechanical problems.

Weather conditions at Molesworth made assembly very difficult. In the target area there were 5/10 to 6/10 low clouds with tops at 8,000 feet. Twenty-eight Fortresses in the lead and low Squadrons dropped 234 500-lb. H.E. M43 bombs and 10 units of leaflets on the submarine yards. Bombing was by PFF (H2X) with very poor results. Lead Squadron bombs hit about 1,100 yards from the PFF MPI. Low Squadron bombs hit about 2,500 yards southwest of the PFF MPI. The high Squadron did not bomb. Their PFF signals were too weak to use and they could not bomb visually.

A few enemy aircraft were seen. One crew reported that an ME-262 made one pass at their B-17, but there were no real attacks on the Group. Moderate and accurate flak encountered at Bremen caused major battle damage to thirteen aircraft and minor damage to fifteen. Fighter support by 268 P-51s was good. Four crewmen in returning aircraft suffered flak wounds.

The Group lead aircraft, #44-8484 (*No Name*), 358BS, piloted by Capt. Hugh B. **Johnson**, was hit by flak over Bremen and sustained a hole in the right wing in the Nos. 3 and 4 gas tanks. Gas poured out from the hole and across the No. 3 supercharger. Capt. **Johnson** feathered the #3 & #4 props. The aircraft began to drop back and Deputy Leader, 1Lt. William L. **McKimmie**, was instructed to take over the lead in #44-8710 *Idle Wheel*, 427BS, 358BS crew. #44-8484 slid back and down through the formation, started off toward the right for awhile, and then came back behind and below the formation. It was flying normally except for one feathered engine when last seen. The Fortress made a crash-landing in a wheat field on the east bank of the Rhine River. The crew members were uninjured, but immediately captured by German troops and transported to POW camps.



Unknown ground crewman at work.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Jones-Tyler</u> 552 - PFF		
	<u>Breslin</u> 672		<u>Lester</u> 860	
<u>Lacker</u> 546				<u>Austin</u> 532
		<u>Edmunds</u> 842		<u>Sabine</u> 318
	<u>Fowler</u> 517		<u>Statton</u> 516	
<u>Maker</u> 544				<u>Vail</u> 563
				<u>Bentzlin</u> 523



JACK L. LESTER CREW - 360th BS

(crew assigned 360BS: 14 Mar 1945 - photo: 16 Mar 1945)

(Back L-R) 2Lt Jack L. Lester (P), F/O Robert V. Gaspar (CP), 2Lt Joseph Potts, Jr. (B),
2Lt James M. Sutherland (N) - (Front L-R) Sgt Alexander J. Keenan (BT), Sgt James E. Brooks (WG),
Sgt Edward B. Livingston (E), Sgt Eugene D. Donner (TG), Sgt Frank R. Rachel (R)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

Johnson-Shumake
484 - PFF

N. Cunningham
462

McKimmie
710 - PFF

Griffith
590

Leach
258

Murray
427

Chuba
621

McLeod
191

Nicolaisen
949

Woodard
006

Thomas
311

Nester
885

Lonski
763

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

R. Cunningham-Holmes
564 - PFF

Haynes
309

Richeson
127

Bashor
289

Call
734

Stocks
883

Mauger
645

Towne
608

Henning
875

Tarvid
891

O'Donnell
609

Stewart
878

Bitler
944

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p>CREW POSITIONS</p> <p>CMP - Command Pilot P - Pilot CP - Co-Pilot NAV - Navigator ANV - Ass't. Navigator MNV - Mickey Navigator ENG - Engineer BOM - Bombardier RO - Radio Operator</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer Y - Y-Operators (YRO,YO) RCM - Radio Cntr Measures SJ - Spot Jammer</p> <p>RESULTS OF MISSION</p> <p>KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action</p>	<p>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</p>
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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38191 *Shasta*

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
PAS	Brody, John J., Sgt (384th Gp)

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

P	Woodard, John M., 2Lt
CP	Laubhan, Bob, 2Lt
NAV	Moeller, Floyd E., 1Lt
TOG	Jackson, Thomas W., Sgt
ENG	Walley, Glen B., Sgt
WG	Sloan, Walter E., Sgt
RO	Foreman, Dennis E., Sgt
TG	Johnson, Robert H., Sgt
BT	Mills, Joe J., Sgt

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

P	Murray, Robert I., 2Lt
CP	Boardman, Robert, F/O
NAV	Smith, Harold S., 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
PAS	Morrill, Charles K., Sgt

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

P	Cunningham, Neil E., 2Lt
CP	Balkcom, Robert E., 2Lt
NAV	Correale, Fortunato G., F/O
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 #44-8710 *Idle Wheel* - PFF

P	McKimmie, William L., 2Lt
P	Sims, Allen R., 2Lt
NAV	Triebes, Earl E., 2Lt
MN	Foltz, Leon P., 2Lt
MN	Fournier, Ernest R., 1Lt
BOM	Mott, Charles A., 2Lt
ENG	Farmer, Evert L., S/Sgt
RO	Kilroy, Robert E., S/Sgt
TG	Mogusar, John F., Sgt

