

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 357

10 April 1945

Target: Ordnance and Equipment Depot - Oranienburg, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Crews Lost: 2Lt. Murray - 8 KIA, 1 POW

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 19 minutes

Bomb Load: 8 x 500 lb S.A.P. & 4 x 500 lb M-17 Incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 25,000, 24,000 & 26,000 feet

Those who believed that the Luftwaffe was permanently grounded were in for a surprise. The 1st AD targeted the Oranienburg Ordnance and Equipment Depot as their No. 1 (visual) target. All other 1st AD, 2nd AD and 3rd AD targets were German airfields, and the German fighters came up to challenge the attack on their bases with a vengeance.

The 303BG dispatched 39 aircraft and one returned early with mechanical difficulties: #44-6517 (*No Name*) 360BS (Lt. **Welshon**). The remaining 38 B-17s bombed the No. 1 target with 296 500-lb. S.A.P., 151 500-lb. M-17 incendiary bombs and eight units of leaflets on target No. 1. Photos showed that the bombs of all three Squadrons hit

in the target area, and the overall results were good. Over England there was 3/10th low clouds, tops at 8,000 feet, 5-7/10th middle clouds at 15-16,000 feet. These clouds disappeared over the Continent except for a few cirrus clouds near Hannover. The route back was much the same as the route in.



B-17G #42-97546 Idaliza (unidentified ground crew)

From six to eight ME-262s were encountered just after departing the target. Attacks were the usual tail attacks with some flying very close to the group formations, some to within 50 feet and some daring fighter pilots flew right through the formation. There were only two reports of nose and side attacks. Claims by 303BG(H) gunners were assessed at four probables, even though the gunners themselves believed that at least two were destroyed. The attacks lasted for twenty minutes. The 1st AD formations were protected by 273 P-51s with good support.

Moderate and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered by the lead and low Squadrons in the area around Merseburg and again at the target. Flak was inaccurate for the high Squadron. Four aircraft sustained major battle damage and nine, minor damage. Returning aircraft had no casualties.



ROBERT I. MURRAY CREW - 358th BS

(crew assigned 358BS: 12 Feb 1945)

(Back L-R) T/Sgt Carl O. Hammarlund (TOG), 2Lt Richard Cochnar (N), 2Lt Robert I. Murray (P), F/O Robert Boardman (CP), S/Sgt Vito J. Brunale (E) - (Front L-R) S/Sgt Theodore A. Bates (R), Cpl John R. Dantzler (WG), Sgt Nicholas Rodock (BT) Sgt Robert P. Rennie (TG)

One aircraft, #44-8427 *Henn's Revenge*, piloted by 2Lt. Robert I. **Murray**, with a crew of nine was lost. It was hit by the attacking ME-262s coming in on the tail of the missing aircraft. It burst into flames between the No. 3 and No. 4 engines, held course for very few seconds, then peeled slightly up and slid over and down to the right through the formation, apparently out of control, and crashed at Oranienburg. No parachutes were seen. 2Lt. **Murray**, 2Lt. Lawrence L. **Fries**, Jr., F/O Harold S. **Smith**, S/Sgt. Carl O. **Hammarlund**, S/Sgt. Theodore A. **Bates**, Sgt. Nicholas **Rodock**, Sgt. Robert P. **Rennie** and Sgt. Gerald V. **Atkinson** were killed in the crash. Sgt. **Rodock** is buried at Ardennes American Cemetery at Liege, Belgium. Sgt. **Rennie** is buried at Henri-Chappelle, Belgium Cemetery. S/Sgt. Vito J. **Brunale** survived the crash, was captured and became a POW.



Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

	<u>Heller-Vail</u> 564 - PFF	
	<u>Johnson</u> 546	<u>Stouse</u> 552 - PFF
<u>Breslin</u> 590		<u>Austin</u> 532
	<u>Edmunds</u> 544	<u>Bentzlin</u> 523
	<u>Lester</u> 842	<u>S. Smith</u> 563
<u>Maker</u> 516		<u>Scott</u> 870
	<u>Welshon</u> 517	<u>Bohle</u> 191



B-17G #44-8564 (No Name) PFF 359BS (BN-Z)
41st CBW-A (360BS) - Pilot Maj W.C. Heller / CoPilot 2Lt R.F. Vail
(Back L-R) T/Sgt Joel A. Berly, Jr. (R), Capt Darius R. Davis (N), 1Lt Rufus S. Charlton (M-N),
Maj William C. Heller (P) - (Front L-R) T/Sgt Ernest G. Schieferstein (E), 1Lt William J. Kennedy (B),
2Lt Ralph L. Johnson (TG-O), 2Lt Robert F. Vail (CP)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

Knutzen-Rogers
869 - PFF

	<u>Mauger</u> 645	<u>Tilsen</u> 883	
<u>Lowry</u> 206			<u>Towne</u> 608
		<u>Knudson</u> 682	<u>Henning</u> 875
	<u>Tarvid</u> 878	<u>Stewart</u> 289	
<u>Woodard</u> 006			<u>Peterson</u> 127
		<u>Beasley</u> 462	<u>Perkins</u> 999

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

Ashwell-McKeon
710 - PFF

	<u>Krohn</u> 824	<u>Sabine</u> 885	
<u>Denison</u> 937			<u>Miller</u> 621
		<u>Chuba</u> 977	<u>Damon</u> 597
	<u>Murray</u> 427	<u>Donalson</u> 287	
<u>Nicolaisen</u> 778			<u>Griffith</u> 258
		<u>Thomas</u> 311	<u>Breyer</u> 692

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 #43-38191 *Shasta*

P	Bohle, Loren W., 2Lt
CP	Gordon, Joseph, 1Lt
NAV	Gerhardstein, Eugene M., F/O
TOG	Sproule, Wayne O., Sgt
ENG	Bigelow, Robert F., S/Sgt
RO	Genter, Norman, S/Sgt
BT	Aldous, George C., Sgt
TG	Smith, Jack C., Sgt

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

P	Nicolaisen, Arthur R., 2Lt
CP	Bailey, Ernest A., 2Lt
NAV	Dornblaser, Fred D., 2Lt
TOG	Deaver, Austin D., Sgt
ENG	Beamer, Richard P., Sgt
RO	Baloga, Stephen M., T/Sgt
BT	Bacon, Gerald L., Sgt
TG	Farmer, Frank L., Sgt

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

P	Griffith, Rudolph L., 2Lt
CP	Tableman, Glen A., 2Lt
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 #43-38999 *Emma*

P	Perkins, Morton C., 2Lt
CP	Kamstra, Walter W., 2Lt
NAV	Wyman, Asa N., F/O
TOG	Allen, Arlan R., Sgt
ENG	Carlson, Charles P., S/Sgt
RO	Little, Gerald G., Sgt
BT	McDonald, John T., Sgt
TG	Beckwith, Walter D., Sgt

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

P	Woodard, John M., 2Lt
CP	Laubhan, Bob, 2Lt
NAV	Cooper, Saul A., 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 #44-8427 *Henn's Revenge* CR-L

P	Murray, Robert I., 2Lt	KIA
CP	Fries, Lawrence L., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Smith, Harold S., F/O	KIA
TOG	Hammarlund, Carl O., S/Sgt	KIA
ENG	Brunale, Vito J., S/Sgt	POW
RO	Bates, Theodore A., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Rodock, Nicholas, Sgt	KIA
TG	Rennie, Robert P., Sgt	KIA
PAS	Atkinson, Gerald V., Sgt	KIA

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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	Belcher, Rubin W., T/Sgt
RO	Fiore, Thomas, S/Sgt
BT	Syler, Allen B., Sgt
TG	McGurdy, Lewis M., Sgt

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

P	Mauger, Warren, 2Lt
CP	Magee, Jack R., 1Lt
NAV	Chennault, Paul E., Jr., 2Lt
TOG	Davis, Carl J., Sgt
ENG	Dow, Jacob E., Sgt
RO	Dittmar, John F., S/Sgt
BT	Bauer, Herbert, Cpl
TG	Meyer, Wilbur H., Jr., Cpl

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

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 #43-38878 (No Name)

