

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 124

20 March 1944

Target: City area, Frankfurt, Germany (PFF)

Crews Dispatched: 19 plus 2 spares

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 36 x 100 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 26,300 ft

Ammo Fired: 310 rounds

**T**wenty-one B-17Gs took off to attack the Albert Teves plant in Frankfurt, Germany. Two spare aircraft returned to Molesworth shortly after take-off. The secondary target was military objectives in case visual bombing of the primary target was impossible. The 482BG furnished the PFF aircraft.

Weather to about 2 degrees east was fairly good. From 2 degrees east to the target and back were 7/10 to 9/10 cumulus clouds with tops at 12,000 to 14,000 feet. There were also cirrostratus clouds between 12,000 and 26,000 feet and visibility was limited to 300 to 400 yards. Persistent and dense contrails added to the visibility problems. At 1150 hours, the low Group in the 41st CBW turned back due to poor weather conditions. As a result, the aircraft in the low 358BS were unable to find the formation and their five B-17s turned back with all bombs.

Three aircraft lost the formation due to poor visibility:

#42-97617 (*No Name*), 358BS (Lt. **Viets**), dropped its bombs on a target of opportunity.

#42-37893 *Bam Bam*, 358BS-O (Lt. **Snyder**), dropped 50 bundles of USG 28 leaflets.

#42-31830 *Marie*, 359BS-N (Lt. **Goolsby**), dropped its bombs on railroad tracks as a target of opportunity.

The remaining eleven Fortresses dropped 418 100-lb. G.P. bombs on the secondary target. Bombing was by the PFF technique through solid undercast and results could not be observed. The PFF crew believed that the bombs hit in the northeast part of the city.

Only three enemy aircraft were seen and there were no attacks on the 303rd BG(H). Moderate, inaccurate flak was encountered five times to and from the target. At the target eight aircraft received minor battle damage from moderate, accurate flak. Friendly fighter support was intermittent during the mission, but the weather prevented them from being observed most of the time. All aircraft returned safely.

Lt. Col. **Lyle**, on his 31st mission said, "We flew in clouds all the way, but dropped our bombs on the target. The weather was so rough that I couldn't see anything but puffs of flak over the target. It wasn't too bad there, but over the French coast, coming out, there was plenty of it. 1Lt. David **Hicks**, a Fortress pilot, also commented on the weather. "The weather was plenty rough, but we finally got there," **Hicks** said. "Over the target the clouds became patchy and we could see part of the target area. Some of the crew saw our bombs hit the target. I didn't see any enemy fighters, but there were plenty of our own."

**From the Journal of Vern L. Moncur, 359th BS Pilot**

Mission #20

Date: March 20, 1944

Target: Frankfurt, Germany

Altitude: 28,000 feet

Plane: U-050 "Thunderbird"

Position: No. 6, High Squadron, Lead Group



**Thunderbird Ground Crew  
B-17G #42-38050 359BS (BN-U)**

*(Clockwise from lower left) Richard M. Vincent,  
Crew Chief James P. Thompson,  
Robert L. Goldsberry, John M. Bielski, James B. Warren*

