

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 359

14 April 1945

Target: Huge Gun Emplacements at Royan, France

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 47 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 18,000, 17,500 & 18,500 feet

Eighth Air Force targets were some German pockets of anti-aircraft and artillery positions and strong points covering the Gironde estuary on the French Atlantic coast. Other Allied Air Forces and French naval units attacked similar targets. The air attacks were to precede a ground assault by a French detachment of the 6th Army Group on the German defense pockets that were denying the Allies use of port facilities in the Bordeaux, France area. Thirty-one strong points were attacked by the 8th Air Force.

The 303BG(H) target was gun emplacements at Royan as targets No. 1 and No. 2 with different aiming points. Weather conditions in the target area were clear with air-to-ground visibility about 25-30 miles. No aircraft returned early.



WILLIAM F. KENTSBEER CREW - 358th BS
B-17G #43-38999 Emma 358BS VK-F
(crew assigned 358BS: 01 Apr 1945 - photo: 03 April 1945)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

Bagstad-Walder
564 - PFF

Flanigan
597

Grob
545 - PFF

Denison
937

Miller
621

Kahler
885

Damon
977

Barr
287

Donalson
824

Arcy
447

Thomas
311

Lonski
534

Breyer
692



DAVID S. DONALSON CREW - 427th BS

(crew assigned 427BS: 01 Apr 1945 - photo: Apr 1945)

(Back L-R) Sgt Dale W. Naylor (WG), Sgt Ralph C. Brehl, Jr (BT), S/Sgt Wilfred L. Kaniel (R),

Sgt Robert E. Parr (TG), S/Sgt Ernest E. Knight (E), S/Sgt Robert H. Lenhard (TOG)

(Front L-R) 2Lt William F. Cahill (N), 2Lt Art Freeman (B), 2Lt David S. Donalson (P), 2Lt Thomas W. Pittard (CP)



Route Map with notes by lead pilot Capt William E. Jones

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

Walter-Leach
439 - PFF

L. Smith Dorsett
462 999

Bohle Nicolaisen
608 450

Craig Olson
876 233

Bailey Kentsbeer
191 351

Laubhan Parson
285 258

Kamstra Fountain
778 006

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

Jones-Hamm
552 - PFF

Scott S. Smith
870 563

Lester Johnson
127 532

Edmunds Welshon
453 842

Fowler Maker
517 860

Bentzlin Breslin
523 672

Bristol McGuffin
544 682

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 #43-39450 (No Name)

P	Nicolaisen, Arthur R., 2Lt
CP	Silver, Jack, F/O
NAV	Wilson, Rufus E., 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*

P	Smith, Lawrence S., 2Lt
CP	Cunningham, Neil E., 2Lt
NAV	Kuester, Edward F., 2Lt
TOG	Quig, Francis X., Sgt
ENG	Sprinkles, Leburn D., Sgt
RO	Ennis, Charles S., S/Sgt
BT	Carter, William J., Sgt
TG	Crigger, Richard S., Sgt

B-17G #43-38608 *Lucille*

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 #44-8876 (No Name)

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

B-17G #44-8351 (No Name)

P	Kentsbeer, William F., 2Lt
CP	Tableman, Glen A., 2Lt
NAV	Rankin, Earl W., F/O
TOG	Roddey, Francis M., Sgt
ENG	Savage, Francis L., Sgt
RO	O'Donnell, John J., Sgt
BT	Levie, Benjamin H., Sgt
TG	Hague, John C., Sgt

B-17G #43-39285 (No Name)

P	Laubhan, Bob, 2Lt
CP	Woodard, John M., 2Lt
NAV	Wilson, Benjamin H., 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 #44-6006 (No Name)

P	Fountain, Clarence M., 2Lt
CP	Pinkert, Paul A., 2Lt
NAV	Widener, Howard H., F/O
TOG	Hackney, Carl R., Sgt
ENG	Grocki, John J., Sgt
RO	Riehl, William F., Sgt
BT	Darley, Ralph J., Sgt
TG	Powell, George A., Sgt

