

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 120

9 March 1944

City Area, Berlin, Germany (PFF)

Crews Dispatched: 19

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 24,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 730 rounds

Eighth Air Force Narrative of Operations

Seven combat wings of B-17s and three of B-24s were dispatched to attack targets in the Berlin area. 10/10 overcast persisted over the Continent and throughout the entire route with the result that none of the aircraft were able to bomb their primaries. A force of 361 B-17s and 165 B-24s was dispatched on this operation of which number 339 B-17s and 150 B-24s attacked. Bombing on Pathfinder aircraft, whose equipment was working well, 331 B-17s dropped 775.5 tons on Berlin - the southwest corner of Tiergarten. Pathfinder aircraft leading 2nd Division formations report poorly working equipment and 110 B-24s dropped 302 tons on what was believed to be Hannover, 30 B-24s dropped 81 tons on Nauen and 9 B-24s dropped 27 tons on Brunswick. Eight B-17s and one B-24 dropped 20.5 tons on targets of opportunity in Germany. Results of all bombing was unobserved and as strike attack photographs are cloud obscured, no assessment of damage was available.

Enemy fighter opposition was the weakest yet experienced during a major operation. A total of approximately 20 enemy aircraft was seen by our fighters and bombers, and the only attack of the day resulted in the only claim of the day - one ME-109 destroyed. Flak was generally moderate with some crews reporting intense Antiaircraft fire over Berlin and Hannover. Six B-17s and two B-24s are missing. However, two of the B-17s were ditched in the channel, and ten crew members were rescued. The claim of 1-0-0 was made by a B-24 Pathfinder aircraft.

Uneventful escort was flown by 23 groups of USAAF fighters, three of which flew second sorties. Additional support was provided by two squadrons of RAF Mustangs. One P-38 was missing.

303rd BG (H) Report

The main target was the Heinkel Aircraft Plant at Oranienburg, Germany. The secondary, to be attacked by "bombing through the overcast technique," was military objectives in Berlin.

Eighteen 303rd BG(H) aircraft took off and one returned early:

#42-38204 (*No Name*) 360BS-H (**Thomas**) - interphone system out.

#42-38050 *Thunderbird*, 359BS-U (**Moncur**) - failed to take off when a tire blew out.

Fifteen of the 17 B-17s dispatched bombed the secondary target at Berlin from 25,000 feet with 37 1/2 tons of H.E. M43 G.P. bombs. Bombing was on signal from the PFF aircraft of the 40 CBW when the 41 CBW PFF equipment went out.

Aircraft #42-31830 *Marie*, 359BS-N (**Hybert**), dropped its bombs six miles southeast of Wittenburg. The ship lost altitude when gas tanks went out, causing two engines to stop. B-17 #42-37893 *Bam Bam*, 358BS-O, dropped its bombs at the IP— the bombs dropped out when the bomb bay doors were opened. There was 10/10 cloud cover at the target area and light persistent contrails. Winds were stronger and more easterly than predicted, causing the Group to be 45 minutes late at the target.

Moderate to intense and generally inaccurate flak was encountered. No enemy aircraft were seen. Fighter support going into the target was good. There was very little coverage to the target because the Group was late. Fortresses discharged chaff over the target area; it was believed to be very effective. Aircraft were "unseen targets" and the anti-aircraft fire was low and to the right. Major **Shumake** described the mission as "fairly easy." Nine aircraft sustained minor flak damage.



