

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 123

19 March 1944

Target: "Crossbow" Targets, Wizernes, France
(Pas de Calais area)

Crews Dispatched: 21 + 2 spares

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 25 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 500 lb (AN-64) RDX bombs

Bombing Altitude: 22,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 320 rounds

Colonel William L. **Travis**, Chief of Staff for the 41 CBW, flew as co-pilot with 1Lt. Fred F. **Wilson** in #42-97590 *Virgin Mary*, 359BS-O. His brother, General Robert F. **Travis**, flew the lead plane with Maj. Kirk R. **Mitchell**. Maj. E.R.T. **Holmes** and two Lieutenants from the 41 CBW were crewmen on *The '8' Ball MK II* with LtCol. William R. **Calhoun** and Maj. Glynn F. **Shumake**.

One of the spare aircraft, #41-24605 *Knock-Out Dropper*, 359BS-R (Lt. **Edwards**), turned back over the Wash and returned to base because the No. 2 engine failed. The other spare aircraft returned as ordered.

Twenty B-17s dropped 240 500-lb. AN64 RDX bombs on the primary target. It was difficult to locate it until a few seconds before "bombs away." Several crews reported seeing hits in the target area, generally to the right of the assigned point.

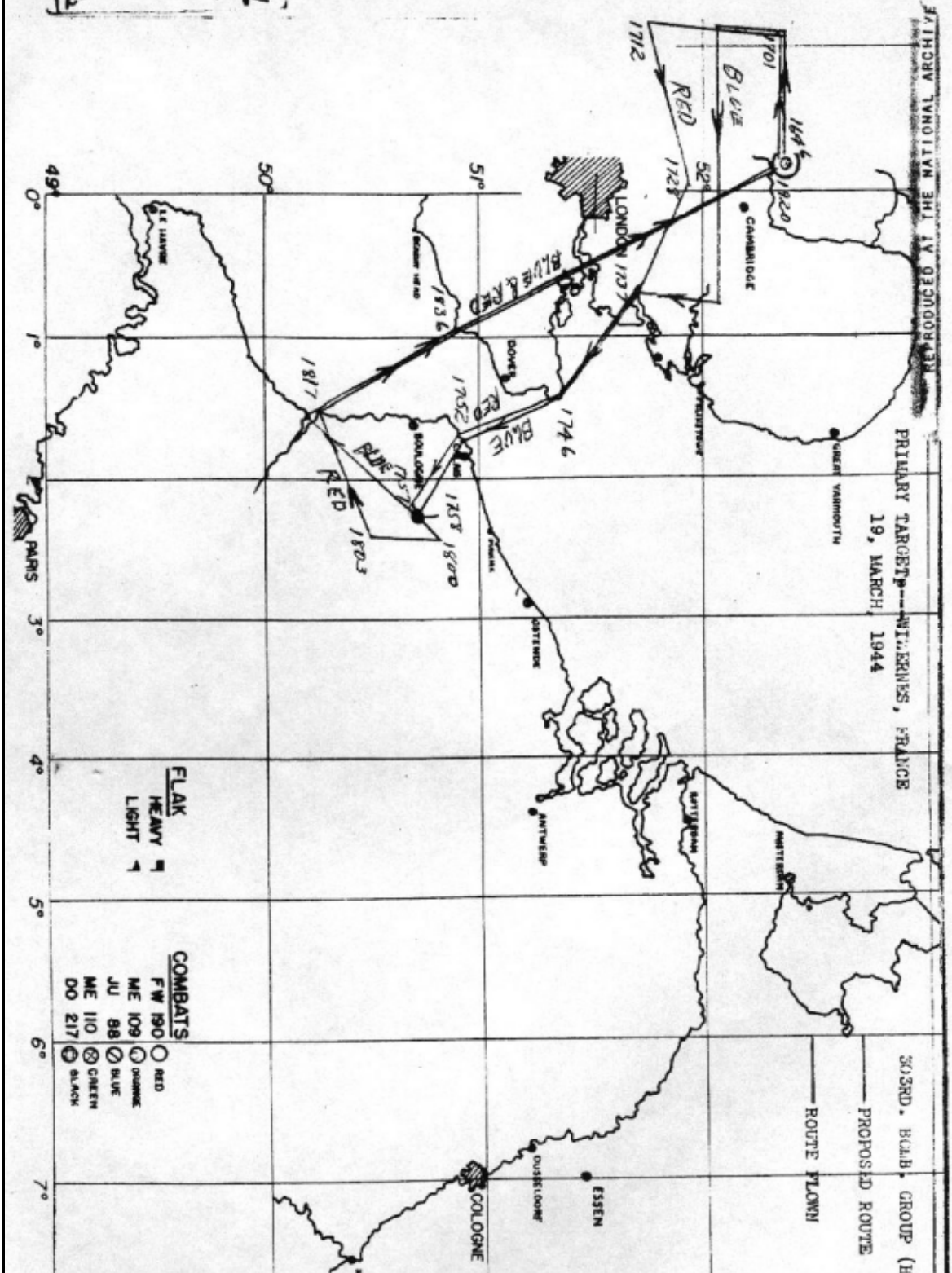
No enemy aircraft were seen. Flak was moderate to intense and accurate. There were no casualties. Four aircraft sustained major battle damage and thirteen, minor damage – all from anti-aircraft gunfire. Fighter support was reported as good.

