

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 363

20 April 1945

Target: Marshalling Yards at Treunbrietzen, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 42

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 18 minutes

Bomb Load: 8 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 20,000, 19,000 & 21,000 feet

Rail targets were scheduled for the 8th Air Force for their fifth consecutive mission. 303BG(H) targets were: No. 1 — Treunbrietzen (visual) - near the east end of the yard; No. 2 — Treunbrietzen (GEE-H) - near the center of the yard; No. 3 — Brandenburg (H2X). All three targets were German marshalling yards. B-17G #43-38621 *50 Ragged*, 427BS (Lt. **Lonski**), returned early for an ineffective sortie, the result of a runaway propeller, landing at 0809 hours.



JOHN J. VAN GEYTEN CREW - 360th BS

(crew assigned 360BS: 07 April 1945 - photo: April 1945)

(Back L-R) Lt John J. Van Geyten (P), F/O Harry T. Payne (CP),

F/O John G. Brauchle (N), F/O Wilbert C. Pherson, Jr. (B)

(Front L-R) Sgt Gordon A. Winkler (WG), T/Sgt Herman W. Fischer (E),

Sgt Henry P. Nicklas (BT), S/Sgt Warren E. Arnold (R), Sgt Billy J. Clem (TG)

Forty-one B-17s dropped 297 500-lb. G.P. bombs and ten leaflet units on target No. 1. The lead and low Squadrons dropped on the assigned MPI with good results. The high Squadron found the MPI smoke-covered and selected an MPI in the target area about 450 feet west of the assigned MPI. Their results were also good. Haze and scud prevented good pilotage on the first half of the bomb run, but the target was picked up about 12 miles out and normal visual bomb runs were made.

Fighter support by 227 P-51s was as briefed and was very good. There was no enemy air or ground opposition. All aircraft returned to Molesworth undamaged with no casualties.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

Sirany-Heller
038 - PFF

Lonski
621

Goering
125 - PFF

Denison
937

Grob
483

Flanigan
878

Barr
287

Damon
311

Donalson
824

Breyer
682

F. Miller
883

Chuba
977

Von Aesch
692

Arcy
447



B-17G #44-8912 (No Name) PFF 359BS (BN-W)
41st CBW-B Lead (359BS) - Pilot Capt G.R. Sirany / CoPilot 2Lt E.E. Heller
(Back L-R) 1Lt William G. Mylan (N), T/Sgt Neil C. Buie (R), Capt George R. Sirany (P),
2Lt Emerson E. Heller (CP), 1Lt Herbert Russell (427th TG-O) - (Front L-R) T/Sgt Ruben W. Belcher (E),
1Lt David E. Johnson (B), 1Lt Earl J. Malerich, Jr. (N), 2Lt Glen R. Swenson (N)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

Agesen-McKeon
238 - PFF

<u>Milman</u> 999	<u>Griffith</u> 778	<u>Nicolaisen</u> 450	
<u>Cunningham</u> 462	<u>Leach</u> 096	<u>Bohle</u> 258	
	<u>Kamstra</u> 285	<u>Bailey</u> 233	
<u>Perkins</u> 351		<u>C. Miller</u> 191	
	<u>Woodard</u> 734	<u>Fountain</u> 289	
<u>Kentsbeer</u> 608			

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

Ashwell-Sabine
568 - PFF

<u>Peterson</u> 127	<u>Smith</u> 563	<u>Richeson</u> 645	
<u>Van Geyten</u> 453	<u>Call</u> 439	<u>Welshon</u> 672	
	<u>Fowler</u> 517	<u>Lester</u> 860	
<u>Bentzlin</u> 523		<u>Scott</u> 870	
	<u>McGuffin</u> 532	<u>Magee</u> 546	
<u>Wirth</u> 516			

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 #43-39450 (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 #44-8351 (No Name)

P	Perkins, Morton C., 2Lt
CP	Ludlow, Harold K., 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

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

P	Cunningham, Neil E., 2Lt
CP	Thornton, Everett H., 2Lt
NAV	Kuester, Edward F., 2Lt
TOG	Reimche, George K., T/Sgt
ENG	Sprinkles, Leburn D., Sgt
RO	Ennis, Charles S., S/Sgt
BT	Carter, William J., Sgt
TG	Crigger, Richard S., Sgt

B-17G #43-38191 *Shasta*

P	Miller, Campbell, Capt
CP	Sichley, Clarence W., 2Lt
NAV	Stock, Phillip L., F/O
TOG	Young, Burnham J., Sgt
ENG	Miller, James P., Sgt
RO	Smith, Lloyd D., Sgt
BT	Craig, Victor M., Sgt
TG	Hall, Billy W., Sgt

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

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 #44-8734 *Hell's Cargo*

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 #43-39285 (No Name)

