

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 125

22 March 1944

Target: City Area, Berlin, Germany (PFF)

Crews Dispatched: 28

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 2 crewmen suffered frostbite

Length of Mission: 9 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 42 x 65 lb bombs

Bombing Altitude: 27,000 ft & 25,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 1,495 rounds

Twenty-eight aircraft, including one spare, took off to bomb the Ernest Heinkel aircraft factory at Oranienburg, Germany. The secondary target, if weather conditions dictated PFF bombing, was the Friedrichstrasse Station in Berlin, Germany. The last resort was any industrial target positively identified as being in Germany, which could be bombed without disrupting fighter support.

The spare aircraft returned to base. One aircraft returned to base having flown 4 1/2 hours: #42-31177 *Lonesome Polecat*, 359BS-L (Lt. **Eisele**). Lt. **Eisele** claimed a fuel shortage, but a ground check revealed sufficient supply for the mission.

There were 8/10 to 10/10 clouds at the target with light, non-persistent contrails, which necessitated using PFF equipment to bomb the secondary target. Flak at the target was intense and both accurate and inaccurate. Meager inaccurate flak was seen at nine other locations. Virtually no enemy aircraft were seen and there were no attacks on the 303rd BG(H). In the 303BG-A formation, two aircraft sustained minor battle damage and one, major damage. Two Squadron formation B-17s received minor damage. There were no casualties. Friendly fighter support was excellent.

Twenty-four aircraft dropped 1,006 65-lb. M47A1 incendiary bombs from 27,000 feet. The bombs dropped in Berlin around the Potsdamer Station, about one mile south of the Friedrichstrasse Station. The city itself could be seen through cloud breaks—with flames and smoke coming from the bombing area. The 427BS bombs also hit in the city area. One B-17 dropped 58 bundles of USG 31 leaflets. Lt. **Lynch**, a 360BS pilot, jettisoned his bombs about 15 miles south of the secondary target because of mechanical difficulties with two engines.

Lt. Col. Lewis E. **Lyle** described the mission as "a darned good mission. We really hit Berlin and I enjoyed it very much. The fighters gave us more than good support today and we didn't see any German fighters. The weather was just right for this type of mission, but we didn't see the results of our own bombing after we left the target. We were too busy dodging flak." Lt. Col. **Lyle's** co-pilot, Maj. Walter K. **Shayler** said, "We dropped our bombs near the river and they really hit something. There was one big burst of red flame that shot thousands of feet into the air." Bombardier 1Lt. Fred T. **Clark** said he was certain that some of the bombs did a lot of damage. "There was one tremendous explosion. I saw one big puff of red smoke and flame come clear up through the clouds at 8,000 feet."

THREE DAYS IN LONDON— THEN BERLIN

22 March 1944 — Mission #125

Ed Miller's Memories and Recollections

Fifty percent of the time, I am going to "Big B." Yes, this is mission #12 and this is the 6th time we have been briefed for Berlin — the home of "Intense and Accurate Flak."

Lt/Col. Lewis E. Lyle, our Deputy Group Commander will be leading our 41st Combat Wing, with Major Walter K. Shayler, our Squadron Commanding Officer. Our target was the Ernest Heinkel Aircraft Plant in Oranienburg, Germany, just on the outskirts of Berlin. Intelligence tells us that this plant is producing about 30 He-177s a month and 8th Air Force wants to try and shut it down. But as the weather was still a problem, we would use the City of Berlin as our secondary target.

The Combat leader will announce whether we can hit the Heinkel plant at the IP. If we hear the word "Peanuts" we will know that visual bombing is possible. But we didn't hear the "word" and flew for eight minutes before dropping our bombs. The city was covered with 10/10 cloud cover but there were a few breaks. Photos showed that our bombs hit near the Potsdamer Station, which was about a mile south of the main secondary target — the Friedrichstrasse Station.

Bombs from the Combat Wing just ahead created a big burst of flames with smoke rising to above 8,000 feet. As usual, we encountered "intense and accurate flak" over the city. But we saw no enemy aircraft today.

This was our longest mission to date, over 9 hours and 15 minutes and we bombed from 27,000 feet where the weather was just a bit "chilly."

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

MISSION #23

Date: March 22, 1944

Target: Berlin

Altitude: 27,000 feet

Plane: U-050 "Thunderbird"

Position: No. 2, High Squadron, High Group

This is a much easier mission than the March 6th trip over the "Big B." We went up to a much healthier altitude and the flak was not as accurate. We picked up our usual quota of flak holes, but none of them hurt us very much. This time we did some very accurate bombing. We saw a few fighters, but our fighter support was excellent and our group didn't get hit by the enemy fighters.