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

P	Johnson, Hugh B., Capt	POW
CP	Shumake, Glynn F., Maj	POW
NAV	Hansen, Heber D., 1Lt	POW
MN	Wallace, Robert J., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Lifshus, Lawrence, Capt	POW
BOM	Burket, Wallace A., 1Lt	POW
ENG	Edwards, Eugene F., T/Sgt	POW
RO	Carter, Robert D., T/Sgt	POW
TG	Hopkins, Harry F., 1Lt	POW
WG	Beck, Harold P., S/Sgt	POW

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P Nester, Harry E., 2Lt
CP Craig, Fred, 2Lt
NAV Rainey, John L., 2Lt
TOG Jones, James P., Sgt
ENG Kappardaki, Kermit P., Sgt
RO Strouse, Jacob J., Sgt
BT Kampa, Vernon L., Sgt
TG Edleman, Robert W., Sgt

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

P Griffith, Rudolph L., 2Lt
CP Silver, Jack, F/O
NAV Besharian, Joseph, F/O
TOG Pearce, Roscoe L., Sgt
ENG Wilson, Warren J., Sgt
RO Ruff, Merle H., Sgt
TG Jarrett, Robert W., Sgt
BT Hogan, Walter B., Sgt

B-17G #43-38258 Forget Me Not Oilly

P Leach, Joseph V., 2Lt
CP Olson, John L., 2Lt
NAV Das, Mitchell O., 2Lt
BOM Oettinger, George F., 2Lt
ENG Bridgeman, James H., Sgt
RO Wilburn, Robert R., Sgt
BT Anderson, Junior W., Sgt
TG Roberts, Thomas M., Sgt

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

P Nicolaisen, Arthur R., 2Lt
CP Rush, Herbert, F/O
NAV Wilson, Rufus E., F/O
TOG Brown, James L., T/Sgt
ENG Bentley, Robert L., Sgt
RO Wierzbicki, Ted F., Sgt
BT Straub, Robert C., Sgt
TG Gray, Robert J., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38875 *Redwing*

P	Henning, Clyde H., 2Lt
CP	Bauer, Donald R., F/O
NAV	Johnson, Herbert G., 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 #43-38878 (No Name)

P	Stewart, Frederick A., 1Lt
CP	Backer, Charles T., 2Lt
NAV	Knox, George R., 1Lt
TOG	Chornyey, Frank, Sgt
ENG	Bodin, Lloyd R., S/Sgt
RO	Bilski, Peter P., Sgt
BT	Callicott, William M., Sgt
TG	Cofrances, Ernest L., Jr., Sgt

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

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

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

P	Mauger, Warren, 2Lt
CP	Burgess, William T., 2Lt
NAV	Hudson, Glenn V., 2Lt
TOG	Boucher, Henry C., S/Sgt
ENG	Klym, Michael, T/Sgt
RO	Jobe, Andrew K., Jr., T/Sgt
BT	Kennedy, Jack B., S/Sgt
TG	Benge, Charlie W., S/Sgt

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

P	Bitler, Hower E., 2Lt
CP	Alderman, Melvin, 2Lt (427th)
NAV	Mabary, George D.L., F/O
TOG	Fogle, Jerome W., T/Sgt
ENG	Hurdle, Robert E., S/Sgt
RO	Cohen, Seymour T., T/Sgt
TG	McDonald, Billy L., Sgt
BT	Meichtry, Leo R., S/Sgt

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

P	Haynes, Eugene, 2Lt
CP	Hall, Merwin G., 2Lt
NAV	Albertson, Edward, 2Lt
TOG	Beam, John R., Sgt
ENG	Walling, Glenn R., S/Sgt
RO	Grden, Matthew W., S/Sgt
BT	Kelley, Francis H., S/Sgt
TG	Holden, Robert R., S/Sgt

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

P	Richeson, Marvin G., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Heller, Emerson E., 2Lt
NAV	Simon, Albert, 1Lt
BOM	Evans, Charles F., 2Lt
ENG	Gray, Alexander W., S/Sgt
RO	Mahoney, Denis J., Sgt
TG	Hoxie, Charles R., Sgt
WG	Davidson, Dyle K., Sgt

B-17G #43-38883 *Lady Beth*

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

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #44-8734 *Hell's Cargo*

P	Call, Fred E., 2Lt
CP	Wilson, Carl V., 2Lt
NAV	Udy, Donald M., F/O
BOM	Moss, Henry G., 2Lt
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	Tarvid, Arthur J., 2Lt
CP	Grandwilliams, Louis C., F/O
NAV	Webber, Gale M., 2Lt
TOG	Carlson, Dale H., S/Sgt
ENG	Jenkins, Maurice L., S/Sgt
RO	Root, Carmen W., S/Sgt
BT	Vowels, Donovan K., S/Sgt
TG	Dimick, Richard D., S/Sgt