P	Tarvid, Arthur J., 1Lt
CP	Grandwilliams, Louis C., F/O
NAV	Steineman, James T., 2Lt
TOG	Boucher, Henry C., S/Sgt
ENG	Stevens, Clement J., T/Sgt
RO	Mahoney, Denis J., S/Sgt
TG	Boling, Shuble A., S/Sgt
BT	Garcia, Leonard A., S/Sgt

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

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	Roberts, James P., S/Sgt
BT	Hendon, William G., Sgt

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

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

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

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

B-17G #44-8869 (*No Name*) - PFF

P	Knutzen, Owen A., 1Lt
CP	Rogers, Clem W., 1Lt
NAV	Moon, Richard Y., 1Lt
MN	Harrouff, Kelly F., 2Lt
BOM	Mitchell, Robert C., 1Lt
ENG	Klym, Michael, T/Sgt
RO	Jobe, Andrew K., T/Sgt
TG	Kennedy, Jack B., S/Sgt
WG	Hartmann, Alexander, T/Sgt

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

P	Lowry, William J., 2Lt
CP	Bennett, Ralph S., F/O
NAV	Wood, Stuart K., 2Lt
TOG	Nichols, Audly D., Sgt
ENG	Manina, Joseph J., Sgt
RO	Wysocki, John F., T/Sgt
BT	Warcholak, Emanuel, Sgt
TG	Moots, Merritt L., Sgt
RCM	Ladd, John M., Sgt (427th)

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

P	Knudson, Darwin D., 1Lt
CP	Burgess, William T., 2Lt
NAV	Wort, Irving, 2Lt
BOM	Moss, Henry G., 2Lt
ENG	Hurdle, Robert E., Sgt
RO	Noble, Neil, S/Sgt (358th)
BT	Meichtry, Leo R., Sgt
TG	Palsa, Rudolph, Sgt
PN	Gaston, James C., Sgt (8thAF)

B-17G #43-38875 *Redwing*

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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Austin, Charles A., 1Lt
 CP Van Beek, James C., 2Lt
 NAV Kokoska, Florian T., 2Lt
 BOM Morgan, Clinton J., 2Lt
 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 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

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

B-17G #43-38870 (No Name)

P Scott, John, 1Lt
 CP Weinandt, Bernard M., 2Lt
 NAV Bergvall, Otis A., 2Lt
 BOM Grezzo, Anthony D., 2Lt
 ENG Hart, Leroy M., Sgt
 RO Gentry, John M., Sgt
 BT Rasmussen, Gerald G., Sgt
 TG Woolpert, John C., Sgt

B-17G #43-38563 Jackie

P Smith, Samuel W., 1Lt
 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 #43-38842 (No Name)

P Lester, Jack L., 2Lt
 CP Gaspar, Robert V., F/O
 NAV Sutherland, James M., 2Lt
 BOM Potts, Joseph, Jr., 2Lt
 ENG Livingston, Edward B., Sgt
 RO Rachel, Frank R., Sgt
 BT Keenan, Alexander J., Sgt
 TG Donner, Eugene D., Sgt

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

P Breslin, Jack D., 1Lt
 CP Bischofs, Hans, 2Lt
 NAV Dwyer, Marion J., 2Lt
 TOG Perry, Gordon W., S/Sgt
 ENG Moore, Harley E., Sgt
 RO Daugherty, John S., Jr., Sgt
 BT Mason, Millard E., Sgt
 TG Barlow, Grover C., Sgt

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

P Heller, William C., Maj
 CP Vail, Robert F., 2Lt
 NAV Davis, Darius R., Capt
 MN Charlton, Rufus S., 1Lt
 BOM Kennedy, William J., 1Lt
 ENG Schieferstein, Ernest G., T/Sgt
 RO Berly, Joel A., Jr., S/Sgt
 TG Johnson, Ralph L., 2Lt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Edmunds, Robert E., 1Lt
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	Nabors, Herschell F., S/Sgt
PAS	Newman, W.E., Sgt (Hqtrs 8thAF)

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

P	Johnson, Arthur E., 2Lt
CP	McGuffin, Jack, Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Cochran, Gomer W., F/O
TOG	Edgar, Thomas O., Sgt
ENG	Martens, Raymond J., Sgt
RO	Mahan, Bernard M., Sgt
BT	Lee, Oscie O., Jr., Sgt
TG	Sutton, Floyd H., Sgt
VI	Brenner, Seymour, S/Sgt (427th)