The whole raid was an exceptionally easy one compared to the other Berlin raid and nothing outstanding happened. We carried 10 five-hundred pound high explosive bombs. Other than flak damage, we weren't hurt in any way and none of us were injured.

The Vern **Moncur** crew, in their interrogation report, again complained about the sandwiches — "More jam and less meat sandwiches." The same complaint was lodged by the Henry **McManus** crew. The Quentin **Gorman** crew commented, "Change type of sandwiches." Comments on the previous mission from various crews were: "More filling for sandwiches, very poor." "Scotch good, idea excellent." "Sandwiches good today. More to eat for breakfast." "Sandwiches terrible, impossible to eat." The usual complaint is for meat rather than jelly sandwiches. The Intelligence Officers and Mess Officers must have had a good laugh at conflicting crew post-mission interrogation remarks like these.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Lyle-Shayler</u> 340		
	<u>Stevens</u> 590		<u>Lynch</u> 552	
		<u>Glass</u> 432		
	<u>Thomas</u> 841		<u>Eisele</u> 177	
	<u>Goolsby</u> 168		<u>Litman</u> 583	
<u>Dahleen</u> 183	<u>Eisenhart</u> 386		<u>Hofmann</u> 037	<u>Larson</u> 622
	<u>Young</u> 483		<u>Gorman</u> 669	
<u>Moncur</u> 050	<u>McManus</u> 405		<u>Viets</u> 617	<u>Seddon</u> 154
	<u>Newell</u> 830		<u>Ferguson</u> 739	
				<u>Snyder</u> Spare - 893



Miss Liberty #42-31340 (360BS) PU-D
41st CBW High (360BS) - Pilot LtCol L.E. Lyle / CoPilot Maj W.K. Shayler
 LtCol L.E. Lyle (P), Maj W.K. Shayler (CP), 1Lt G.M. Carroll (N),
 1Lt F.T. Clark (B), 2Lt J.W. Bowen (TG-O)
 S/Sgt W.G. Hubley (E), T/Sgt H.H. Mirkin (R), S/Sgt E.F. Webbink (BT),
 T/Sgt H. Goland (WG), S/Sgt W.R. Petree (WG), S/Sgt D.W. Roads (OBS)
 (crewmen are not in order)

Composite Group with 379th & 384th Groups

	<u>McGarry</u> 241			
<u>Shope</u> 060		<u>Mars</u> 929		
	<u>Harrison</u> 020			
<u>Melton</u> 027		<u>Headlee</u> 885		
	<u>Estes</u> 051			

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<u>CREW POSITIONS</u>			
CMP - Command Pilot	TOG - Toggler	VI - Voice Interpreter	DOW - Died of wounds
P - Pilot	BT - Ball Turret Operator	OBS - Observer	EVD - Evaded the enemy
CP - Co-Pilot	TT - Top Turret Operator	PAS - Passenger	INT - Interned in neu cntry
NAV - Navigator	TG - Tail Gunner	PHO - Photographer	REP - Repatriated
ANV - Ass't. Navigator	NG - Nose Gunner		RES - Rescued
MNV - Mickey Navigator	RG - Radio Gunner	<u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u>	ESC - Escaped
ENG - Engineer	WG - Waist Gunner	KIA - Killed in action	BO - Bailed out
BOM - Bombardier	LWG - Left Waist Gunner	WIA - Wounded in action	DCH - Ditched
RO - Radio Operator	RWG - Right Waist Gunner	MIA - Missing in action	CR-L - Crashed on land
	GUN - Gunner	POW - Prisoner of war	CR-S - Crashed at sea

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Hofmann, Raymond, 2Lt
CP	Brothers, Calvin S., 2Lt
NAV	Binder, Carroll, Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Israelson, Elmer P., 2Lt
ENG	Blakeney, William R., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Crenshaw, Ollie G., Sgt
RO	Berman, Seymour, S/Sgt
LWG	Miller, David I., Sgt
TG	McFarland, Kendall M., S/Sgt
RWG	Hendin, Bernard J., Sgt

B-17G #42-31669 Shoo Shoo Baby

P	Gorman, Quentin J., 1Lt
CP	Knight, R.A., 2Lt
NAV	Williams, Jack N., 2Lt
BOM	Morrison, James P., 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	Miller, Campbell, 2Lt
NAV	Shamban, Marcus F., 2Lt
BOM	Spatt, Arnold I., 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