Miss Liberty #42-31340 (360BS) PU-D

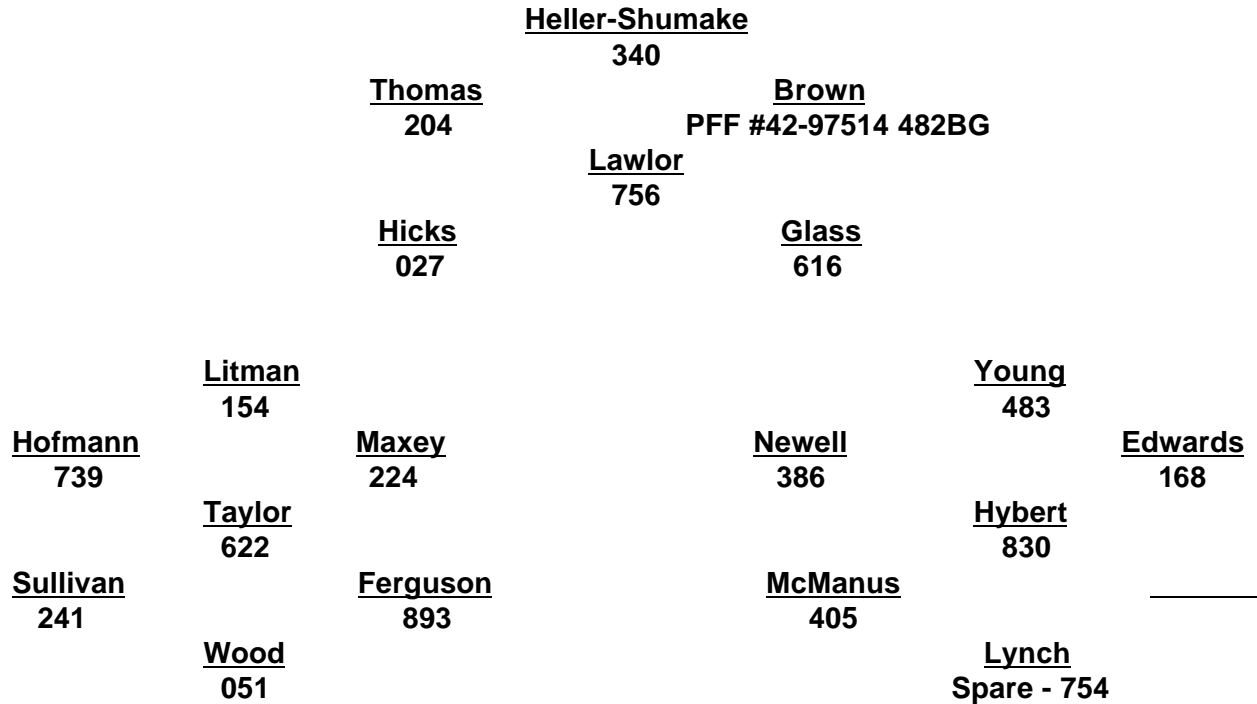
41st CBW Lead (360BS) - Pilot Capt W.C. Heller / CoPilot Maj G.F. Shumake

Greeting the returning Lead Combat Crew were Allied Headquarters Representatives:

Mr. Socras, Dr. Strecker, M/Gen Grant, Gen Kirk and Col Cutlas

Capt W.C. Heller (P), Maj G.F. Shumake (CP), 1Lt D.R. Davis (N),
Capt J.B. Fawcett (B), 2Lt L.S. Munroe, Jr. (N), 2Lt A.E. Earhart (TG-O)
T/Sgt W.J. Huston (E), T/Sgt R.N. Snyder (R), S/Sgt L. Lanier, Jr. (BT),
S/Sgt G.S. Payne (WG), S/Sgt A. Laurinitis (WG)
(crewmembers are not in order)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



One (1) aircraft aborted this mission:
Lt. Thomas in 204

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 NG - Nose Gunner RG - Radio Gunner WG - Waist Gunner LWG - Left Waist Gunner RWG - Right Waist Gunner GUN - Gunner</p>	<p>VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer</p> <p>RESULTS OF MISSION</p> <p>KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war</p>	<p>DOW - Died of wounds EVD - Evaded the enemy INT - Interned in neu cntry 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 #42-31739 *Pugnacious Peter*

P Hofmann, Raymond, 2Lt
CP Brothers, Calvin S., 2Lt
NAV Binder, Carroll, 2Lt
BOM Israelson, Elmo P., 2Lt
ENG Blakeney, William R., Jr., S/Sgt
BT Crenshaw, Ollie G., Sgt
RO Berman, Seymour, S/Sgt
LWG Galloway, John B., Sgt
TG Jensen, Bob, Sgt
RWG Williams, James O., Sgt

B-17G #42-37893 *Bam Bam*

P Ferguson, Wendell Z., 2Lt
CP Moody, James D., 2Lt
NAV Heibert, David C., F/O
BOM Schmid, Ralph D., 2Lt
ENG Matthews, David R., Sgt
LWG Smithson, Clyde E., Sgt
RO Phillips, Robert B., S/Sgt
RWG Rogers, Thomas J., Sgt
TG Brooks, Richard S., Sgt
BT Rhodes, Kenneth C., Sgt

