

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 354

7 April 1945

Target: Marshalling Yard at Hitzacker, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 24 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 15,000, 14,400 & 15,500 feet

**M**arshalling yards were again targeted in an attempt to curtail the movement of German troops and supplies. Designated 303rd BG(H) targets were Hitzacker, the first priority, Luneburg, the second, and Fassberg, the third. No aircraft returned early.

Thirty-eight of the 39 dispatched B-17s bombed the first priority target visually. Dropped were 366 500-lb. G.P. bombs and 10 units of leaflets. The lead and low Squadrons hit across from the marshalling yard. The high Squadron hit close to the assigned MPI, but most bombs were short of the target area. Overall results were excellent. One aircraft dropped one 500-lb. G.P. bomb on the Ulren marshalling yards as a target of opportunity. In the target area there were 5/10 to 7/10 low clouds with tops at 6,000 ft. and air-to-ground visibility was 10-15 miles, making it necessary to make several bomb runs on the target.



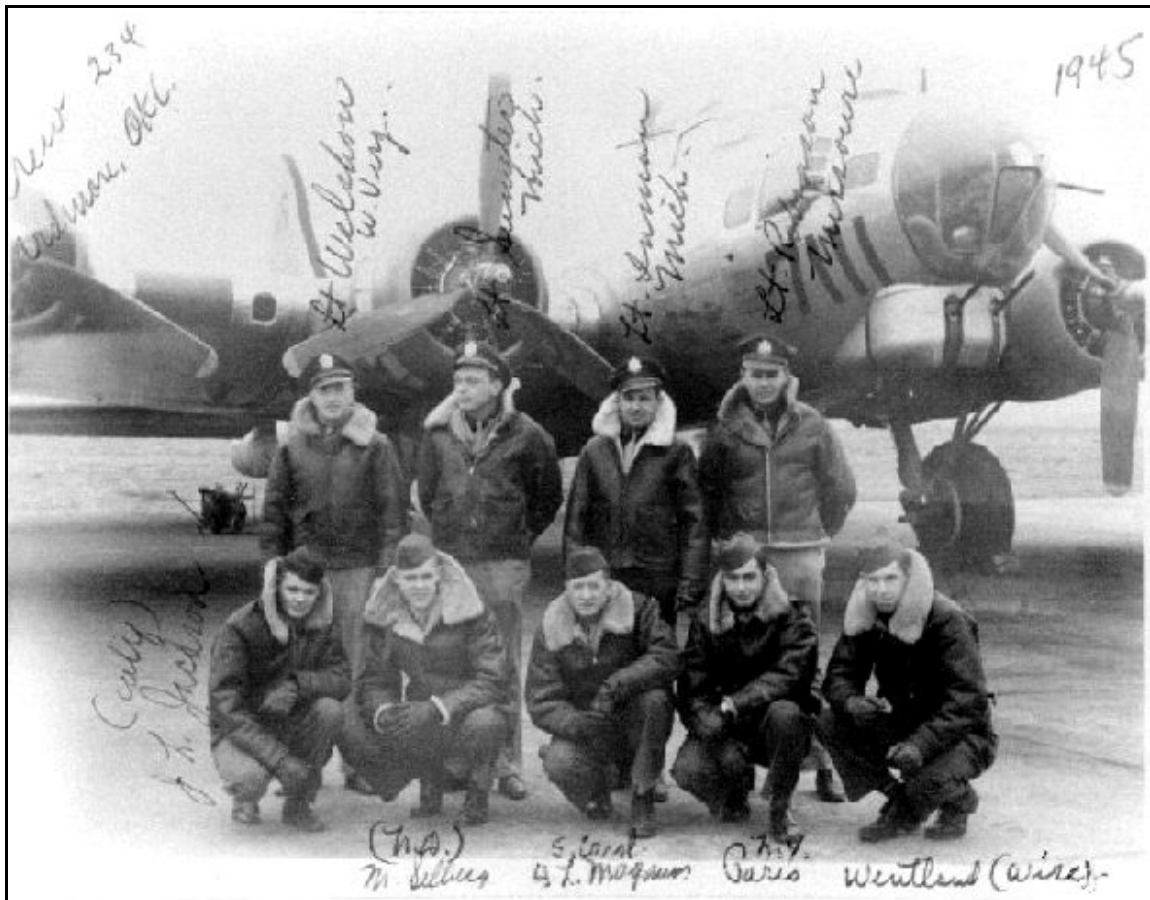
*Bomb Strike on Hitzacker, Germany*

Moderate anti-aircraft fire was encountered at Laurenburg, Wittenberg and Beinburg. It was extremely accurate for the lead Squadron, fairly accurate for the high Squadron, and inaccurate for the low Squadron. One 359BS crewman was injured.

One B-17 had a pass made at it by a German jet aircraft. The Fortress, knocked out of formation by a flak hit, avoided the enemy jet by diving into clouds. No attacks were made on the Group. The Luftwaffe Sonderkommando Elbe, a special unit of young fighter pilots formed to ram bombers, attacked B-17s of the 3rd AD and B-24s of the 2nd AD. This was the special unit's only known attack against the 8th Air Force and at least eight B-17s and B-24s were lost or suspected lost through the ramming tactics.