(Spare - Returned)

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	Czeczotka, Theodore R., Sgt

B-17G #42-31739 Pugnacious Peter

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	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 #42-38154 (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 #42-31583 Clover Leaf

P	Litman, Arnold S., 1Lt
CP	Putiri, John C., 2Lt
NAV	Minkowitz, Samuel, 1Lt
BOM	Mack, Austin J., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, George A., S/Sgt
TG	Castillo, Buenaventura L., S/Sgt
RO	Ebbighausen, Francis R., T/Sgt
BT	Ruppel, Edward, S/Sgt
LWG	Lawson, Tracy W., S/Sgt
RWG	Miller, Victor R., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97622 Paper Dollie

P	Larson, Roy A., 2Lt
CP	Duncan, Ronald E., 2Lt
NAV	Mikulich, Louis F., 2Lt
BOM	Wilson, Claud, Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Campbell, Thomas J., Sgt
BT	Stone, Robert L., Jr., Sgt
RO	Culp, Everett E., Sgt
LWG	Schinker, Arthur W., Sgt
TG	Hodge, Herman L., Sgt
RWG	Gamon, Edward J., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P	Newell, Noel N., 1Lt
CP	Donalson, Douglas C., 2Lt
BOM	Palmer, Gerald M., 1Lt
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 #42-31183 *Bad Penny*

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

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

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

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

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 #42-38168 *Dear Mom*

P	Goolsby, Billy M., 1Lt
CP	Harrison, Weldon O., 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 #42-31386 *Sky Duster*

P	Eisenhart, William E., 1Lt
CP	Sassone, Joseph C., 2Lt
NAV	Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
BOM	Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
ENG	Mayhugh, John C., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Mouser, Lloyd C., T/Sgt
BT	Bergman, Harvey F., S/Sgt
TG	Robb, Charles W., S/Sgt
RWG	Robichaud, Joseph E., S/Sgt
LWG	Hermann, Kurt J., II, T/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, Andy, S/Sgt
LWG	Withrow, John W., S/Sgt
TG	Stapleton, Bill, S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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	Stevens, Joseph E., 2Lt
CP	Earhart, Amon E., 2Lt
NAV	Fleming, Samuel P., 2Lt
BOM	Finley, Robert A., 2Lt
ENG	Brewster, John L., T/Sgt
RO	Deerfield, Eddie, Sgt
BT	Butler, Raymond, S/Sgt
TG	Edwards, Marvin R., Sgt
RWG	Fitko, Marion F., S/Sgt
LWG	Cole, Edgar C., S/Sgt

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

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 #42-37841 *Banshee*

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	DeWitte, Victor W., S/Sgt
TG	Harvey, Roy D., S/Sgt
BT	Johnston, Harold A., Sgt
LWG	Books, Carl O., Sgt

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

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

(Abortive)

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

P	Lyle, Lewis E., LtCol
CP	Shayler, Walter K., Maj
NAV	Carroll, George M., 1Lt
BOM	Clark, Fred T., 1Lt
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

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	Strough, Kenneth C., S/Sgt
RWG	Hadley, Owen W., S/Sgt

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

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

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., S/Sgt
RO	Moberg, Chester H., S/Sgt
TG	Williams, John P., Jr., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, Robert J., S/Sgt
RWG	Kyle, Clarence, S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31929 *Tennessee Hillbilly*

P	Mars, Charles W., Lt
CP	Dallas, William J., 2Lt
NAV	Landry, Robert J., 2Lt
BOM	Kersch, Conrad J., T/Sgt
ENG	Foster, Raymond L., Sgt
BT	Dunlap, Charles W., Jr., Sgt
RO	McGinnis, Eddie, S/Sgt
TG	LaFrenier, James E., S/Sgt
RWG	Senechal, Albert J., Sgt
LWG	Nivens, Delbert S., Sgt

B-17G #42-38020 *V-Packet*

P	Harrison, Emmittes S., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Basteau, 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-17G #42-31241 *Spirit of Wanette*

P	McGarry, John J., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Raistrick, Albert G., 2Lt
NAV	Eccleston, Edward F., 2Lt
BOM	Foe, Kenneth D., 2Lt
ENG	Grace, Henry J., T/Sgt
BT	Friedman, Ira, S/Sgt
RO	Stuphar, Stephen, S/Sgt
TG	Kowalonek, Walter A., Sgt
LWG	Musashe, Michael, S/Sgt
RWG	Hilborn, Ervin, 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