In the target area there were 1/10 to 3/10 patchy cumulus clouds with 10/10 swelling cumulus tops at 10,000 feet, ten miles south of the target. At the target there were no clouds, but there was considerable ground haze, which made it difficult to pick out the target. On the bomb run there was considerable glare from the reflection of the sinking sun on the haze. The bombardier could not keep the target in sight during the whole bomb run and was only able to pick it up again a few seconds before "bombs away."

General **Travis** reported, "We were under attack from enemy ground installations all the way from the coast to the target and out again. There was a terrific haze all over the ground which hampered the bombardiers' view of the target itself. None of us can be too sure of the results. Fighter cover was excellent and some of the crew reported that our fighters engaged the enemy to a small extent. They reported a ship blown up in the vicinity, but none were sure whether it was a fighter or a bomber. Those boys firing the ground guns were definitely not amateurs, as is proven by the several holes in our own plane." Maj. **Mitchell**, flying his 29th mission, had comments nearly identical to those of Gen. **Travis**.

30' 5-19-44
123 WIZERNIXS
T-73

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3 745005
BY USW NARA, DATE 5/18/88



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Mitchell-R. Travis</u>				
574				
<u>Hofmann</u>		<u>Viets</u>		
037		617		
<u>Gorman</u>				
739				
<u>Snyder</u>		<u>Seddon</u>		
893		154		
<u>Flesh</u>		<u>W. Travis-Wilson</u>		
341		590		
<u>Headlee</u>	<u>Jones</u>	<u>Hicks</u>	<u>Lynch</u>	
823	081	204	754	
<u>Harrison</u>		<u>Glass</u>		
616		552		
<u>Melton</u>	<u>Estes</u>	<u>Holdcroft</u>	<u>Long</u>	
027	200	973	546	
<u>Shope</u>		<u>Bordelon</u>		
060		854		
<u>Edwards</u>			<u>Savage</u>	
Spare - 605			Spare - 257	

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<u>CREW POSITIONS</u> 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 NG - Nose Gunner RG - Radio Gunner WG - Waist Gunner LWG - Left Waist Gunner RWG - Right Waist Gunner GUN - Gunner	VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer <u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war	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
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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-32037 (No Name)

P Hofmann, Raymond, 2Lt
 CP Brothers, Calvin S., 2Lt
 NAV Binder, Carroll, 2Lt
 BOM Israelson, Elmer 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 #42-31739 Pugnacious Peter

P Gorman, Quentin J., 2Lt
 CP Gamble, Donald, Capt
 NAV Shamban, Marcus F., 2Lt
 BOM Spatt, Arnold I., 2Lt
 ENG Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt
 BT Swain, Norman F., Pvt
 RO Rabun, Clifford G., Sgt
 LWG Johnston, Wendell B., Sgt
 TG Angelo, George L., S/Sgt
 RWG Hodgins, Robert A., Sgt

B-17G #42-37893 Bam Bam

P Snyder, Robert W., 2Lt
 CP Putiri, John C., 2Lt
 NAV Morrison, James P., 2Lt
 BOM Williams, Jack N., 2Lt
 ENG Haggerty, Jerome J., S/Sgt
 LWG Delaney, Jessie L., Sgt
 RO Rumpf, Charles W., S/Sgt
 RWG Balzano, Christopher, Sgt
 TG Hunt, John L., Sgt
 BT Chadick, Neal T., Sgt

B-17G #42-97617 (No Name)

P Viets, John B., 2Lt
 CP Bennett, John C., 2Lt
 NAV Heibert, David C., F/O
 BOM Rodgers, Burton, 2Lt
 ENG Robinson, Frank E., S/Sgt
 LWG Madarchik, Michael, Sgt
 RO York, Franklin F., S/Sgt
 RWG Rademacher, Don J., Sgt
 TG Ferrell, William R., Sgt
 BT Witherwax, Leon J., S/Sgt
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-29629 Connecticut Yankee