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

P	O'Donnell, Thomas M., 2Lt
CP	Goulding, Traynum D., 2Lt
NAV	Jardarian, Zaven, 2Lt
TOG	Redhage, Louis H., Sgt
ENG	Fischer, Norbert G., Sgt
RO	Portney, Sol, S/Sgt
TG	Hoffman, George F., Sgt
BT	Gaumer, Billy A., Sgt
RCM	Haley, James W., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-8564 (*No Name*) - PFF

P	Cunningham, Robert L., Capt
CP	Holmes, Alfred M., 1Lt
NAV	Davis, Daryl W., 1Lt
MN	Harrouff, Kelly F., 2Lt
BOM	Johnson, Herbert E., 1Lt
ENG	Ela, Lyman E., T/Sgt
RO	Prehatny, Joseph R., T/Sgt
TG	Faubion, Winfred E., S/Sgt
WG	Wilson, Johnnie R., T/Sgt

B-17G #43-38608 *Lucille*

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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #44-6523 (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
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #43-38563 Jackie

P Vail, Robert F., 2Lt
CP Tremelling, Claude C., 2Lt
NAV Blake, Mark, Jr., F/O
TOG Kiddie, Darrell A., Sgt
ENG Larson, Arnold B., S/Sgt
RO Siegel, Edwin, Sgt
BT Seats, Burton E., Sgt
TG Ramaika, Joseph J., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Edmunds, Robert E., 1Lt
CP Bristol, Clarence D., 2Lt
NAV Lofquist, Gordon B., 2Lt
BOM Potts, Joseph, Jr., 2Lt
ENG Hammel, Norman D., Sgt
RO Polo, Matthew N., S/Sgt
BT Farnham, Gordon W., Sgt
TG Rumberger, Frank C., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Lester, Jack L., 2Lt
CP Gaspar, Robert V., F/O
NAV Sutherland, James M., 2Lt
TOG Gerstel, Charles L., T/Sgt
ENG Livingston, Edward B., Sgt
RO Rachel, Frank R., Sgt
BT Keenan, Alexander J., Sgt
TG Donner, Eugene D., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-97546 Idaliza

P Lacker, Howard C., 2Lt
CP Lucien, Ralph A., 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
(Abortive Sortie)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P Jones, William E., Capt
 CP Tyler, Samuel L., 2Lt
 NAV Stewart, James L., 1Lt
 MN Gibson, Cater M., 1Lt
 BOM Mishtal, Theodore W., 1Lt
 ENG Ciezadlo, Eugene F., S/Sgt
 RO Lillis, Joseph D., Pvt
 TG Wotanis, Leo F., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

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., S/Sgt
 ENG Bryson, Emil M., T/Sgt
 RO Ahland, Walter F., S/Sgt
 BT Henager, Rudolph M., Sgt
 TG Jones, William P., Sgt
 VI Bonner, Oscar E., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #44-6516 My Darling

P Statton, Roy F., 1Lt
 CP Hamm, John, 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
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-102544 Sack Time

P Maker, Eugene L., 2Lt
 CP Kaltenbacher, Robert F., 2Lt
 NAV Strassburger, Harvey D., F/O
 BOM Galardi, John F., 2Lt
 ENG Smith, Paul R., Sgt
 RO Wisniewski, Andrew J., Sgt
 BT Mattucks, Robert E., Sgt
 TG Martis, Joseph A., Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

P Breslin, Jack D., 2Lt
 CP Bischofs, Hans, 2Lt
 NAV Young, Charles C., Jr., 1Lt
 BOM Hight, Basil D., 2Lt
 ENG Moore, Harley E., Sgt
 RO Prestage, John L., S/Sgt
 BT Mason, Millard E., Sgt
 TG Barlow, Grover C., Sgt
 VI Elkin, Seymour, S/Sgt (427th)
 (Abortive Sortie)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38621 50 Ragged

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

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

P Sabine, George E., 1Lt
CP Abbott, Robert E., 2Lt
NAV Dickey, Warren B., 1Lt
TOG Carnegie, Earl B., Sgt
TT Bielecki, John B., Jr., Sgt
BT Bowler, Richard, Jr., Sgt
RO Bernheim, John, Sgt
TG Akens, Thomas I., Sgt
Y Brooks, James E., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-97311 Shoo Shoo Baby

P Thomas, Blaine E., 2Lt
CP Bartholomew, Max R., 2Lt
NAV Wagner, Charles D., 2Lt
TOG Eschinger, Edward G., Sgt
TT Haynes, Harry W., Jr., Sgt
BT Contreras, Luis L., Sgt
RO Smith, Walter E., Sgt
TG Carlson, Melvin C., Sgt

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

P Lonski, Charles J., 1Lt
CP Halonen, Eugene L., 2Lt
NAV Szymanski, Milton J., 2Lt
TOG Campen, Donald O., Jr., Sgt
TT Beadle, Richard H., Sgt
BT Czarny, Alex G., Sgt
RO Newby, Sidney W., Sgt
TG Bourget, Joseph B., Sgt
WG Scott, William R., S/Sgt