

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 131

29 March 1944

Target: Barracks area, Stedorf, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 22

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 50 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 100 lb G.P. bombs plus 42 x M47A1 Incendiaries

Bombing Altitude: 20,800 ft

Ammo Fired: 320 rounds

Twenty-two Fortresses took off to bomb the M.I.A.G. factory at Waggum, just north of Brunswick. Due to the cloud cover over the primary and secondary targets and the inability of the PFF lead B-17 to drop its bombs and flares, the briefed targets were not attacked. An attempt was made to bomb an airdrome, but the low Group picked it as a target of opportunity and passed underneath the 303rd BG(H) formation. The Group's lead bombardier dropped on Stedorf, 14 miles southeast of Bremen, as the undercast closed in only a short bomb run could be made. Some hits were seen in the barracks area on the edge of the town. 198 100-lb. M30 bombs and 626 65-lb. M47A1 incendiary bombs were dropped from 20,800 feet.

The Group again encountered little opposition. The flak was meager and four aircraft had minor damage. From 20 to 25 enemy fighters were seen, but there were no attacks. Due to the extremely poor visibility at Molesworth upon return, five aircraft landed at other bases and then flew to Molesworth during the late afternoon. There were no casualties.



B-17G #42-31669 Shoo Shoo Baby 358BS (VK-J)

1Lt. Joe R. **Worthley**, pilot of #42-31669 *Shoo Shoo Baby*, said, "We didn't have any opposition at all. A few fighters came up, but our escort chased them away. The flak was so meager that it never bothered us. The primary target was covered with clouds, so we dropped on a target of opportunity and came home." S/Sgt. John L. **Hunt**, tail gunner on *Shoo Shoo Baby*, said the fighter escort saved the Forts from a lot of trouble. "About 30 FW-190s came up to attack us," he said, "but the P-47s came down at them and the FWs headed for the clouds. I saw a couple of dogfights

develop, but most of the German planes got away. Don't let anyone kid you. There are still plenty of German fighters."

Capt. Robert P. **Livingston**, statistical officer, 303rd BG(H) HQ, flew as an observer in #42-31340, *Miss Liberty*, 360BS-D, piloted by 1Lt. Fred **Wilson**.

OUR BIGGEST ENEMY — WEATHER OVER ENGLAND

29 March 1944 — Mission # 131

Ed Miller's Memories and Recollections

We were damn lucky to get back on the ground today. The weather was so bad that we almost lost the top of our tail fin as we had to go below some "high lines" when another B-17, wandering around looking for its base, almost took us out. Tommy did some mighty fine flying today. He saved us all with his ability to toss "Miss Umbriago" around and get her on the ground without a scratch. Five of our aircraft had to land at other bases, and we received a "Commendation from 8th Air Forces Headquarters" for landing safely under extremely bad weather conditions.

Today the 8th Air Force started its campaign to soften up the Pas De Calais area as 77 B-24's were dispatched to hit a military installation in this area. It was the first of many missions in this area before D Day.

The primary target for today was the M.I.A.G. aircraft plant in Brunswick but it was covered with 10/10 clouds, so the secondary targets were hit. For the 303rd, we dropped bombs on a barracks area near Stedorf, Germany, which was 14 miles southeast of Bremen, Germany. The anti-aircraft artillery was in good form today as we had four aircraft with damage. Crew members saw between 30 to 40 FW-190s, but a group of P-47s, flying overhead, swarmed down on them and they hightailed it for cloud cover.

May we never see weather at Molesworth like this again. We flew between 100 and 300 feet above the ground for most of the way from the English coast. It was a bit harrowing and extremely dangerous with aircraft wandering around, looking for a place to sit down. In most cases, when they saw a runway, they maneuvered their aircraft to land, irrespective of whether it was their home base or not.