P	Kamstra, Walter W., 2Lt
CP	Burton, Richard B., 2Lt
NAV	Brough, Clyde W., F/O
TOG	Blondeau, Alexander L., Sgt
ENG	King, Cecil J., T/Sgt
RO	Salm, Edward P., Sgt
BT	Amos, Harmon E., Sgt
TG	Strahan, Everette E., Sgt

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

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

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Griffith, Rudolph L., 2Lt
CP	Sims, Allen R., 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
PAS	Elkins, Samuel, S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38608 Lucille

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
PAS	Scott, William R., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38999 Emma

P	Milman, Jerome, 1Lt
CP	Craig, Fred, 2Lt
NAV	Leonhirth, Junius, F/O
BOM	Mott, Charles A., 2Lt
ENG	Eygabroad, Robert J., S/Sgt
RO	Ferche, Joseph P., S/Sgt
BT	Fox, Raymond H., Sgt
TG	Dickinson, Morris L., 1Lt

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

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	Dantzler, John R., Sgt

B-17G #43-39096 Sky Demon

P	Leach, Joseph V., 2Lt
CP	Olson, John L., 2Lt
NAV	Wilson, Benjamin H., F/O
TOG	Psota, John W., S/Sgt
ENG	Gale, James C., Sgt
RO	Gilmer, Billie C., Pvt
WG	Anderson, Junior W., Sgt
TG	Sulley, Oda F., Jr., Sgt
BT	Kinsland, Harry D., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #44-8038 (No Name) - PFF

P Sirany, George R., Capt
CP Heller, Emerson E., 2Lt
NAV Swenson, Glen R., 2Lt
GH Malerich, Earl J., Jr., 1Lt
MN Mylan, William G., 1Lt
BOM Johnson, David E., 1Lt
ENG Belcher, Ruben W., T/Sgt
RO Buie, Neil C., T/Sgt
TG Russell, Herbert, 1Lt (427th)

B-17G #44-8125 Sparky - PFF

P Goering, Werner G., Capt
CP Parson, Jerome G., 2Lt
NAV Rinish, James M., F/O
GH Kraft, Arthur C., 2Lt
MN Grondin, Nicholas A., 2Lt
BOM McCall, John W., 1Lt
ENG Cavagnaro, James E., T/Sgt
RO Bledsoe, Clinton A., T/Sgt
TG Hudler, Billie E., Sgt

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

P Agesen, Donald C., 1Lt
CP McKeon, Preston W., 1Lt
NAV Hoida, Donald J., 2Lt
GH Gadbois, Norman C., 2Lt
MN Weinstein, Irving, 1Lt
BOM Marshall, Alexander F., 1Lt
ENG Ellis, Paul R., T/Sgt
RO Mahoney, Denis J., T/Sgt
TG Agrifoglio, Benjamin M., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-8568 (No Name) - PFF

P Ashwell, Silas B., 1Lt
CP Sabine, George E., 1Lt
NAV Christenson, LeRoy P., 1Lt
GH Friedlander, Henry, 2Lt
MN Charleston, Rufus S., 1Lt
BOM Mishtal, Theodore W., 1Lt
ENG Bielecki, John B., Jr., Sgt
RO Kamen, Roland K., T/Sgt
TG Johnson, Jack W., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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	Valdes, George J., T/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 #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	McNeel, Morgan L., Sgt
TG	Woolpert, John C., Sgt

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

P	Welshon, Frank E., 2Lt
CP	Sumpter, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Robinson, Truman, 2Lt
BOM	Puryear, James L., 1Lt
ENG	Jackson, James L., Sgt
RO	Selberg, Maurice K., Sgt
BT	Paris, Russell C., Sgt
TG	Mangum, Henry L., Jr., Sgt

B-17G #42-97860 (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 #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	Roberts, James P., T/Sgt

B-17G #42-97546 Idaliza

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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Peterson, Robert C., 1Lt
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 #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	Brooks, James E., Sgt

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

P	Call, Fred E., 1Lt
CP	Wilson, Carl V., 2Lt
NAV	Udy, Donald M., F/O
BOM	Downey, Francis G., 1Lt
ENG	Myers, Ernest L., S/Sgt
RO	Sussman, Martin, S/Sgt
TG	Tanner, Henry C., S/Sgt
BT	Hager, Mark I., Sgt

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

P	Richeson, Marvin G., Jr., 1Lt
CP	King, Roy L., F/O
NAV	Herrmann, Robert H., 1Lt
TOG	Benge, Charlie A., S/Sgt
ENG	Gray, Alexander W., S/Sgt
RO	Kirtner, Billy L., T/Sgt
TG	Hoxie, Charles R., Sgt
WG	Davidson, Dyle K., Sgt

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

P	Van Geyten, John J., F/O
CP	Payne, Harry, 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
RCM	Thomas, Jack M., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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 #43-38682 (No Name)

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 #43-38878 (No Name)

P	Flanigan, Lloyd J., 2Lt
CP	Abbott, Robert E., 2Lt
NAV	Heaney, Edward J., F/O
TOG	McDonald, Francis E., Sgt
TT	Gilkes, Beresford B., S/Sgt
BT	Safley, Delbert A., Sgt
RO	Mohn, Grover C., Sgt
TG	Neiswender, John J., Sgt