P Ferguson, Wendell Z., 2Lt
 CP Miller, Campbell, 2Lt
 NAV Brown, James F., 2Lt
 BOM Schmid, Ralph D., 2Lt
 ENG Matthews, David R., Sgt
 RWG Larson, Tracy W., S/Sgt
 RO Phillips, Robert B., S/Sgt
 RWG Hickey, Thomas P., Sgt
 TG Brooks, Richard S., Sgt
 BT Rhodes, Kenneth C., Sgt

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

P Seddon, John R., 2Lt
 CP Burks, Charles D., 2Lt
 NAV Fitzpatrick, George M., 2Lt
 BOM Meldrich, Walter A., 2Lt
 ENG Rogers, Edward E., S/Sgt
 LWG Nemchick, John, Sgt
 RO Hess, John C., S/Sgt
 RWG Holcomb, I.L., Sgt
 TG Mummery, William T., Sgt
 BT Maloney, Donald F., Sgt

B-17G #42-31574 Ole George

P Mitchell, Kirk R., Maj
 CP Travis, Robert, BGen
 NAV Steely, Hobart H., Capt
 NAV Merthan, Lawrence, C., 1Lt
 BOM Armstrong, Charles C., 1Lt
 ENG Hoffman, Robert W., T/Sgt
 LWG Vaughn, Norville, S/Sgt
 RO Bland, Hugh N., T/Sgt
 BT Ruppel, Edward, S/Sgt
 TG Stender, Francis H., T/Sgt
 RWG Schmeltzer, Charles S., S/Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24605 *Knock-Out Dropper*

P Edwards, Kenneth C., 1Lt
CP Peterson, Edwin V., 2Lt
NAV Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
BOM Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
ENG Johnson, Kenneth V., T/Sgt
RO Kennedy, Herbert W., T/Sgt
BT Guzman, Abel G., Sgt
LWG Abernathy, Fay S., Sgt
TG Kowalk, Francis H., Sgt
RWG Champagne, Adam, Sgt
(Spare)

B-17F #41-24635 *The '8' Ball MK II*

P Calhoun, William R., Jr., LtCol
CP Shumake, Glynn F., Maj
NAV Pickleman, H.W., 1Lt
ENG Carter, Edward K., S/Sgt
RWG Haman, Ray T., S/Sgt
RO Kelly, Victor K., T/Sgt
TG Considine, Louis W., S/Sgt
BT Gilmore, Charles E., T/Sgt
LWG Ratfort, I., 1Lt
PAS Holmes, E.R.T., Maj
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-5257 *Miss Bea Haven*

P Savage, John N., 1Lt
CP Marsh, Richard K., 2Lt
NAV Walsh, Myles J., 2Lt
BOM Joyce, John D., 2Lt
ENG Davis, Eugene B., S/Sgt
RO Minks, George A., S/Sgt
BT Munson, James E., S/Sgt
TG Moessner, Raymond J., S/Sgt
LWG Rogers, Warren G., Sgt
RWG Dean, Raymond N., Sgt
(Spare)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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	Villasenor, Oscar, S/Sgt
BT	Baker, Nelson, S/Sgt
TG	Edwards, Marvin R., Sgt
RWG	Fitko, Marion F., S/Sgt
LWG	Cole, Edgar C., 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	Roszell, 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 #42-97552 *The Road Back*

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 #42-97590 *Virgin Mary*

P	Wilson, Fred F., 1Lt
CP	Travis, W.L., Col
NAV	Przybyszewski, Henry S., Lt
BOM	Fahlbusch, Joseph F., 2L
ENG	Hubley, Warren G., S/Sgt
RO	Mirkin, Herman H., T/Sgt
LWG	Petree, Wendell R., S/Sgt
BT	Webbink, Elvin F., S/Sgt
TG	Roads, Dwight W., Jr., S/Sgt
RWG	Goland, Harry, T/Sgt

B-17F #42-5854 *Alley Oop*

P	Bordelon, Berton A., 1Lt
CP	Coons, Charles L., 2Lt
NAV	Cromwell, Frederick P., 2Lt
BOM	Cottrell, John W., 2Lt
ENG	Barker, Forrest, S/Sgt
RWG	Adams, Donald K., S/Sgt
RO	Fontana, Joseph L., S/Sgt
LWG	Patterson, Harry L., S/Sgt
BT	Harrington, Joseph F., S/Sgt
TG	Couch, Ted, Sgt