Three crews landed on the Continent with crews safe:  
 #43-38763 (No Name), 427BS (Lt. **Lonski**)  
 #42-97944 *Daddy's Delight*, 359BS (Lt. **Peterson**)  
 #44-6309 *Duchess' Granddaughter*, 359BS (Lt. **Stewart**)

Fourteen aircraft, including the three that landed on the Continent, sustained major battle damage and four, minor damage.



**FRANK E. WELSHON, JR CREW - 360th BS**  
 (crew assigned 360BS: 27 Mar 1945 - photo: Jan 1945)

(Back L-R) 2Lt Frank E. Welshon, Jr. (P), 2Lt James A. Sumpter (CP), 1Lt Truman Robinson (N),  
 2Lt James O. Inman (B) - (Front L-R) Sgt James L. Jackson (E), Sgt Maurice K. Selberg (R),  
 Sgt Henry L. Mangum, Jr. (TG), Sgt Russell C. Paris (BT), Sgt Howard H. Wentland (WG)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Cole-Bailey</u> 564 - PFF		
	<u>Heller</u> 883		<u>Richeson</u> 256 - PFF	
<u>Towne</u> 608		<u>Call</u> 734	<u>Tilsen</u> 645	
	<u>Peterson</u> 944		<u>Goulding</u> 609	<u>Beasley</u> 682
<u>Mauger</u> 891		<u>Stewart</u> 309	<u>Bashor</u> 289	<u>Fowler</u> 875



**B-17G #44-8564 (No Name) PFF 359BS (BN-Z)**  
**41st CBW-A (359BS) - Pilot LtCol R.H. Cole / CoPilot 1Lt J.W. Bailey**  
 (Back L-R) Capt Ralph L. Smith (B), 1Lt Jack W. Bailey (CP), 1Lt Leroy P. Christenson (N),  
 LtCol Richard H. Cole (P), 1Lt Lawrence Christensen (TG-O)  
 (Front L-R) 1Lt Jerome P. Bowes (MN), S/Sgt Winfred E. Faubion (WG),  
 T/Sgt Jon B. Kreager (E), T/Sgt Joseph Vieira (R), Capt George H. Counts (N)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

Hewitt-McKeon  
710 - PFF

<u>Lonski</u> 763	<u>Grob</u> 621	<u>Denison</u> 937	<u>Chuba</u> 977
	<u>Miller</u> 824		<u>Welshon</u> 287
	<u>Scott</u> 692	<u>Barr</u> 885	
<u>Bentzlin</u> 523		<u>Kahler</u> 597	
	<u>Thomas</u> 311		<u>Smith</u> 563