EARL N. THOMAS CREW - 360th BS

(crew assigned 360BS: 11 Jan 1944)

(Back L-R) Capt Earl N. Thomas (P), 1Lt Edgar C. Miller (CP),
1Lt Clarence V. Walenta (N), 1Lt Harold L. Scott (B)
(Front L-R) T/Sgt John W. Mason (E), S/Sgt Carl O. Books (WG),
S/Sgt William Flenniken (WG), T/Sgt Gayther B. Crowder (R),
S/Sgt Roy D. Harvey (TG), S/Sgt Harold A. Johnston (BTG)

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

MISSION #26

Date: March 29, 1944

Target: Brunswick, Germany

Altitude: 24,000 feet

Plane: U-050 "Thunderbird"

Position: No. 6, High Squadron, High Group

This was the most worthless raid we ever went on. We didn't bomb our target and the target we finally bombed was of no importance. About all we did was plow up a few acres of corn for the Krauts. We fought bad weather all the way to the enemy coast. On our return, we were faced with an almost solid mass of clouds that were dropping lower as we went inland.

At the coast the base of the clouds was 800 feet. By the time we finally got to our base, we were flying at 120 feet above the ground and had very little or no visibility. We were actually feeling our way over the tops of the trees and low hills. As we were circling our field at about 100 feet in an attempt to find a runway on which to land, we were almost run over by three B-17s that were flying around the field in the wrong direction. That was the nearest we ever came to "getting it" in bad weather. I don't believe we could ever have been that lucky again. Just a short time before this, we were almost run over by a B-24. We received no battle damage and no crew member was injured, though we saw about twenty German fighters under us at one time.



Thunderbird Crew Enlisted Men

(L-R) Walter E. Hein (BTG), Robert L. Rosier (E), Thomas J. Dickman (WG),
Richard K. Baer (TG), James S. Andrus (R), Leonard L. Wike (WG)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Mackin-Litman</u> 574		
	<u>Ferguson</u> 224		<u>Larson</u> 037	
		<u>Worthley</u> 669		
	<u>Viets</u> 617		<u>Ames</u> 002	
	<u>Wilson</u> 340		<u>Daub</u> 168	
<u>Lynch</u> 754		<u>O'Beirne</u> 204	<u>Savage</u> 177	<u>Eisenhart</u> 830
	<u>Glass</u> 590			<u>Young</u> 483
<u>Thomas</u> 187		<u>Eisele</u> 048	<u>Moncur</u> 050	<u>Assenheimer</u> 386
	<u>Holdcroft</u> 552			<u>Newell</u> 405
			<u>Estes</u> Spare - 051	<u>Jones</u> Spare - 200

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS			
CMP - Command Pilot	TOG - Togglier	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	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	Brim, Lee R., Sgt
RO	Culp, Everett E., Sgt
LWG	Schinker, Arthur W., Sgt
TG	Hodge, Herman L., Sgt
RWG	Gamon, Edward J., Sgt

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

P	Ferguson, Wendell Z., 2Lt
CP	Moody, James D., 2Lt
NAV	Shamban, Marcus 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 G., Sgt

B-17G #42-107002 Mairzy Doats

P	Ames, Walter J., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Howell, Ernest F., 2Lt
NAV	Williams, Grover C., 2Lt
BOM	Campbell, William D., 2Lt
ENG	West, Jerome H., Sgt
RWG	Stafford, Sheldon A., Sgt
RO	Lesser, Edward R., Sgt
LWG	Strickland, Frank L., Sgt
TG	MacFarland, Kendall H., S/Sgt
BT	Stone, Robert L., Jr., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

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	Holland, Ambrose J., Sgt

B-17G #42-31669 Shoo Shoo Baby

P	Worthley, Joe R., 1Lt
CP	Miller, Campbell, 2Lt
NAV	Williams, Jack N., 2Lt
BOM	Morrison, James P., 2Lt
ENG	Haggerty, Jerome J., T/Sgt
RWG	Delaney, Jessie L., S/Sgt
RO	Rumpf, Charles W., T/Sgt
LWG	Balzano, Christopher, S/Sgt
TG	Hunt, John L., S/Sgt
BT	Chaddick, Neal T., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31574 Ole George

P	Mackin, George T., Capt
CP	Litman, Arnold S., 1Lt
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
RWG	Stender, Francis H., T/Sgt
LWG	Miller, Victor R., S/Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Assenheimer, Edwin H., 1Lt
CP	Sassone, Joseph C., 2Lt
NAV	Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
TOG	Moening, Herman G., Sgt
ENG	Mayhugh, John C., S/Sgt
RO	Mouser, Lloyd C., T/Sgt
LWG	Jones, Derrell S., S/Sgt
RWG	Thorne, Arver E., S/Sgt
BT	Franceschini, James V., Sgt
TG	Robb, Charles W., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