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

P	Parson, Jerome G., 2Lt
CP	Greene, Robert E., 1Lt
NAV	Milligan, William J., 2Lt
TOG	Williams, Ira J., S/Sgt
ENG	Rollinger, Joseph C., Sgt
RO	Thompson, Joe C., Sgt
BT	Covert, John L., Sgt
TG	Jobe, Milton L., Sgt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-38999 *Emma*

P	Dorsett, John D., 1Lt
CP	Elliott, Albert H., 2Lt
NAV	Wiley, William E., F/O
BOM	Hershner, Paul W., 2Lt
ENG	Albrecht, Milton L., Sgt
RO	Lestonga, John W., Sgt
BT	Smith, James A., Sgt
TG	Gayvert, Raymond W., Sgt
PAS	Morrill, Charles K., S/Sgt

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

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

B-17G #43-39233 (*No Name*)

P	Olson, John L., 2Lt
CP	Thornton, Everett H., 2Lt
NAV	Leonhirth, Junius, F/O
TOG	Psota, John W., S/Sgt
ENG	Bridgeman, James H., Sgt
RO	Wilburn, Robert R., Sgt
BT	Anderson, Junior W., Sgt
TG	Sulley, Oda F., Jr., Sgt

B-17G #44-8439 (*No Name*) - PFF

P	Walter, Donald R., 1Lt
CP	Leach, Joseph V., 2Lt
NAV	Wilhelm, Frederick H., 2Lt
MN	Wilson, Donald M., 2Lt
BOM	McCall, John W., 1Lt
ENG	Schroeder, Karl T., S/Sgt
TG	Meade, Joseph J., S/Sgt
RO	Kasik, Robert F., S/Sgt
WG	Sexton, Norman R., Sgt

B-17G #43-38191 *Shasta*

P	Bailey, Ernest A., 2Lt
CP	Boardman, Robert, F/O
NAV	Dornblaser, Fred D., Jr., 2Lt
TOG	Deaver, Austin D., Sgt
ENG	Beamer, Richard P., Sgt
RO	Masson, Alexander F., Sgt
BT	Bacon, Gerald L., Sgt
TG	Farmer, Frank L., Sgt
PAS	Taylor, Walter, Sgt (Hqtrs)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	McGuffin, Jack, Jr., 2Lt
CP	Van Beek, James C., 2Lt
NAV	Cochran, Gomer W., F/O
TOG	Edgar, Thomas O., Sgt
ENG	Lemon, James M., Jr., T/Sgt
RO	Mahan, Bernard M., Sgt
BT	Lee, Oscie O., Jr., Sgt
TG	Sutton, Floyd H., 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 #43-39127 (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 #43-38672 (No Name)

P	Breslin, Jack D., 1Lt
CP	Bischofs, Hans, 2Lt
NAV	Steineman, James T., 2Lt (359th)
TOG	Perry, Gordon W., S/Sgt
ENG	Moore, Harley E., Sgt
RO	Daugherty, John S., Jr., Sgt
BT	Gilbert, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Barlow, Grover C., Sgt

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

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	Berly, Joel A., Jr., S/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 #43-39453 (No Name)

P	Edmunds, Robert E., 1Lt
CP	Brook, Stanley F., 2Lt
NAV	Morgan, Clinton J., 2Lt
TOG	King, Raymond H., S/Sgt
ENG	Fleming, James A., T/Sgt
RO	Kirtner, Billy L., T/Sgt
BT	Beckman, Charles W., Sgt
TG	Maxson, Gordon H., Sgt

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

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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew List - Cont'd.