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

P	Stouse, Harold L., Capt
CP	Rapp, John W., 2Lt
NAV	Stewart, James L., 2Lt
MN	Fleming, David D., 2Lt
BOM	Puryear, James L., 1Lt
ENG	Carter, James O., Sgt
RO	Lillis, Joseph D., Pfc
TG	Wotanis, Leo F., Sgt
PAS	Illgen, Frederick J., Maj (41st Wing)

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

P	Welshon, Frank E., 2Lt
CP	Sumpter, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Blake, Mark, Jr., F/O
TOG	Moren, Owen W., Sgt
ENG	Lemon, James M., Jr., T/Sgt
RO	Selberg, Maurice K., Sgt
BT	Paris, Russell C., Sgt
TG	Mangum, Henry L., Jr., Sgt
RCM	Elliott, Richard D., S/Sgt
	(Abortive)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Krohn, Robert W., 2Lt
CP	Kindig, Paul B., 2Lt
NAV	Christen, Louis M., 2Lt
TOG	Perkins, Herschel E., Sgt
TT	Bates, Grover P., T/Sgt
BT	Minoff, John, Sgt
RO	McKenzie, Malcolm L., Sgt
TG	Marozas, Arthur A., Sgt

B-17G #44-6937 El Sereano

P	Denison, William A., 2Lt
CP	Farland, Eugene H., 2Lt
NAV	Zabelicky, John E., 2Lt
TOG	Anderson, Dale R., Sgt
TT	Eckert, Clair E., S/Sgt
BT	Conyer, Roy, Jr., Sgt
RO	Kiggens, William P., Sgt
TG	O'Hearn, Walter D., 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, Robert C., Sgt
TT	Ayers, Francis H., Sgt
RO	Harkey, Charles I., S/Sgt
TG	Huckabay, Harvey H., Sgt
BT	Paananen, Uhlo J., Sgt

B-17G #42-97311 Shoo Shoo Baby

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 #42-39885 Sweet Rose O'Grady

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
RO	Bernheim, John, Sgt
TG	Dugan, Earl M., Sgt
BT	Bevis, Thomas E., Sgt

B-17G #44-83287 (No Name)

P	Donalson, David S., 2Lt
CP	Kipfer, James F., 2Lt
NAV	Cahill, William F., 2Lt
TOG	Lenhard, Robert H., Sgt
TT	Knight, Ernest E., Sgt
BT	Brehl, Ralph C., Jr., Cpl
RO	Kaliel, Wilfred L., Sgt
TG	Parr, Robert E., Cpl

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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., T/Sgt
TT	Conroy, Thomas R., S/Sgt
BT	Burns, Jerry E., Sgt
RO	Retzlaff, Robert R., Sgt
TG	Bulbach, Walter, Sgt
SJ	Monyok, Joseph R., Sgt

B-17G #43-37597 Earthquake McGoon

P	Damon, Malcolm F., 2Lt
CP	Weatherby, Earl, F/O
NAV	Burr, Howard G., 2Lt
TOG	Leenstra, John M., Sgt
TT	Kaseric, John, Sgt
BT	Braun, Donald K., Pfc
RO	Jordan, Daniel J., Sgt
TG	Mikkelson, Delbert M., Pfc

B-17G #44-8710 Idle Wheel - PFF

P	Ashwell, Silas B., 1Lt
CP	McKeon, Preston W., 1Lt
NAV	Fox, Richard W., 2Lt
MN	Fournier, Ernest R., 1Lt
BOM	Marshall, Alexander F., 1Lt
TT	Calderon, Rufus J., S/Sgt
RO	Islava, Joseph O., T/Sgt
WG	Robins, James B., S/Sgt
TG	Kohlmayer, Garth G., Sgt

B-17G #44-8692 Little Tillie

P	Breyer, Frederick L., 2Lt
CP	Roche, John E., F/O
NAV	Baldwin, Jack C., 2Lt
TOG	Knauer, Seymour B., Sgt
TT	Holt, Lester C., Sgt
BT	Bohac, John V., Cpl
RO	Jarmolinski, William J., Sgt
TG	Harris, Glenn E., Cpl