

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 361

16 April 1945

Target: Railroad Bridge at Straubing, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 41 minutes

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

Bombing Altitudes: 18,000, 17,500 & 19,000 feet

The 1st AD and 3rd AD B-17s attacked rail and communication targets while the 2nd AD B-24s went after German strongholds in the Bordeaux, France area.

303BG targets were: No. 1 Straubing railroad bridge (visual); No. 2 Platting landing ground; No. 3 Ingolstadt marshalling yard (H2X). All targets were in Germany. No group aircraft returned early.



Lead element en route to Straubing. B-17G #44-8552 PFF 360BS (PU-X) Deputy Lead (pilot Capt William E. Jones) and B-17G #44-8912 PFF 359BS (BN-W) (Lead Pilot Major William C. Heller). At the top is B-17G #42-102544 Sack Time flown by 2Lt Hamm.

Thirty-nine dispatched bombers dropped 450 500-lb. G.P. and ten units of VG-3 bombs on target No. 1. Bombing was visual and photos indicated a possible hit on the bridge, one near miss and damage to the bridge's southern approach. Overall results were fair. The group following the 303BG(H) definitely hit the bridge. There were no clouds in the target area.

There was no enemy air or flak opposition. A force of 251 P-51s provided good support. All aircraft returned undamaged with no casualties.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Heller-Vail</u> 912 - PFF		
	<u>Hamm</u> 544		<u>Jones</u> 552 - PFF	
<u>Wall</u> 546			<u>Smith</u> 563	
		<u>Breslin</u> 453		<u>Welshon</u> 842
	<u>Fowler</u> 517		<u>Maker</u> 860	
<u>Bentzlin</u> 523			<u>J. Scott</u> 672	
		<u>Wirth</u> 516		<u>McGuffin</u> 532



Photo taken on the April 16, 1945 Mission #361 to Straubing from B-17G #43-39453 (PU-D), flown by 1Lt Jack D. Breslin, who flew in the Lead Formation at the head of the second "V." In the center is B-17G #44-6516 My Darling, flown by 1Lt Gordon L. Wirth. Behind #44-6516 can be seen the entire 427th Low Squadron, led by 1Lt Donald I. Hewitt in B-17G #44-8869.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

	<u>Holmes-Haynes</u> 564 - PFF		
	<u>Call</u> 734	<u>C. Scott</u> 883	
<u>Stauffer</u> 609		<u>Peterson</u> 645	
	<u>Bashor</u> 256		<u>Towne</u> 608
	<u>Henning</u> 351	<u>Lowry</u> 206	
<u>Leister</u> 682		<u>Magee</u> 127	
	<u>Mauger</u> 878		<u>Rich</u> 289



**LEAD TEAM in B-17G #44-8912 (No Name) PFF 359BS (BN-W)
41st CBW-A (360BS) - Pilot Maj W.C. Heller / CoPilot 1Lt R.F. Vail
*At the far right of the crew are Major Heller and 1Lt Vail.***

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

	<u>Hewitt-McKeon</u> 869 - PFF	
	<u>Kahler</u> 597	<u>Danna</u> 885
<u>Thomas</u> 311 - Spare		<u>Chuba</u> 977
	<u>Damon</u> 937	<u>Flanigan</u> 710
	<u>Krohn</u> 621	<u>Arcy</u> 447
<u>Donalson</u> 824		<u>Lonski</u> 534
	<u>Breyer</u> 692	<u>Barr</u> 287



GORDON L. WIRTH CREW - 360th BS
(crew assigned 360BS: 03 Apr 1945 - photo: 21 Apr 1945)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38878 (No Name)

P Mauger, Warren, 2Lt
 CP Burgess, William T., 2Lt
 NAV Steineman, James T., 2Lt
 TOG Davis, Carl J., S/Sgt
 ENG Reese, Bobbie B., T/Sgt
 RO Wysocki, John F., T/Sgt
 BT Kelley, Francis H., S/Sgt
 TG Schoonover, Howard D., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38645 (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 #43-39127 (No Name)

P Magee, Jack R., 1Lt
 CP Briody, Lawrence J., 2Lt
 NAV Chennault, Paul E., Jr., 2Lt
 TOG Flandermeyer, Omer 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 #44-8256 Yankee Girl