B-17G #44-6977 Better Do'er

P	Chuba, Francis B., 1Lt
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 #44-8692 (No Name)

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

B-17G #44-6937 El Sereano

P	Denison, William A., 2Lt
CP	Farland, Eugene H., 2Lt
NAV	Hansen, Arnold H., F/O
TOG	Mack, William H., 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 #44-83483 (No Name)

P	Grob, Emil E., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Vanderhei, Vivian S., 2Lt
NAV	Slauson, Leon H., 2Lt
TOG	Allen, Herrold E., Sgt
TT	Loy, Vernon C., S/Sgt
RO	Mullen, John P., S/Sgt
TG	Nutting, Rufus R., Sgt
BT	Apel, Charles W., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

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., Sgt
RO	Jordan, Daniel J., Sgt
TG	Mikkelson, Delbert M., Sgt
Y	Brody, John J., Sgt

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

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

(Abortive Sortie)

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

P	Barr, Thomas J., 2Lt
CP	Pauling, Verlin C., 2Lt
NAV	Walker, Raymon G., 2Lt
BOM	Wentworth, Richard W., F/O
TT	Daspit, Thomas M., Sgt
BT	Laza, Benney F., Sgt
RO	Zierk, George W., Sgt
TG	Byers, McClellen, Sgt
SJ	Monyok, Joseph R., Sgt

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

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

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL EISENHOWER

GERMANY IS CLOSE TO DEFEAT

20 April 1945

The Battle of the Ruhr Pas ended with complete success. Following hard upon the final destruction of the German forces west of the Rhine, the 21st Army Group thrust powerfully across that river with the US Ninth Army under command. Simultaneously, rapid drives across the Rhine and from the Remagen. The Twelfth and Sixth Army Groups provided the Southern arm of a great double envelopment, which completely encircled the entire German Army Group B and two corps of Army Group B, whose mobility was rendered almost zero by our magnificent and tireless Air Forces. Thereafter, in the pocket this created, the Twelfth Army Group eliminated 21 enemy divisions. . . Over 317,000 prisoners of war were captured, including twenty four Generals and one Admiral. Many tanks and more than 750 guns were destroyed or taken. Booty is intense and still being counted.

The rapidity and determination with which this brilliant action was executed tore asunder the divisions of Field Marshall Model and enabled all army groups without pause to continue their drive eastwards into the heart of Germany.

This victory of Allied arms is a fitting prelude to the final factors to crush the ragged remnants of Hitler's armies of the West, now tottering on the threshold of defeat.

I'VE SEEN IT ALL — NOW LET'S GO HOME

by S/Sgt Dyle K. Davidson – 360BS

The usual was normal. I was a 19 year old waist gunner who flew 34 missions before I was 20 years old. I was on 14 combat raids in one month. My war started when we left the USA in a new B-17, bound for England.

We listened to the enemy radio transmissions trying to divert us to the open ocean, as we flew to friendly bases in Labrador, Greenland, Iceland and finally Scotland. We were assigned to the Hell's Angels, 303rd Bomb Group. Combat was next.

I was shot down on my second mission with my first alternate crew. Lt Warren Mauger was the pilot. I was hit by flak in my flak-vest, knocked down, losing my oxygen and intercom. I got up, hooked up again and found no blood. I had just returned to my gun when the oxygen bottle at my feet was hit by flak and exploded, sending the bottle nozzle through the radio room door and striking the radio operator in the leg. Again no blood.

On one and half engines, the fires out, our pilot made a miraculous, one chance only, wheels down landing, on a just recovered German air base near Eindhoven, Holland.

On our fifth mission, our Ball Turret Gunner was wounded. Unable to help himself, two of us managed to get him out of the turret. I administered morphine and bandaged a nasty wound in his thigh.

Forty years later, in Hollywood, Florida, he thanked me for saving his life. Our ship had more than 200 holes, over 100 in the right wing alone. As far as I know, that plane never flew again.

I have emptied my guns while under attack. I've seen B-17s blown up, on fire, mid-air collisions, shot down and friends lost. The smell of cordite at 20,000 feet from German flak was strong even with our oxygen masks on. I have watched many crew members bail out of their stricken planes and tried to count parachutes to tell Intelligence later at debriefing.

A German jet attacked alongside our left wing firing at our group leader. He was less than 100 yards away and surprised me so completely, I didn't fire a round.

I saw the glider fiasco in Holland, the smoke screens, the fighting on the ground. I watched the German V-2 rockets pass us over the English Channel headed for England, as we carried tons of bombs to drop on them.

A good day got you back to base, a hot meal and shower. Next you cleaned your guns, checked for mail, got some sleep, because four a.m. could start another day over Germany. You wanted to be ready.

And now I am headed home—happy day!!! GOD BLESS AMERICA!