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

Milman-McNamara  
238 - PFF

<u>Lester</u> 516	<u>Dorsett</u> 462	<u>Leach</u> 999	<u>Nester</u> 778
	<u>Greene</u> 427		<u>Woodard</u> 517
	<u>Austin</u> 532	<u>Sims</u> 191	
<u>Maker</u> 860		<u>Nicolaisen</u> 258	
	<u>Bohle</u> 006		<u>Fountain</u> 590

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><b>CREW POSITIONS</b></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><b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b></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 #44-6006 (No Name)**

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P	Bohle, Loren W., 2Lt
CP	Lucien, Ralph A., 2Lt (360th)
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**

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P	Leach, Joseph V., 2Lt
CP	Olson, John L., 2Lt
NAV	Moeller, Floyd E., 1Lt
BOM	Oettinger, George F., 2Lt
ENG	Bridgeman, James H., Sgt
RO	Wilburn, Robert R., Sgt
BT	Anderson, Junior W., Sgt
TG	Psota, John W., S/Sgt

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

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P	Nicolaisen, Arthur R., 2Lt
CP	Silver, Jack, 2Lt
NAV	Wilson, Benjamin H., F/O
TOG	Novakovich, George B., Sgt
ENG	Bentley, Robert L., Sgt
RO	Wierzbicki, Ted F., Sgt
BT	Straub, Robert C., Sgt
TG	Gray, Robert J., Sgt

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

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P	Dorsett, John D., 1Lt
CP	Smith, Lawrence S., 2Lt
NAV	Das, Mitchell C., 2Lt
TOG	Quig, Francis X., T/Sgt
ENG	Sprinkles, Leburn D., T/Sgt
RO	Ennis, Charles S., T/Sgt
BT	Carter, William J., Sgt
TG	Crigger, Richard S., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-6517 Old Cock**

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P	Woodard, John M., 2Lt
CP	Laubhan, Bob, 2Lt
NAV	Smith, Harold S., F/O
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

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

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P	Fountain, Clarence M., 2Lt
CP	Pinkert, Paul A., 2Lt
NAV	Widener, Howard H., F/O
BOM	Bradshaw, Charles A., 2Lt
ENG	Grocki, John J., Sgt
RO	Noble, Neal W., S/Sgt
BT	Darley, Ralph J., Sgt
TG	Powell, George A., Sgt

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

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

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P	Greene, Robert E., 1Lt
CP	Parson, Jerome G., 2Lt
NAV	Milligan, William J., 2Lt
TOG	Pearce, Roscoe L., Sgt
ENG	Rollinger, Joseph C., Sgt
RO	Thompson, Joe C., Sgt
BT	Hogan, Walter B., Sgt
TG	Jobe, Milton L., Sgt
PAS	Scott, William R., S/Sgt

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

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P	Sims, Allen R., 2Lt
CP	Geile, Thomas A., 2Lt
NAV	Leonhirth, Junius, F/O
TOG	Rafferty, William A., S/Sgt
ENG	McGreevy, James, T/Sgt
RO	Baloga, Stephen M., T/Sgt
BT	Diaczynski, Andrew J., Sgt
TG	Mogusar, John F., Sgt
PAS	Hassler, Paul H., Sgt (427th)

### **B-17G #43-38778 (*No Name*)**

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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
PAS	Higginbotham, Frank D., S/Sgt (427th)

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

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P	Milman, Jerome, 1Lt
CP	McNamara, James F., Capt
NAV	Triebes, Earl E., 2Lt
MN	Foltz, Leon P., 2Lt
BOM	Gorham, Raymond H., 1Lt
ENG	Eygabroad, Robert J., S/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Archie R., T/Sgt
WG	Boone, Kenneth E., Sgt
TG	Johnson, Jack W., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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