P Bashor, Oliver L., 2Lt
 CP Baker, Ira B., 2Lt
 NAV Johnson, Herbert G., 2Lt
 TOG Hansen, Robert S., Sgt
 ENG Reed, Paul E., S/Sgt
 RO Grden, Matthew W., S/Sgt
 BT Greene, Norman S., S/Sgt
 TG Theisen, Robert J., Sgt

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

P Call, Fred E., 1Lt
 CP Wilson, Carl V., 2Lt
 NAV Udy, Donald M., F/O
 TOG Boucher, Henry C., S/Sgt
 ENG Moser, Lawrence B., Sgt
 RO Sussman, Martin, S/Sgt
 TG Tanner, Henry C., S/Sgt
 BT Hager, Mark I., Sgt

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

P Leister, Francis E., 2Lt
 CP Timmons, James A., 2Lt
 NAV Maso, Salvatore J., F/O
 TOG Roberts, James P., S/Sgt
 ENG Smith, Philman C., Sgt
 RO Shaunnessy, William I., Sgt
 BT Crum, Roy E., Cpl
 TG Stevens, Wilfred O., Sgt

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
--	--	---	---

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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	Myers, Ernest L., S/Sgt
RO	Fiore, Thomas, S/Sgt
BT	Syler, Allen B., Sgt
TG	McGurdy, Lewis M., Sgt
RCM	Madey, Herbert P., Sgt

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

P	Stauffer, Robert N., 2Lt
CP	Bowman, George B., 2Lt
NAV	Williams, Tom E., 2Lt
TOG	Sherwin, Claude W., Jr., Sgt
ENG	Walling, Glenn R., S/Sgt
RO	Kirsling, Frederick P., Sgt
BT	Jamieson, Richard W., Sgt
TG	Hawkinson, Arthur H., Sgt

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

P	Holmes, Alfred M., 1Lt
CP	Haynes, Eugene, 1Lt
NAV	Moon, Richard Y., 1Lt
MN	Weil, Frank P., 1Lt
BOM	Mitchell, Robert C., 1Lt
ENG	Vowels, Donovan E., T/Sgt
RO	Shook, Victor N., S/Sgt
TG	Klym, Michael, T/Sgt
BT	Meichtry, Leo R., S/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	Thomas, William B., Sgt
BT	Warcholak, Emanuel, Sgt
TG	Moots, Merritt L., Sgt
RCM	Carl, Lewis E., S/Sgt

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

P	Scott, Charles F., F/O
CP	Volz, Raymond J., F/O
NAV	Blackwell, Samuel D., F/O
TOG	Madden, Joseph R., Sgt
ENG	Gale, James C., Jr., Sgt
RO	Gilmer, Billie G., Pvt
BT	Fanguy, Floyd J., Cpl
TG	Hills, Raymond E., Sgt

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

P	Rich, Richard H., 2Lt
CP	Ketner, Wilbert L., 2Lt
NAV	Knox, George E., 1Lt
TOG	Geary, Joseph P., Sgt
ENG	Sears, Glenn W., Sgt
RO	Riehl, William, Sgt (358th)
BT	Cutter, Harrison F., Cpl
TG	Drennan, Thomas A., Sgt

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

P	Henning, Clyde H., 2Lt
CP	Bauer, Donald R., F/O
NAV	Mabary, George D.L., 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 #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	Wisniewski, Andrew J., Sgt
BT	Mattucks, Robert E., Sgt
TG	Martis, Joseph A., Sgt

B-17G #43-38532 (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	Martens, Raymond J., 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 #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 #42-102544 Sack Time

P	Hamm, Burwell J., 2Lt
CP	Van Geyten, John J., F/O
NAV	Brauchle, John G., F/O
BOM	Pherson, Wilbert C., Jr., F/O
ENG	Fischer, Herman W., Sgt
RO	Arnold, Warren E., Sgt
BT	Nicklas, Henry P., Cpl
TG	Clem, Billy J., Cpl

B-17G #43-38672 (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	Meincke, Donald, Sgt
TG	Woolpert, John C., Sgt

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

P	Welshon, Frank E., 2Lt
CP	Sumpter, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Correale, Fortunato G., F/O (358th)
BOM	Inman, James O., 2Lt
ENG	Jackson, James L., Sgt
RO	Selberg, Maurice K., Sgt
BT	Paris, Russell C., Sgt
TG	Mangum, Henry L., Jr., Sgt