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
RCM	Elliott, Richard D., S/Sgt

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

P	Welshon, Frank E., 2Lt
CP	Sumpter, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Maburry, George D., 2Lt (359th)
TOG	Unger, Frank W., Sgt
ENG	Jackson, James L., Sgt
RO	Selberg, Maurice K., Sgt
BT	Paris, Russell C., Sgt
TG	Mangum, Henry L., Jr., Sgt
VI	Roth, Andrew P., Sgt (303rd)

B-17G #42-102544 Sack Time

P	Bristol, Clarence D., 2Lt
CP	Wirth, Gordon L., 1Lt
NAV	Winfield, Robert P., 2Lt
BOM	Vinovich, Ralph, 1Lt
ENG	Beck, Cyrus C., Sgt
RO	Kalina, Marvin W., Sgt
BT	Nassau, Norman, Sgt
TG	Cuckler, Harvey G., Sgt

B-17G #44-6517 Old Cock

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	Yepes, William J., S/Sgt
RCM	Fegette, Iva L., T/Sgt

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

P	Jones, William E., Capt
CP	Hamm, John, 2Lt
NAV	Rinish, James M., F/O
MN	Fleming, David D., 2Lt
BOM	Puryear, James L., 1Lt
ENG	Carter, James O., Sgt
RO	Lillis, Joseph D., Pfc
TG	Darland, William G., Jr., 1Lt
WG	Wotanis, Lee F., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Denison, William A., 2Lt
 CP Shaafsma, Peter, 2Lt
 NAV Thompson, John M., 2Lt
 TOG Allen, Herrold H., 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 #42-39885 *Sweet Rose O'Grady*

P Kahler, Thomas F., 2Lt
 CP Cotton, Lewis, 2Lt
 NAV Bowler, Richard, Sgt
 TOG Fogarty, Richard T., S/Sgt
 TT Lowery, Lloyd, S/Sgt
 RO Latz, Leslie L., S/Sgt
 BT Broughton, William A., S/Sgt
 TG McComb, Harold A., Cpl

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 #44-6977 *Better Do'er*

P Damon, Malcolm F., 2Lt
 CP Whitford, Milton G., 2Lt
 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 #44-8824 *(No Name)*

P Donalson, David S., 2Lt
 CP Pittard, Thomas W., Jr., 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

B-17G #44-85534 *(No Name)*

P Lonski, Charles J., 1Lt
 CP Halonen, Eugene L., 2Lt
 NAV Szymanski, Milton J., 2Lt
 TOG Campen, Donald O., Jr., Sgt
 TT Adams, Dearl E., Sgt
 BT Czarny, Alex G., Sgt
 RO Newby, Sidney W., Sgt
 TG Bourget, Joseph B., Sgt

B-17G #44-8692 *Little Tillie*

P Breyer, Frederick L., 2Lt
 CP Schwartz, Melvin, 2Lt
 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

B-17G #44-83447 *(No Name)*

P Arcy, Mitchell T., 2Lt
 CP Abbott, Robert E., 2Lt
 NAV Wyatt, William A., 2Lt
 BOM Harman, Robert D., 2Lt
 TT Berzanski, Edward G., Cpl
 BT Swires, Harvey K., Cpl
 TG Knutson, Theodore E., Cpl
 TG Alasky, Robert H., T/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #44-8545 (No Name) - PFF

P	Grob, Emil E., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Vanderhei, Vivian S., 2Lt
NAV	Smith, Charles W., 2Lt
MN	Grondin, Nicholas A., 1Lt
BOM	Steinberg, Clifford, 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 #43-38621 50 Ragged

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

B-17G #43-37597 Earthquake McGoon

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

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

P	Barr, Thomas J., 2Lt
CP	Pauling, Verlin C., 2Lt
NAV	Walker, Raymon G., 2Lt
TOG	Hardin, Joe A., T/Sgt
TT	Daspit, Thomas M., Cpl
BT	Laza, Benney F., Cpl
RO	Zierk, George W., Cpl
TG	Byers, McClellan A., Cpl
SJ	Hendrix, Frank H., S/Sgt

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

P	Bagstad, Charles W., Maj
CP	Walder, Wilfred W., 2Lt
NAV	Neubert, Marshall A., Capt
NAV	Illgen, Frederick J., Maj
MN	Weinstein, Irving, 1Lt
BOM	Leavell, Adelbert, 1Lt
TT	Englehardt, Roy H., S/Sgt
RO	Gibbons, Francis M., S/Sgt
TG	Russell, Herbert, 1Lt
WG	Doles, David, Jr., S/Sgt