P	Moncur, Vern L., 1Lt
CP	Peterson, Edwin V., 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	Newell, Noel N., 1Lt
CP	Donalson, Douglas C., 2Lt
NAV	Klingensmith, Russell S., 2Lt
BOM	Yelsky, Fred B., 2Lt
ENG	Freinwald, Earl C., T/Sgt
LWG	McGee, Richard, S/Sgt
RO	Weepie, Robert F., T/Sgt
RWG	Mendel, Myron R., S/Sgt
BT	Hart, Edgar B., S/Sgt
TG	Atkinson, William E., S/Sgt

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

P	Young, Elmer W., 1Lt
CP	Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt
NAV	Schoner, George R., 2Lt
BOM	Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
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

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P	Eisenhart, William E., 1Lt
CP	Rice, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV	Carey, William D., 2Lt
TOG	Kolling, Albert J., S/Sgt
ENG	Broderick, George V., T/Sgt
RO	Ratford, Edward V., T/Sgt
BT	Jaehne, Charles R., S/Sgt
TG	Barmak, Paul J., S/Sgt
RWG	Neathery, Ralph E., S/Sgt
LWG	Gilcrease, Roland L., S/Sgt

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

P	Daub, Leroy E., 1Lt
CP	Harrison, Weldon O., 2Lt
NAV	Palmer, Gerald M., 1Lt
BOM	Ulbricht, Walter E., 2Lt
ENG	Carter, Edward K., S/Sgt
RO	Kelly, Victor S., T/Sgt
RWG	McKenna, Robert I., S/Sgt
LWG	Haman, Ray T., S/Sgt
BT	Gilmore, Charles E., T/Sgt
TG	Considine, Louis W., S/Sgt

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

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
	(Abortive Sortie)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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 #42-97187 Miss Umbriago

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 #42-107048 (No Name)

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

B-17G #42-97552 The Road Back

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	Huddleston, D.O., S/Sgt
BT	Kern, Lloyd F., Sgt
TG	Krumholz, Robert A., Sgt

B-17G #42-97590 Virgin Mary

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 #42-38204 (No Name)

P	O'Beirne, Nelson B., 2Lt
CP	Duffield, Richard B., 2Lt
NAV	Shipp, Gene K., 2Lt
BOM	Dello Buono, Thomas J., 2Lt
ENG	Henselman, Miles A., S/Sgt
RO	Blumberg, Marvin R., S/Sgt
BT	Faraone, Sam S., Sgt
TG	Studt, Allo L., Sgt
RWG	Rogers, Winford E., Sgt
LWG	Cammack, Francis C., Sgt

B-17G #42-31340 Miss Liberty

P	Wilson, Fred F., 1Lt
CP	Bowen, James W., 2Lt
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
OBS	Livingston, Robert P., Capt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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
TT	Price, Jack J., S/Sgt
BT	Wiley, Nathan H., Sgt
RO	Wagner, Wayne, S/Sgt
TG	Ross, Samuel C., S/Sgt
RWG	Silrum, Orvis K., Sgt
LWG	Ford, Thomas P., Sgt
(Spare - Returned)	

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

P	Jones, Wilbur H., 2Lt
CP	Wallace, Walstein W., 2Lt
NAV	Skarsten, Albert B., 2Lt
BOM	Kennedy, William J., 2Lt
TT	Weed, Lowrey A., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Calnon, Frederick N., S/Sgt
RO	Kosher, Albert J., Sgt
TG	Musashe, Michael, Sgt
LWG	Thompson, Frederick A., Sgt
RWG	Dimowitz, Morris, Sgt
(Spare - Returned)	

Commendation

The following Letter Hq 8th AF, File 201.22, dated 31 March 44,
"Commendation" is quoted for the information of all personnel concerned:

The performance of the units of the 1st Division on 29 March in landing safely under extremely bad weather conditions all the aircraft which returned from the day's mission, merits special commendation. At the time of their arrival over base, the weather unexpectedly became very bad and some of the landings were made in the face of conditions of extremely low ceiling and visibility. That your units were able to do this without the loss of a single aircraft speaks well for their competence and for their training and supervision. I wish you would convey to the crews and commanders concerned my congratulations for this exceptionally fine piece of work.