B-17G #42-31224 *Hell in the Heavens*

P Maxey, Frank, 2Lt
CP Knight, R.A., 2Lt
NAV Fitzpatrick, George M., 2Lt
BOM Spatt, Arnold I., 2Lt
ENG Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt
LWG Johnston, Wendell B., Sgt
RO Rabun, Clifford G., Sgt
BT Swain, Norman F., Pvt
TG Angelo, George L., S/Sgt
RWG Hodgins, Robert A., Sgt

B-17G #42-97622 *Paper Dollie*

P Taylor, James B., 1Lt
CP Hall, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV Schweitzer, Jerome D., 2Lt
BOM Feinman, Milton, 2Lt
ENG Jones, Douglas J., S/Sgt
BT Czczotka, Theodore R., Sgt
RO Dulin, Woodroe G., S/Sgt
RWG Schweinebraten, Leslie H., Sgt
TG Cox, James B., S/Sgt
LWG Loveland, William H., Sgt

B-17G #42-38154 *(No Name)*

P Litman, Arnold S., 1Lt
CP Ames, Walter J., 2Lt
NAV Levy, Herbert E., 2Lt
BOM Coburn, Ralph F., Jr., 1Lt
ENG Smith, George A., S/Sgt
TG Castillo, Buenaventura L., S/Sgt
RO Ebbighausen, Francis R., T/Sgt
BT Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt
LWG Lawson, Tracy W., S/Sgt
RWG Miller, Victor R., S/Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31386 *Sky Duster*

P Newell, Noel N., 1Lt
CP Donalson, Douglas C., 2Lt
NAV Carey, William D., 2Lt
BOM Van Zandt, Roland, 1Lt
ENG Freinwald, Earl C., T/Sgt
LWG McGee, Richard, S/Sgt
RO Weepie, Robert F., T/Sgt
TG Atkinson, William E., S/Sgt
BT Bergman, Harvey F., S/Sgt
RWG Mendel, Myron R., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P Hybert, Arthur J., 1Lt
CP Sassone, Joseph C., 2Lt
NAV Ramsey, Elijah W., 1Lt
BOM Kelly, James H., Jr., 2Lt
ENG Broderick, George V., S/Sgt
RO Ratford, Edward V., S/Sgt
RWG Gilcrease, Roland L., Sgt
BT Jaehne, Charles R., S/Sgt
TG Barmak, Paul J., S/Sgt
LWG Neathery, Ralph P., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31405 *Wallaroo MK II*

P McManus, Henry, 2Lt
CP Hudson, Hendric S., 2Lt
NAV Carroll, Charles P., 2Lt
BOM Cecot, Chester R., 2Lt
ENG Row, Robert A., T/Sgt
RO Colburn, Robert P., T/Sgt
RWG Doezema, Albert, S/Sgt
LWG Jewett, William B., S/Sgt
BT Davies, John W., S/Sgt
TG Cowles, Clifton G., S/Sgt
PHO Green, William H., T/Sgt

B-17G #42-38168 *Dear Mom*

P Edwards, Kenneth C., 1Lt
CP Peterson, Edwin V., 2Lt
NAV Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
BOM Marlatt, Ray G., 2Lt
ENG Johnson, Kenneth V., S/Sgt
RO Kennedy, Herbert W., S/Sgt
BT Guzman, Abel G., Sgt
LWG Holper, Ralph M., T/Sgt
TG Kowalk, Francis H., Sgt
RWG Reynolds, James B., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31483 *Bonnie B*

P Young, Elmer W., 1Lt
CP Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt
NAV Schoner, George R., 2Lt
BOM Hoover, William L., 2Lt
ENG Steele, John C., T/Sgt
RO Dulick, Steve, T/Sgt
BT Lebeck, Richard H., S/Sgt
RWG Rohaly, Andrew, Jr., S/Sgt
LWG Withrow, John W., S/Sgt
TG Stapleton, Bill, S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-32027 *Betty Jane*