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

P	Jones, William E., Capt
CP	Lucien, Ralph A., 2Lt
NAV	Dwyer, Marion J., 2Lt
MN	Fleming, David D., 2Lt
BOM	Puryear, James L., 1Lt
ENG	Carter, James O., Sgt
RO	Lillis, Joseph D., Pfc
TG	Patterson, Charles A., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-39453 (No Name)

P	Breslin, Jack D., 1Lt
CP	Bischofs, Hans, 2Lt
NAV	Morgan, Clinton J., 2Lt
TOG	Perry, Gordon W., S/Sgt
ENG	Moore, Harley E., Sgt
RO	Daugherty, John S., Jr., Sgt
BT	Beckman, Charles W., S/Sgt
TG	Barlow, Grover C., Sgt
RCM	Thomas, Jack M., 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	Elliott, Richard D., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-6516 My Darling

P	Wirth, Gordon L., 1Lt
CP	Frook, Stanley F., 2Lt
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 #44-8912 (No Name) - PFF

P	Heller, William C., Maj
CP	Vail, Robert F., 2Lt
NAV	Young, Charles C., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	Illgen, Frederick J., Maj (41st W.)
MN	Charlton, Rufus S., 1Lt
BOM	McCormick, James E., Maj (303rd)
ENG	Larson, Arnold B., T/Sgt
RO	Snell, John K., T/Sgt
TG	Judd, Dudley F., 2Lt

B-17G #42-97546 Idaliza

P	Wall, James A., F/O
CP	King, Roy L., F/O
NAV	Hamilton, James E., F/O
BOM	Olinger, Charles F., F/O
ENG	Cochran, Frank H., Sgt
RO	Pratt, William A., Sgt
BT	Booe, Billy L., Sgt
TG	Shipp, B.J., Sgt
VI	Elkin, Samuel, S/Sgt (427th)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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 #44-8692 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	Shaafsma, Peter, 2Lt
NAV	Wyatt, William A., 2Lt
TOG	Detlefsen, Emil E., Sgt
TT	Berzanski, Edward G., Cpl
BT	Swires, Harvey K., Cpl
RO	Knutson, Theodore E., Cpl
TG	Alasky, Robert H., T/Sgt

B-17G #43-37597 Earthquake McGoon

P	Kahler, Thomas F., 2Lt
CP	Cotton, Lewis, 2Lt
NAV	Bowler, Richard, Sgt
BOM	Fogarty, Richard T., S/Sgt
TT	Lowery, Lloyd, S/Sgt
RO	Latz, Leslie L., S/Sgt
BT	Broughton, William A., S/Sgt
TG	Rogers, Herbert B., Sgt

B-17G #44-6937 El Sereano

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 #44-85534 (No Name)

P	Lonski, Charles J., 1Lt
CP	Halonon, 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 #44-8710 Idle Wheel

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 #44-6977 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

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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
VI	Brody, 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	Allen, Herrold H., Sgt
TT	Daspit, Thomas M., Sgt
BT	Laza, Benney F., Sgt
RO	Zierk, George W., Sgt
TG	Smith, Theodore R., Sgt
SJ	Buonpano, Vincent, Sgt

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

P	Danna, Joseph, 2Lt
CP	Von Aesch, Edward J., F/O
NAV	Lieberman, Leon, F/O
BOM	Osmundson, Arthur E., 2Lt
TT	Kenney, William C., Cpl
BT	Batts, Bert, Pfc
RO	Anderson, Martin L., Cpl
TG	Caputo, Harrison D., Sgt

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

P	Hewitt, Donald I., 1Lt
CP	McKeon, Preston W., 1Lt
NAV	Wolansky, John, 2Lt
MN	Grondin, Nicholas A., 1Lt
BOM	Keese, Thomas R., 1Lt
TT	Sabo, Stephen R., Sgt
RO	Schmidt, Elmer J., T/Sgt
WG	Mussi, James L., S/Sgt
TG	Agrifoglio, Benjamin, S/Sgt

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

P	Krohn, Robert W., 2Lt
CP	Kindig, Paul B., 2Lt
NAV	Christen, Louis M., 2Lt
TOG	O'Sullivan, Henry T., Sgt
TT	Peterson, Herman O., Sgt
BT	Minoff, John, Sgt
RO	McKenzie, Malcolm L., Sgt
TG	Marozas, Arthur A., Sgt
SJ	Ladd, John, Sgt