### **B-17G #43-38682 (No Name)**

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P	Beasley, William M., 1Lt
CP	Rich, Richard H., 2Lt
NAV	Welsh, Harry A., 2Lt
TOG	Davis, Carl J., Sgt
ENG	Gornot, Jacob R., Sgt
RO	Terrill, Jack W., Sgt
TG	Gracida, Henry J., Jr., Sgt
BT	Thomas, David W., Sgt

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

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P	Call, Fred E., 1Lt
CP	Wilson, Carl V., 2Lt
NAV	Udy, Donald M., F/O
TOG	Harrigfeld, Thomas E., S/Sgt
ENG	Myers, Ernest L., S/Sgt
RO	Sussman, Martin, S/Sgt
TG	Moser, Lawrence B., Sgt
BT	Hager, Mark I., Sgt

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

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P	Stewart, Frederick A., 1Lt
CP	Backer, Charles T., 2Lt
NAV	Knox, George R., 1Lt
TOG	Chorneyei, 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 #43-38645 (No Name)**

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P	Tilsen, Cyril, 1Lt
CP	McDowell, James B., 2Lt
NAV	Bielski, Casimir, Jr., 2Lt
TOG	Cassino, Julian R., S/Sgt
ENG	Driggers, Sherod R., Jr., T/Sgt
RO	Mawdsley, Arnold, S/Sgt
TG	Proctor, Isaac H., S/Sgt
BT	Hendon, William G., Sgt

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

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P	Heller, Emerson E., 2Lt
CP	Lowry, William J., 2Lt
NAV	Wood, Stuart K., 2Lt
TOG	Beam, John B., Sgt
ENG	Manina, Joseph J., Sgt
RO	Thomas, William B., Sgt
BT	Warcholak, Emanuel, Sgt
TG	Moots, Merritt L., Sgt

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

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P	Mauger, Warren, 2Lt
CP	Bennett, Ralph S., F/O
NAV	Wort, Irving, 2Lt
TOG	Roberts, James P., S/Sgt
ENG	Reese, Bobbie B., T/Sgt
RO	Wysocki, John F., T/Sgt
BT	Simpson, James A., S/Sgt
TG	Palsa, Rudolph, Sgt

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

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P	Cole, Richard H., LtCol
CP	Bailey, Jack W., 1Lt
NAV	Counts, Geroge H., Capt
NAV	Christenson, LeRoy P., 2Lt
MN	Bowes, Jerome P., 1Lt (358th)
BOM	Smith, Ralph L., Capt
ENG	Kreager, Jon B., T/Sgt
RO	Vieira, Joseph, T/Sgt
TG	Christensen, Lawrence, 1Lt
WG	Faubion, Winfred E., S/Sgt

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

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

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P	Richeson, Marvin G., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Rogers, Clem W., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	Herrmann, Robert M., 2Lt
MN	Wilson, Donald M., 2Lt (358th)
BOM	Miller, Joseph A., 2Lt
ENG	Gray, Alexander W., S/Sgt
RO	Mahoney, Denis J., S/Sgt
TG	Hoxie, Charles R., Sgt
WG	Davidson, Dyle K., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38608 *Lucille***

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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	Carl, Lewis E., S/Sgt

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

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P	Goulding, Traynum D., 2Lt
CP	Johnson, Ralph L., 2Lt (360th)
NAV	Crawford, Raymond C., 2Lt
TOG	Benge, Charlie W., S/Sgt
ENG	Walling, Glenn R., S/Sgt
RO	Grden, Matthew W., S/Sgt
TG	Madden, Joseph R., Sgt
BT	Kelley, Francis H., S/Sgt
RCM	Reider, Enrique M., S/Sgt

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

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P	Bashor, Oliver L., 2Lt
CP	Baker, Ira B., 2Lt
NAV	Johnson, Herbert G., 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
VI	Zimmerman, Harold A., S/Sgt (Hqtrs)



## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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