P	Hicks, David F., 2Lt
CP	Stevens, Joseph E., 2Lt
NAV	Fleming, Samuel P., 2Lt
BOM	Finley, Robert A., 2Lt
ENG	Brewster, John L., T/Sgt
RO	Geisman, Gaylord W., T/Sgt
BT	Hemmings, Norman A., S/Sgt
TG	Edwards, Marvin R., Sgt
RWG	Fitko, Marion F., S/Sgt
LWG	Cole, Edgar C., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31756 (No Name)

P	Lawlor, John C., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Girard, Louis F., 2Lt
NAV	Przybyszewski, Henry S., 2Lt
BOM	Barker, Havelock W., 2Lt
ENG	Tower, Jack W., T/Sgt
RWG	Baker, Nelson, S/Sgt
RO	Esposito, Frank B., T/Sgt
LWG	Krenek, Joe W., S/Sgt
BT	Kuntashian, Warren V., S/Sgt
TG	Butler, Raymond, S/Sgt

B-17G #42-38204 (No Name)

P	Thomas, Earl N., 1Lt
CP	Miller, Edgar C., 2Lt
NAV	Walenta, Clarence V., 2Lt
BOM	Scott, Harold L., 2Lt
ENG	Mason, John W., T/Sgt
RWG	Flenniken, William, S/Sgt
RO	Deerfield, Eddie, Sgt
TG	Bacon, Charles N., Sgt
BT	Johnston, Harold A., Sgt
LWG	Books, Carl O., Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17G #42-31616 *Spirit of Flak Wolf*

P	Glass, Henry F., 1Lt
CP	McMahan, Eugene A. 2Lt
NAV	Pepe, Nicholas A., 2Lt
BOM	Robrock, Paul A., 2Lt
ENG	Carbillano, Dominick J., Sgt
LWG	Stellato, Francis A., S/Sgt
RO	Miller, Gordon R., T/Sgt
RWG	Patrone, Frank, S/Sgt
BT	Michael, David O., S/Sgt
TG	Roberts, James E., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31754 (No Name)

P	Lynch, Robert J., 2Lt
CP	Cohl, Jules R., 2Lt
NAV	Sbrolla, Emilio M., 2Lt
BOM	Merz, Dick W., 2Lt
ENG	Roxzell, Thomas M., Sgt
RO	Schuler, Frank H., Sgt
BT	Chudej, Josef R., Sgt
TG	Krogh, Kenneth R., Sgt
LWG	Schoonmaker, Elwood, Jr., Sgt
RWG	Pleasanton, Kenneth H., Sgt

B-17G #42-31340 *Miss Liberty*

P	Heller, William C., Capt
CP	Shumake, Glynn F., Maj
NAV	Davis, Darius R., 1Lt
NAV	Munroe, Linton S., 2Lt
BOM	Fawcett, Jack W., Capt
ENG	Huston, William J., T/Sgt
LWG	Laurinitis, Anthony, S/Sgt
RO	Snyder, Richard N., T/Sgt
RWG	Payne, George S., S/Sgt
BT	Lanier, Leo, Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Earhart, Amon E., 2Lt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-38051 *My Yorkshire Dream*

P Wood, Vere A., 1Lt
CP Knutson, Wilmer A., 2Lt
NAV Pinnette, William S., Lt
BOM Brown, Thomas G., 2Lt
ENG Kersch, Conrad J., T/Sgt
BT McMahan, Bonnar P., S/Sgt
RO Brooks, Winnie R., S/Sgt
RWG Heathershaw, Charles L., S/Sgt
TG Helton, Edward, S/Sgt
LWG Tevis, John E., S/Sgt
PHO Mulberry, Harold F., Sgt

B-17G #42-31241 *Spirit of Wanette*

P Sullivan, Francis X., 1Lt
CP Brangwin, Kenneth R., 2Lt
NAV Eccleston, Edward F., 2Lt
BOM Bawol, Walter S., 2Lt
ENG Frey, James L., S/Sgt
BT Latta, Thomas B., T/Sgt
RO Sullivan, James J., T /Sgt
TG Stone, Vernon W., S/Sgt
RWG Swanson, Charles A., S/Sgt
LWG Keely, Eugene F., S/Sgt

PFF B-17G #42-97514 (No Name) 482BG

P Brown, Lt. (482BG)
N Culpin, John J., Jr., 2Lt