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

P	Long, John A., 1Lt
CP	Ellsworth, Paul R., 2Lt
NAV	Ross, Lawrence D., 2Lt
BOM	Peterson, Elmer L., S/Sgt
ENG	Wilson, Clarence G., T/Sgt
LWG	Ledley, Albert J., S/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Ralph T., T/Sgt
RWG	Henson, Mace, S/Sgt
TG	Orlando, Anthony T., S/Sgt
BT	Logan, Frank C., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-2973 *Iza Available*

P	Holdcroft, Lloyd L., 1Lt
CP	Bradley, Clyde W., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Pace, Charles M., 2Lt
BOM	O'Donnell, John J., 2Lt
ENG	DeMarco, John A., S/Sgt
RWG	Hustus, Walter L., Sgt
RO	Francis, Walter G., S/Sgt
LWG	Slusser, Walter C., Sgt
BT	Kern, Lloyd F., Sgt
TG	Krumholz, Robert A., Sgt
PHO	Lovett, William F., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-29823 (No Name)

P Headlee, Dale C., 2Lt
 CP Sayers, Darwin D., 2Lt
 NAV Schweitzer, Jerome D., 2Lt
 BOM Handley, Donald J., 2Lt
 ENG Klunk, James A., S/Sgt
 BT Almanzor, Berton F., Sgt
 RO Moberg, Chester H., S/Sgt
 TG Bell, Alton R., Sgt
 LWG Wilson, Robert J., Sgt
 RWG Kyle, Clarence, Sgt

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

P Harrison, Emmittes S., Jr., 1Lt
 CP Bastean, Stephen B., 2Lt
 NAV Kurnik, Walter F., 2Lt
 BOM Biedanski, Edmund J., 2Lt
 ENG Rombach, Joseph H., T/Sgt
 BT Dye, James W., S/Sgt
 RO Volmer, Lawrence O., T/Sgt
 TG McLaughlin, Jesse W., S/Sgt
 LWG Campbell, Kenneth H., S/Sgt
 RWG Hawk, Kenneth L., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5081 Luscious Lady

P Jones, Wilbur H., 2Lt
 CP Wallace, Walstein W., 2Lt
 NAV Skarsten, Albert B., 2Lt
 BOM Kennedy, William J., 2Lt
 ENG Calnon, Frederick N., Sgt
 BT Duerr, William P., Sgt
 RO Kosher, Albert J., Sgt
 TG Kenney, Horace S., Jr., Sgt
 LWG Thompson, Frederick A., Sgt
 RWG Dimowitz, Morris, Sgt

B-17G #42-31200 Old Crow

P Estes, Shirley W., Lt
 CP Byers, Ballard T., Lt
 NAV Shemwell, John T., 2Lt
 BOM Minter, Thomas W., Lt
 ENG Price, Jack J., S/Sgt
 BT Wiley, Nathan H., Sgt
 RO Wagner, Wayne, S/Sgt
 TG Ross, S.C., S/Sgt
 RWG Silrum, Orvis K., Sgt
 LWG Ford, Thomas P., Sgt

B-17F #42-5341 Vicious Virgin

P Flesh, William R., 1Lt
 CP Combs, Americus V., III, 2Lt
 NAV Clark, James G., 2Lt
 BOM Cronin, Ernest L., 1Lt
 ENG Strough, Kenneth C., S/Sgt
 RO Murphy, John J., T/Sgt
 BT McMahan, Bonnar P., S/Sgt
 TG Williams, John P., Jr., S/Sgt
 RWG Kossin, Jack, S/Sgt
 LWG Relyea, Ralph R., S/Sgt

B-17G #31060 Poque Ma Hone

P Shope, George W., Jr., 1Lt
 CP Jenkins, Elton L., 2Lt
 NAV Arvanites, George L., 2Lt
 BOM Meagher, Robert W., 2Lt
 ENG Walsh, Charles E., T/Sgt
 RO Ratliff, Leonard E., T/Sgt
 BT Tambe, Angelo J., S/Sgt
 TG Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt
 LWG McGrew, Robert H., S/Sgt
 RWG Marson, Charles H., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-32027 Betty Jane

P Melton, James H., 2Lt
 CP Belknap, Robert W., 2Lt
 NAV Frechter, Harry G., 2Lt
 BOM Clapp, Keith W., 2Lt
 ENG Rusinak, John C., S/Sgt
 BT Moore, John J., Jr., S/Sgt
 RO Stoberl, Donald L., S/Sgt
 TG Anderson, Ralph R., Sgt
 LWG LaPlante, Willard R., Sgt
 RWG Fontaine, Clifford F., S/Sgt
 PHO Mulberry, Harold F., S/Sgt