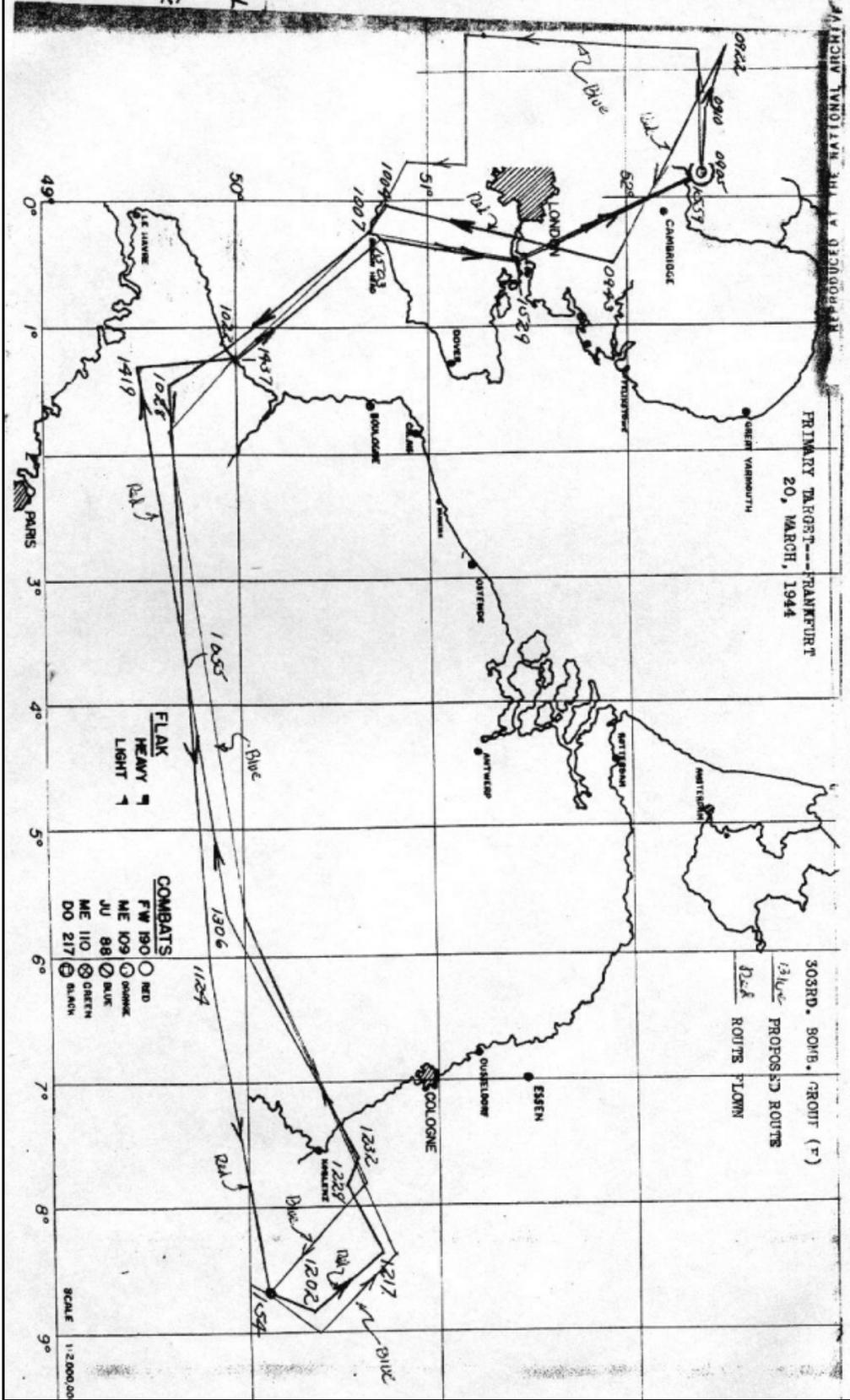
This was one of the toughest raids because we were flying in an overcast nearly all the time over enemy territory. Our low squadron got lost from the group and came home alone. The whole low group, some twenty-one ships, also got lost in the overcast and turned around and came back. As a result, we only had about thirty-four planes left in our wing. But, we went on to the target and bombed. Our wing of thirty-four planes was the only wing that went in and bombed that day, and we had to battle the weather every mile of the way. We did some very good bombing in spite of the weather and visibility handicaps.

On our withdrawal from the target, we were completely covered by clouds - solid clouds below and solid clouds above us. This was the only time I ever experienced

vertigo—a sensation in which everything seemed to be completely out of place. Planes seemed to be turning into one another. When I looked at the flight instruments, it was hard to believe their readings because of my sensations. However, the instruments were always right. We received a few minor flak holes in the fuselage and wings, but we had no injury to any member of the crew. Our bomb load was 12 five-hundred pound high explosive bombs.

907 3-20-44  
FRANKFURT  
661.1  
T. 739

CLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12756, SECTION 3.3, 745005  
BY 15W NARA, DATE 5/18/88



Route Map

Mission 124 - 3



## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Hofmann, Raymond, 2Lt  
 CP Brothers, Calvin S., 2Lt  
 NAV Feinman, Milton, 2Lt  
 BOM Campbell, William D., 2Lt  
 ENG Blakeney, William R., Jr., S/Sgt  
 BT Crenshaw, Ollie G., Sgt  
 RO Berman, Seymour, S/Sgt  
 LWG Lawson, Tracy W., S/Sgt  
 TG Jensen, Bob, Sgt  
 RWG Williams, James O., Sgt.  
 (Abortive Sortie)

### **B-17G #42-31583 Clover Leaf**

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P Gorman, Quentin J., 2Lt  
 CP Knight, R.A., 2Lt  
 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  
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

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P Snyder, Robert W., 2Lt  
 CP Hudson, Hendric S., 2Lt  
 NAV Williams, Jack N., 2Lt  
 BOM Morrison, James P., 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)**

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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 Stone, Robert L., Jr., Sgt

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

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P Ferguson, Wendell Z., 2Lt  
 CP Moody, James D., 2Lt  
 NAV Brown, James F., 2Lt  
 BOM Schmid, Ralph D., 2Lt  
 ENG Matthews, David R., Sgt  
 LWG Hendin, Bernard J., Sgt  
 RO Phillips, Robert B., S/Sgt  
 RWG Rogers, Thomas J., Sgt  
 TG Brooks, Richard S., Sgt  
 BT Rhodes, Kenneth C., Sgt  
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

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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  
 (Abortive Sortie)

### **B-17G #42-31669 Shoo Shoo Baby**

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P Watson, Jack W., 1Lt  
 CP Putiri, John G., 2Lt  
 NAV Binder, Carroll, Jr., 2Lt  
 BOM Israelson, Elnor P., 2Lt  
 ENG Hoffman, Robert W., S/Sgt  
 RWG Daniels, Herbert A., Sgt  
 RO Lesser, Edward R., Sgt  
 BT Gibbs, Paul M., Sgt  
 TG McArthur, Robert G., Sgt  
 RWG Hickey, Thomas P., Sgt  
 (Abortive Sortie)