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

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P Maker, Eugene L., 2Lt  
 CP Kaltenbacher, Robert F., 2Lt  
 NAV Strassburger, Harvey D., F/O  
 TOG Johnson, Wilfred B., Sgt  
 ENG Smith, Paul R., Sgt  
 RO Wisniewski, Andrew J., Sgt  
 BT Mattucks, Robert E., Sgt  
 TG Martis, Joseph A., Sgt

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

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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 #44-8692 Little Tillie**

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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 Kaber, Harvey N., S/Sgt  
 TG Woolpert, John C., Sgt

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

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

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

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P Lester, Jack L., 2Lt  
 CP Gaspar, Robert V., F/O  
 NAV Sutherland, James M., 2Lt  
 BOM Galardi, John F., 2Lt  
 ENG Livingston, Edward B., Sgt  
 RO Rachel, Frank R., Sgt  
 BT Keenan, Alexander J., Sgt  
 TG Yepes, William J., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38875 (No Name)**

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P Fowler, Robert R., 1Lt  
 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., T/Sgt  
 BT Henager, Rudolph M., S/Sgt  
 TG Jones, William P., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-83287 Southern Comfort**

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P Welshon, Frank E., 2Lt  
 CP Sumpter, James A., 2Lt  
 NAV Robinson, Truman, 2Lt  
 BOM Inman, James O., 2Lt  
 ENG Jackson, James L., Sgt  
 RO Kirtner, Billy A., T/Sgt  
 BT Paris, Russell C., Sgt  
 TG Mangum, Henry L., Jr., Sgt  
 WG Wentland, Howard H., Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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

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

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P Kahler, Thomas F., 2Lt  
 CP Cotton, Lewis, F/O  
 NAV Slauson, Leon H., 2Lt  
 TOG Fogarty, Richard T., Sgt  
 TT Lowery, Lloyd, S/Sgt  
 RO Latz, Leslie L., S/Sgt  
 TG Adams, Dearl E., Sgt  
 BT Broughton, William A., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97311 *Shoo Shoo Baby***

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P Thomas, Blaine E., 2Lt  
 CP Bartholomew, Max R., 2Lt  
 NAV Bonanno, Joseph, F/O  
 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 #44-6977 *Better Do'er***

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P Chuba, Francis B., 2Lt  
 CP Rogers, Ennis L., 2Lt  
 NAV Wolf, Robert J., 2Lt  
 TOG Anderson, Dale R., Sgt  
 TT Ayers, Francis H., Sgt  
 BT Paananen, Uhlo J., Sgt  
 RO Harkey, Charles I., S/Sgt  
 TG Huckabay, Harvey H., Sgt

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

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P Grob, Emil E., Jr., 2Lt  
 CP Vanderhei, Vivian S., 2Lt  
 NAV Smith, Charles W., 2Lt  
 BOM Lee, Roger E., 2Lt  
 TT Loy, Vernon C., S/Sgt  
 RO Mullen, John P., S/Sgt  
 TG Nutting, Rufus R., Sgt  
 BT Apel, Charles W., Sgt

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

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P Barr, Thomas J., 2Lt  
 CP Pauling, Verlin C., 2Lt  
 NAV Walker, Raymon G., 2Lt  
 BOM Wentworth, Richard H., F/O  
 TT Daspit, Thomas M., Cpl  
 BT Laza, Benney F., Cpl  
 RO Zierk, George W., Cpl  
 TG Byers, McClellan A., Cpl

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

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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  
SJ Hendrix, Frank H., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8710 Idlel Wheel - PFF**

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P Hewitt, Donald I., 1Lt  
CP McKeon, Preston W., 1Lt  
NAV Hoida, Donald J., 2Lt  
MN Perry, Franklin W., 2Lt  
BOM Keese, Thomas R., 1Lt  
TT Sabo, Stephen R., Sgt  
RO Schmidt, Elmer J., T/Sgt  
TG Agrifoglio, Benjamin M., S/Sgt  
WG Kohlmayer, Garth G., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8824 (No Name)**

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