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Savage, John N., 1Lt
CP	Marsh, Richard K., 2Lt
NAV	Walsh, Myles J., 2Lt
BOM	Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
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

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

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P	McManus, Henry, 2Lt
CP	Gorecki, Victor T., 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

### **B-17G #42-31177 *Lonesome Polecat***

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P	Newell, Noel N., 1Lt
CP	Donalson, Douglas C., 2Lt
BOM	Saunders, Coleman, 2Lt
BOM	Yelsky, Fred B., 2Lt
ENG	Freinwald, Earl C., T/Sgt
RWG	McGee, Richard, S/Sgt
RO	Weepie, Robert F., T/Sgt
LWG	Mendel, Myron R., S/Sgt
BT	Hart, Edgar B., S/Sgt
TG	Atkinson, William E., S/Sgt

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

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P	Daub, Leroy E., 1Lt
CP	Harrison, Weldon O., 2Lt
NAV	Palmer, Gerald M., 1Lt
BOM	Marlatt, Ray G., 2Lt
ENG	Carter, Edward K., S/Sgt
RO	Kelly, Victor S., T/Sgt
LWG	Hermann, Kurt J., II, T/Sgt
RWG	Haman, Ray T., S/Sgt
BT	Gilmore, Charles E., T/Sgt
TG	Considine, Louis W., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31183 *Bad Penny***

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P	Dahleen, Howard D., 1Lt
CP	Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt
NAV	Livermore, William D., 1Lt
BOM	Gauthier, Raymond W., 2Lt
ENG	Holper, Ralph M., T/Sgt
RO	Swanson, Charles E., T/Sgt
RWG	Titworth, William E., S/Sgt
LWG	Smith, Harding W., Pvt
BT	Hirn, Edward M., S/Sgt
TG	Covington, Charles G., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31830 *Marie***

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P	Goolsby, Billy M., 1Lt
CP	Sassone, Joseph C., 2Lt
NAV	Klingensmith, Russell, 2Lt
BOM	Ulbricht, Walter E., 2Lt
ENG	Bumgarner, Donald, T/Sgt
RO	Greenhalgh, Chester, T/Sgt
RWG	Rothrock, Harry J., S/Sgt
BT	Chraniuk, William, S/Sgt
LWG	Cueto, Frank Z., S/Sgt
TG	Strobel, Walter A., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird***

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P	Moncur, Vern L., 1Lt
CP	Cunningham, Billy A., 2Lt
NAV	Brooks, James, 2Lt
BOM	Chang, David K.S., 2Lt
ENG	Rosier, Robert L., S/Sgt
RO	Andrus, James S., S/Sgt
BT	Hein, Walter E., S/Sgt
RWG	Baer, Richard K., S/Sgt
LWG	Dickman, Thomas J., S/Sgt
TG	Wike, Leonard L., S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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 #42-38020 V-Packet**

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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**

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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

### **B-17G #42-97552 The Road Back**

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P Eisele, Roy, 2Lt  
CP Girard, Louis F., 2Lt  
NAV Schenker, Murray, 2Lt  
BOM Gladstone, Melvin, 2Lt  
ENG Cowley, Louis M., S/Sgt  
RWG Czerwonka, Joseph A., Sgt  
RO Millard, Ralph, S/Sgt  
LWG Bell, Richard L., Sgt  
BT Longoria, Efrain, Sgt  
TG Vallee, Edward J., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31432 Old Glory**

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P Lyle, Lewis E., LtCol  
CP Brinkley, Pharis C., Capt  
NAV Davis, Darius R., 1Lt  
BOM Clark, Fred T., 1Lt  
ENG Worthington, Arthur J., T/Sgt  
LWG Lance, Guy A., S/Sgt  
RO Snyder, Richard N., T/Sgt  
RWG Ferguson, Charles R., S/Sgt  
BT Reid, Harold C., S/Sgt  
TG Earhart, Amon E., 2Lt  
PAS Rein, William E., S/Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-31060 *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 Relyea, Ralph R., S/Sgt  
RO Cohen, Leo, T/Sgt  
BT Tambe, Angelo J., S/Sgt  
TG Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt  
LWG McGrew, Robert H., S/Sgt  
RWG Vargus, Michael A., S/Sgt  
(Spare)

### **B-17G #42-31200 *Old Crow***

P Mars, Charles W., Lt  
CP Dallas, William J., 2Lt  
NAV Eccleston, Edward F., 2Lt  
BOM Kersch, Conrad J., T/Sgt  
ENG Foster, Raymond L., Sgt  
RO McGinnis, Eddie, S/Sgt  
TG La Frenier, James E., S/Sgt  
RWG Senechal, Albert J., Sgt  
LWG Nivens, Delbert S., Sgt  
(Spare)



***Old Crow Ground Crew***  
***B-17G #42-31200 427BS (GN-V)***  
*(L-R) Albert C. Steele, Jr., Alvin T. Funk, Ernest E. Malott (Crew Chief)*